



GOG & MAGOG WAR EZEKIEL 38&39

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most thought-provoking aspects of the Bible is biblical prophecy as it is *history written in advance*. The credibility and absolute accuracy of biblical prophecy comes from the truth that only God, in His omniscience, knows the future. This is stated in Isaiah 48:3 as follows – “*the former things I declared of old; they went out from my mouth, and I announced them; then suddenly I did them, and they came to pass.*” This verse confirms the reality that only God controls the course of human history, and He alone can reveal the future to us through Scripture. In addition to the *history written in advance* aspect of biblical prophecy is its abundance in Scripture as twenty-seven percent of the Bible is prophetic as follows:¹

- Of the 23,210 verses in the Old Testament, 6,641 are prophetic (28.5-percent)
- Of the 7,914 verses in the New Testament, 1,711 are prophetic (21.5-percent)
- As a total after the Old and New Testaments are combined, 8,352 of the 31,124 verses in the Bible are prophetic which is 27-percent of the Bible

An important and intriguing end-time prophecy in the Bible is located between the Old Testament books of Lamentations and Daniel, and is in the book of Ezekiel that was written by the prophet Ezekiel over 2,600 years ago to the exiled people of God, the Israelites. Although the book of Ezekiel can be largely divided into four sections about prophecies of (1) Jerusalem’s Ruin (1:1-24:27), (2) Prophecies of Retribution to the Nations (25:1-31:32), (3) Provision for Israel’s Repentance (33:1-33), and (4) Prophecies of Israel’s Restoration (34:1-48:35), there is a specific

prophetic account in chapters 38 and 39 of a massive northern military coalition made up of a Russian-Islamic alliance that will involve Russia and Iran as key players.² This invading force will be so large and formidable that Israel will have virtually no hope of its own defense. But God will intervene and supernaturally destroy the Russian/Islamic invaders on the mountains of Israel.

The division and absolute hate between the nation of Israel and the Jewish people has been an intense reality and on worldwide display since the initial account of Abram, Sarai, Hagar, Ishmael and Isaac in the early chapters of Genesis. Moving forward to modern times, Israel declared their independence as a nation in 1948 and was quickly attacked by neighboring Arab nations, and also repeated in the historic Six-Day War of 1967 when Israel was attacked by a coalition of Arab states. In 1973, the Yom Kippur War was again initiated by another coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria. Most recently, the hate and fury of Islamic Hamas was graphically displayed on October 7, 2023 when Hamas (*Arabic term for "Islamic Resistance movement"*), masterminded and financed by Iran, attacked a Jewish music festival in Israel, killing over 1,400 people and taking 251 hostages from Israel to the Gaza Strip. This was the deadliest attack on Israel by Islamic Hamas militants to date with Hezbollah Muslim militants in Lebanon ready to assist if needed.

So, what is the common hate and destruction of Israel connection between Russia and the Muslim Arab states as the connection goes back more than just a few years. During the Six-Day War of 1967, the Russians were also ready to attack Israel and had been preparing for an aggressive invasion for some time which included fighter aircraft, submarines, warships and bombers that had been mobilized and ready for action. However, the Russians backed down when then President Johnson ordered the 6th Fleet to move towards Israel.³ In 1973, the Russians again demonstrated military aggression towards Israel by provided the necessary resources including intelligence, weaponry, ammunition and military training to assist the Arabic coalition in their goal of destroying Israel but backed down when pressured by then President Nixon.⁴

From a recent political perspective, Russia and Iran signed a 20-year cooperation pact on January 17, 2025, that enhances military and defense cooperation.⁵ Additionally, there are some other noteworthy considerations why Russia seeks to destroy Israel and is willing to lead a coalition of Muslim Arab states against Israel as follows:

- To regain their top world superpower status, Russia needs energy which is primarily supplied by oil. If Russia controls the oil in the Mideast, they also can control the energy needs of the world. For years, Russia has been building

relationships and signing treaties with Islamic nations that produce oil. As an example, Iran is considered by Russia to be a strategic energy partner, and in turn, Russia has allowed her nuclear scientists to direct Iran's nuclear program and build a nuclear reactor (in Iran) with a second reactor to begin construction in 2019 with a third being planned in the near future⁶

- The mineral deposits in the Dead Sea have been estimated as incalculable. It has been projected the Dead Sea contains two billion tons of potassium chloride, twelve billion tons of sodium chloride, and twenty-two billion tons of magnesium chloride⁷
- Russia needs a warm water port (as opposed to their port in the Baltic Sea) into the oceans of the world⁸
- Russia is delivering advanced air defenses to Iran⁹

In addition to the aforementioned discussion is the continued violence and turmoil in the mid-east with the alignment of Islamic nations that was prophesied in Ezekiel 38 and 39. Students of Bible prophecy that are familiar with the specific prophetic section of Ezekiel that we are discussing are well aware that *specific countries* will form an alliance and aggressively march on Israel to take the land and kill its Jewish inhabitants. With the recent alliance of Russia with Iran (and other Islamic countries), the spreading aggressive hate of Islamic countries, the vociferous threats of Iran against the United States and Israel, and the potential of Iran, Russia, and Pakistan giving nuclear technology to rogue nations and/or terrorist groups, it appears the prophetic events as delineated in Ezekiel are rapidly becoming a reality in the near future.

However, within the prophetic events that are delineated in Ezekiel 38 and 39 is the obvious fact that the United States is not mentioned as some type of participant. This has focused attention on the relevant question of "*is the United States mentioned in Bible prophecy?*" This is a monumental question from the perspective of how could the most powerful nation in the history of the world not be mentioned in prophetic events, particularly current global events that appear to be capable of being fulfilled in our lifetime? In fact, most biblical scholars agree that no new events are necessary prior to the Muslim coalition invasion of Israel and/or the Rapture! As an example, check the following prophecies related to Israel that have been presently fulfilled:

- Israel has to be scattered and regathered as a nation – (*done*). Israel became a nation in 1948
- There has to be a strong-hostile nation to the North of Israel that could possibly invade Israel – (*done*). Russia is North of Israel
- Israel has to be isolated from other nations of the world– (*almost done*) This has not quite happened as the United States still supports Israel

- Israel has to be dwelling with security and confidence – (*almost done*). Many prophecy authors believe that although Israel became a state in 1948 and are living in a sense of security as compared to their existence prior to 1948, they are yet to be currently living in security and confidence as October 7, 2023 vividly demonstrated
- Israel must be in possession of the mountains of Israel - (*done*). Israel captured all of the mountains of Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War. This is necessary to fulfill Ezekiel 39:2, 4

So, before we look at the events as described by Ezekiel over 2,600 years ago, let's begin by first considering the question of the United States in Bible prophecy, then overview some basics that are associated with Russia, Iran and several facets of Islam. Once we have a basic understanding of how these major players and facets fit into the current scheme of global power and events, let's fit the prophetic puzzle together and look at Ezekiel 38 and 39 in detail.

IS THE UNITED STATES IN BIBLE PROPHECY?

Although the answer to this question is relatively straightforward, it needs some explanation as the answer to the question is; *indirectly and not specifically*. So, if that sounds confusing or similar to a typical political answer, let's look a little closer at this "*dual*" answer by considering both alternatives:

INDIRECTLY

Let's start with the reality that the United States is not directly mentioned, anywhere, in the Bible.¹⁰ However, is the United States *indirectly* mentioned in the Bible as being present or participating in Bible prophecy? The answer is yes if the United States is still present (and likely in another form) when the final battle of all the nations (or the nations which are in the four corners of the earth) takes place at the end of the Millennium and are defeated by Christ as outlined in Revelation 20:7-8.¹¹ This final battle is also known as the Gog and Magog battle which has the same name as the Gog and Magog battle in Ezekiel 38 and 39, but is a different battle. This indicates that all of the nations that are present at that time will be gathered to battle and be defeated. Obviously, the United States (if still a nation) will be in a different form as compared to today.

NOT SPECIFICALLY

In Ezekiel 38:8, specific nations are listed that will form an alliance that will be led by the leader of Russia and march on Israel to take the land and kill its Jewish inhabitants. Virtually all of the nations are either Islamic or pro-Islamic. When this formidable alliance of nations comes against Israel, there will be no possible escape for Israel. This war is known as the war of Gog and Magog and will be covered in detail in a later section of this discussion. Within this list of nations are three locations by the name of "*Sheba, Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish with all its*

young warriors" (Ezekiel 38:13). Although there is considerable debate between biblical scholars, a noteworthy number of these scholars believe the following:¹²

- Sheba and Dedan were ancient names for the lands that are now known as Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, and the Gulf States
- The best translation of "*the merchants of Tarshish*" seems to be a colony of Phoenicians located in modern Spain. However, notice that Ezekiel also refers to "*and all her young warriors*" (NET Bible). The better translation is probably "*Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof*" (NKJV Bible)
- Scripture associates Tarshish with the West, and England is another location known as Tarshish. Therefore, the "*young lions*" of Tarshish could be a reference to the colonies that emerged from Europe, including the United States. However, if Tarshish was in England, then the "*young lions thereof*" could be a reference to the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. Interestingly, the symbol on the English flag is a lion
- Although this possibility is a prophetic stretch, it may be a possibility

WHY IS THE MOST POWERFUL NATION IN HISTORY NOT MENTIONED IN BIBLE PROPHECY?

Only God knows the answer to this question, however, let's examine the current and potential future status of the United States. Without a doubt, the United States is the only superpower and the most powerful nation in the history of the earth. Therefore, it seems inconceivable that the United States would not be mentioned in Bible prophecy. However, there is more to the strength or weakness of a nation than military might as the late Roman Empire graphically demonstrated. In conspicuous opposition to the military capability of the United States, there currently are six major areas of weakness that individually or collectively have the ability to either eliminate, weaken, or reduce the United States to a position of a "*non-player*" in global affairs and are summarized as follows:

(1) America Will Remain Strong, But Unmentioned

Most modern nations are not directly mentioned in the Bible, and America could be one of them. From a practical perspective, just because America is a superpower does not mean that America needs to be mentioned in Bible prophecy. Remember that America is about 250 years old and nations that are much older are not mentioned in the Bible. Although America is the strongest supporter of Israel, it seems reasonable that the Bible would mention America if it was still a strong supporter of Israel during the "*end times*." However, America is not specifically mentioned in Bible prophecy. This option has much support from biblical scholars

(2) America Will Elect An Isolationist President

It is possible that Americans will grow tired of fighting foreign wars and/or being the world's policeman and the national policy could change to an isolationist or appeasement mentality. This could also mean that the United States would not protect Israel or any other country. This option is possible as demonstrated by the recent Biden Presidency

(3) America Will Be Weakened From An Internal Attack By Outside Forces

The possibility of a terrorist attack from within America's borders, particularly after 9/11 is more than a possibility. An internal attack could consist of dirty bombs, nuclear devices, nerve gas, electro-magnetic pulse (EMP), or any number of lesser but formidable considerations. With the current capability of rogue nations and terrorist groups in concert with America's recent period of *"open borders,"* this option is a realistic option. Terrorism experts place the possibility of a nuclear attack on the United States in less than ten years as *"more likely than not."*¹³

An additional item that should cause deep concern is that in the late 1980's, Abdul Qadeer Khan, the renegade Pakistani nuclear engineer, sold uranium enrichment technology to Libya, North Korea, and Iran.¹⁴ The increasing military capabilities by Iran and other mid-eastern countries should cause deep concern as Iran has often stated that they *"will bring the Great Satan (U.S.) and the Little Satan (Israel) to their knees."* This option does have credibility from biblical scholars

(4) America Will Lose Influence From Internal Decay

This view has become extremely popular as a result of the amount of moral decay that is aggressively *"showcased"* in America. Just a few of the current examples are the content of newspapers, television (64% of TV programs highlight sex), video games, the internet which is filled with pornographic material, sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, alternative living styles, abortion, and so on. Similar to the Roman Empire, there is more to the strength of a nation than military capability. This option also has support from biblical scholars

(5) America Will Be Weakened From The Rapture

Depending on the timing of the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4-5), the true believers in Christ will depart this earth *"in the twinkling of an eye."* This means that America will instantly lose between 25 to 65 million people. Also, the people involved in this loss are considered by the Bible as the *"salt and light"* of the earth. This number is equivalent to about double the entire population of Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, and Houston - - all in an instant! The effects of this catastrophic event (from the World's viewpoint) would instantly change

the America that you now know. If so, the United States would then probably unite with the European Union (EU) to become the dominant world government. This option is a reality as the Bible predicts the Rapture but does not indicate when it will specifically happen

(6) The Dollar Will Be Significantly Weakened

According to The Conversation,¹⁵ the American national debt is its Achilles Heel as the current federal debt stands at 36 trillion dollars and 120 trillion dollars in unfunded liabilities (Social Security, Medicare, etc.). As these numbers are continuing to rise, they have been labeled by economists as unsustainable debt for this country. Interestingly, China owns 860 billion of the U.S. debt while Japan owns over one trillion of the U.S. debt. It is also not surprising that a number of influential nations are attempting to assert their economic independence with the existing international financial system that is dominated by the U.S. dollar. Russia, China, India, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Brazil, Ethiopia, South Africa, and Egypt are currently attempting to obtain credence to a BRIC's currency and move away from the U.S. dollar.¹⁶ Obviously, this could be catastrophic for America

RUSSIA

Vladimir Putin is the current President and the real power "*of the Russian bear.*" The following is a brief overview of Vladimir Putin and Russia:¹⁷

- Past head of the KGB and Russia's top spy
- During Putin's tenure as President, he centralized all power to himself by appointing all regional governors, nationalized Russian television networks, extended the two-year limit on presidential terms, and put political opponents into prison on suspected charges
- Actively selling nuclear power plants, fuel, arms, and technology to Iran and some other Islamic states
- Wants future control over the world's oil supplies (remember Georgia?)
- Has vowed to return Russia to its former "*position of prominence in the world*"
- Believes that the "*demise of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century*"
- Currently building political, economic, and military ties with the very countries described in Ezekiel 38
- Putin has asked the Iranian Supreme Leader (Ali Hosseini Khamenei) to strengthen bilateral ties and become partners in the political, economic, regional and international domain
- The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 enhanced the rise of the revived Roman Empire; the European Union (EU)

IRAN

The following is a brief overview of Iran:¹⁸

- The history of Iran (the name was changed from Persia to Iran in 1935, and then to the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979) goes back to biblical times. In Daniel 2:36-45, he prophesied to Nebuchadnezzar about the current and coming world empires by interpreting the great image (the metallic man) in Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The chest and arms of silver represented the Medo-Persian Empire
- Ali Hosseini Khamenei is the *"behind the scenes leader"* of Iran
- A major problem in the Middle East is the convergence of Radical Islam and nuclear technology at the same time in Iran
- The Iranian nuclear crisis officially began on January 9, 2006, when Iran broke the International Atomic Agency (IAEA) seals that had been placed on two nuclear power plants, and restarted its nuclear program. The plants were the Uranium Conversion Facility at Isfahan and the Centrifuge Plant at Natanz
- Iran is the command post for global terror
- Iran is dominated by Shiite Islam whose spiritual leaders are called Imams and are blood relatives of the prophet Ali, Muhammad's cousin
- Iran is currently benefiting from five advantages:
 - (1) The fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 which tended to restrain radical Islam
 - (2) The war with Iraq ended in 1988
 - (3) The overstretched U.S. military around the world
 - (4) The West (U.S.) dependence on oil (dependent on who is current President)
 - (5) Extensive ties with Russia and China
- Iran's hatred for America and Israel is without limit
- Khamenei believes that if he starts WW III, the Islamic Messiah will suddenly and mysteriously appear and he will lead the *"holy warriors"* of radical Islam to a global Sharia, meaning that every nation on earth will be under Islamic law
- Nearing (if not currently there) completion of nuclear capability
- Actively buying sophisticated arms from Russia and North Korea (or anyone else that will sell them)
- North Korea is actively working with Iran to develop its nuclear program
- Ahmadinejad - - *"The United States and the Zionist regime of Israel will soon come to the end of their lives"* September 2007
- Ahmadinejad - - *"Today, the time for the fall of the satanic power of the United States has come and the countdown to the annihilation of the emperor of power and wealth has started"* June 2008
- Radical Islam is at war with the world. Here is a sampling:

- Iranian hostage crisis, 1979
- American embassy in Beirut, 1983
- American Marine barracks, Beirut, Lebanon, 1983
- New York World Trade Center, 1983
- U.S. Embassy in Tanzania, 1998
- USS Cole, 2000
- 9/11, 2001
- Bali, Indonesia, 2002
- Madrid Spain, 2004
- London, England, 2005
- Paris, France, 2005
- Canada, Spain,etc.
- Iran has made three threats to counter a strike on its nuclear facilities:
 - (1) Unleash its terror network on the U.S. and globally
 - (2) Would play the “oil card”
 - (3) The U.S. would lose more political and diplomatic ground in the Middle East

ISLAM

The following is a brief overview of Islam and its beliefs:¹⁹

- There are 57 Islamic nations (1.3 billion people or 1/5th of the world’s population), of which 22 are Arab nations (300 million people)
- The goal of Islam is (1) to drive all westerners out of the Middle East, (2) exterminate Christians and Jews, and (3) establish a one-world Islamic government and religion
- Cal Thomas; *“It is life or death. We want to live and they want us dead. Any questions?”*
- September 11 proved that radical Islam has the will to kill Americans, and they have the will to conquer us. They just lack the power. When they have a nuclear weapon, radical Islam will have the power and will to use it to attack America and Israel
- The IRIB (Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting) has posted a lengthy document titled *“The World Toward Illumination.”* The document is a transcript of an IRIB series on the imminent arrival of the Mahdi, the Twelfth or Hidden Imam, awaited by Shiites as the Messiah. His uprising will begin in Mecca, and then he will march on Iraq, where he will establish his *“seat of world government”* in the city of Kufa and subjugate the world powers (Middle East Media Research Institute)

MILITANT MUSLIMS BELIEVE:²⁰

- All Muslims are soldiers in Allah's army who must fight, or, if they don't fight, financially support those who do
- All non-Muslims are their enemy
- All non-Muslims must be forced to submit to Islam
- All territory that has ever been under Islamic rule must be brought back under Islamic rule forever
- When Muslims are the majority, they must control the government
- The Jews are only temporary residents of Jerusalem and Israel
- There can be no concessions to non-Muslims
- Muslims can sign a temporary peace treaty and break it if doing so advances the cause of Islam
- Muslims are in a holy war, Jihad (my inner struggle) until Judgment Day
- "*Hudna*" is the Islamic process of establishing a covenant with an enemy to gain concessions and/or regain strength. It can be broken at will

WHAT THE ISLAMIC FAITH TEACHES:²¹

- Christians and Jews have distorted the Scriptures (they believe the Bible is full of errors), but the teachings of Allah's messenger, Muhammad, supersede those of Jesus and all others
- Muhammad corrected the distortions and gave Islam the Quran
- Muslims worship the moon God of Mecca called Allah
- Muslims say Allah cannot be known in a personal way
- Muslims say Allah made a covenant with Abraham to give the Promised Land to Ishmael's descendants
- Muslims believe in a Messiah called the Mahdi/Twelfth Imam
- Muslims say the Messiah will conquer Israel
- Muslims believe their God commands Islamo-fascists to kill anyone who does not believe Allah is the only God
- Islamo-fascists consider it an honor to die fighting Christians and Jews. The death of a martyr is their only sure way to get to heaven and the seventy-two virgins that await them in paradise
- "*Fight and slay the Pagans wherever you find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem (of war); Surah 9:5*"
- "*The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and his Messenger and Strive with might and main mischief through the land is; execution, or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet from opposite sides, or exile from the land; that is the disgrace in this world, and a heavy punishment is theirs in the Hereafter; Surah 5:33*"

DEFINITIONS:²²

When referring to the conflict in the Middle East and global terrorism, the same names keep appearing in the media. The following definitions give an overview of the most common organizations/terms that are associated with radical Islamic terrorism:

- Al-Aqsa Intifada - - means “*uprising*”
- Al-Qaeda - - means the “*base*” in Arabic. Founded in 1979 in Afghanistan by Osama bin Laden
- Hamas - - means “*Islamic Resistance Movement.*” Founded in the Gaza Strip in 1987 for the express purpose of eliminating Israel. Currently the ruling party in the Palestinian parliament
- Hezbollah - - means “*Party of God.*” Founded in 1982 by followers of Iranian cleric Ayatollah Khomeini. Considered an arm of Iran with the primary purpose of destroying Israel
- Houthis - - Houthis are an armed political and religious group which champions Yemen’s Shia Muslim minority, the Zaidis. They claim to be part of the Iranian-led “*axis of resistance against*” Israel and the U.S. along with armed groups Hamas and Hezbollah
- Jihad - - “*holy war,*” or “*my inner struggle*”
- Mahdi - - “*rightly guided one*”
- Mahdaviat - - “*a belief in and efforts to prepare for the Mahdi*”
- Imam Mahdi - - “*may God hasten His reappearance*”
- Sharia - - Every nation on earth will be under Islamic law
- Several other terrorist groups that occasionally surface are the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

EZEKIEL 38&39

With all of the preceding thoughts in mind, let’s look at Ezekiel 38 & 39 verse by verse and see what God’s word prophetically and specifically delineates concerning the **Purpose, Who, When, Why, Reason, Method, and Outcome** in these two chapters of Scripture as follows:

- Ezekiel 38:1 to 39:29 delineates the removal of Israel’s enemies from the land
- Ezekiel 38:1-16 delineates the invasion by Gog to plunder Israel
- Ezekiel 38:17 to 39:29 delineates the intervention of God to protect Israel
- *Note: The New King James translation will be used*

PURPOSE (Ezekiel 38:4)

I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.

First, let's look at the biblical reason Russia leads an overwhelming coalition of Muslim countries to destroy Israel. Just as God used Assyria (Isaiah 8) and Babylon (Ezekiel 21:19) as human invaders for His judgements, He brings this invading coalition of Russian and Muslim countries to Israel so that He may impose judgement (v. 8) on the invader itself (Ezekiel 38:18-23; 39:1-10). This is the great time of Israel's cleansing, salvation, and spiritual life, getting them ready for Messiah's return and kingdom (Zechariah 14). God uses the language of "*hooks into your jaws*" as He did in judging Egypt (Ezekiel 29:4). The phrase "*hooks into your jaws*" comes from the equestrian world where a special bridle is used to make a rebellious horse obedient to its rider's commands. From the invading coalition's perspective, they think that it is their plan only to seize the spoil which draws them to Israel (vv.11, 12), but God is assuring His will is done. Clearly, the "*I will turn you around*" phrase at the beginning of this verse indicates that God is in complete control of this event.

WHO (Ezekiel 38:1-6,13)

*Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, Son of man, set your face against **Gog** of the land of **Magog**, the prince of **Rosh, Mesh, and Tubal**, and prophesy against him, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince **Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal**. I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. **Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya** are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; **Gomer** and all its troops; the house of **Togarmah** from the far north and all its troops - - many people are with you. **Sheba, Dedan**, the merchants of **Tarshish**, and **all their young lions** will say to you - - have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, **to take great plunder**?*

Now, let's continue by identifying the countries that will be engaged in this attack on Israel as their identities are generally agreed on by most biblical prophetic scholars and Muslims dominate these nations (except Russia) and provide more than abundant religious motivation to move against Israel.^{23,24}

- **Gog** - - This term literally means "*high, supreme, a height,*" or a "*high mountain.*" Therefore, the term may refer to a king-like role, such as a prince/leader, czar, president, etc. This will be the leader of the Muslim coalition against Israel
- **Rosh** - - Rosh is modern Russia. Ezekiel 39:2 states that Rosh is in the "*uttermost parts of the north.*" The term north is to be understood in reference to Israel as the central point. If a line is drawn from Israel straight north, it ends up in Russia

- **Magog** - - Includes modern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and possibly parts of northern Afghanistan. The entire region is Muslim dominated with a strong religious motivation to act against Israel
- **Meshech and Tubal** - - Modern Turkey. An Islamic territory
- **Persia** - - Persia became Iran in 1935. Known for its venomous hatred of Israel
- **Cush** - - Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea. Hardline Muslim countries that share a vicious detestation of Israel
- **Put** - - Libya, and possibly Algeria, Tunisia. Known for their hatred of Israel
- **Gomer** - - Either modern-day Turkey or Germany
- **Togarmah** - - Likely Turkey, Armenia, and Central Asia. Mostly Muslim
- **Many Peoples** - - May include Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. Also, mostly Muslim
- **Sheba and Dedan** - - May include the Gulf States (Saudi Arabia, etc.)
- **All The Young Lions** - - *Possibly* Great Britain, America, Australia, and New Zealand

It is more than noteworthy that the closing sentence in this portion of Scripture closes with the questioning phrase “*to take great plunder?*” Evidently, the countries that include Sheba, Dedan and all the Young Lions will “*just ask*” and/or “*voice a verbal complaint*” against the invading coalition as this may be their only option from having a lack of sufficient power against the invading and overpowering Muslim coalition. Additionally, although the aforementioned list of countries is fundamentally Islamic and share a hatred of Israel, there are two countries that are missing, are close to Israel, and are Islamic. Those two countries are Egypt and Iraq and the reason is two-fold:

- Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1976 (Camp David)
- Iraq is no longer under the control of a dictator (Saddam)

It should come as no surprise that this portion of Scripture was written by the prophet Ezekiel over 2,600 years ago (about 580 years B.C.) and although some of the names of the listed countries have changed (i.e., Persia is now Iran), it is apparent that these countries have multiple common interests:

- They are basically Islamic nations and/or have a high percentage of Islamic people
- They hate Israel and support its destruction
- Some of the listed countries are forming a common alliance (power, strength, etc.). As an example, Putin (Russia) has recently courted the Supreme Leader of Iran (Ayatollah Ali Khamenei) and has specifically asked him to strengthen bilateral ties and become partners in the political, economic, regional and international domain. Additionally, Russia has completed one nuclear reactor

in Iran, is preparing to build a second reactor, and has delivered state-of-the-art air defenses to Iran

WHEN (Ezekiel 38:8-11)

*After many days you will be visited. In the **latter years** you will come into the land of those **brought back from the sword** and **gathered** from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them **dwell safely**. You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering their land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you. Thus says the Lord GOD: On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan. You will say, I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who **dwell safely**, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates.*

Although there are many opinions on the meaning of the “latter years, a land that is brought back from the sword, and dwell safely,” it is a fact that when modern Israel is compared to her scattered past, that Israel has currently been “gathered from many nations, restored from the sword, are living in unwalled villages, and are dwelling safely (as compared to the past).” However, many scholars believe that:

- The words “latter years” refers to Israel’s restoration (Ezekiel 34-39). That began in May of 1948. In this case, the invading Muslim coalition will make its final bid for the land
- Brought “back from the sword” refers to Israelites who have been returned to their land, after the sword had killed or scattered many of their people. The Hebrew word for “brought back” means to return or restore (Genesis 40:13; 41:13)
- “Gathered” is frequently used to refer to God’s final regathering of Israel. It has begun historically and will continue until the latter days
- The words “dwell safely” occurs in several contexts devoted to the Israelites blessed estate after God has brought them back to their land (Ezekiel 28:26, 34:25-28, 39:26, Jeremiah 32:37, and Zechariah 14:11)
- As there are a number of biblical scholars, there are also a number of opinions on the timing of this Muslim coalition invasion as follows:
 - First half of the Tribulation
 - End of the Tribulation
 - Between the end of the Tribulation and beginning of the Millennium
 - Beginning or end of the Millennium

Without going thru all of the “for and against” arguments for the preceding considerations, let’s summarize the timing of the Ezekiel Invasion with the following two considerations that have the highest probability of being correct:²⁵

- **After the Rapture, before the Tribulation**

This allows 7 years to burn all of the weapons as stated in Ezekiel 39:9

- **The Beginning of the Tribulation**

If the invasion occurs around the time of the Tribulation, it makes good sense to place it at least 3.5 years before the Tribulation. Again, this allows for the burning of the weapons for seven years

WHY (Ezekiel 38:12-13)

*To capture **great spoil** and to **seize plunder**, to turn your hand against the waste places which are now inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have **acquired cattle and goods**, who live at the center of the world. Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarsish with all its villages will say to you, “have you come to capture spoil? Have you assembled your company to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to capture great spoil?”*

Wealth

The following are a few facts that summarize “great spoil, seize plunder, and acquired cattle and goods” of Israel:

- Citrus exports are \$1 billion
- Agriculture exports are \$3.3 billion
- Flower exports are over \$238 million
- Leads the world in exports of industrial oils, fertilizers, and polished diamonds
- One of world’s high-tech leaders and a magnet for foreign investors
- The mineral deposits in the Dead Sea are so great they cannot be appraised on today’s market
- Israel has the 26th largest economy in the world by nominal GDP, and one of the biggest economies in the Middle East
- The GDP of Israel almost exceeds the total GDP of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan combined

Could the prospects of oil and gas potentially drive a Russian led coalition to attack Israel for “Great Spoil?”

- Potentially 3rd largest shale oil reserve in the world²⁶
- Tamar and Leviathan deep water natural gas fields²⁷
- Does the Bible possibly allude to the fact that there is oil in Israel:
 - Genesis 49:25, blessing of the deep that lie beneath
 - Deuteronomy 33:13, from the deep lying beneath
 - Deuteronomy 33:19, hidden treasures of the sand
 - Deuteronomy 33:24, may he dip his foot in oil
 - Deuteronomy 32:12-13, and oil from the flinty rock
 - Isaiah 45:3, hidden wealth of secret places

REASON (Ezekiel 38:15-17)

*You will come from your place out of the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great assembly and a might army; and you will come up against My people Israel like a cloud to cover the land. It shall come about in the last days **that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know me** when I am sanctified through you before their eyes, O Gog. Are you the one of whom I spoke in former days through My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for many years that I would bring you against them? I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and **make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and then they will know that I am the Lord.***

(Ezekiel 39:7-24)

My holy name I will make known in the midst of My people Israel; and I will not let My holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. Behold, it is coming and it shall be done, declares the Lord God. That is the day of which I have spoken. And I will set my glory among the nations; and **all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed and My hand which I have laid on them.** And the house of Israel will know that **I am the LORD their God from that day onward. The nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile for their iniquity** because they acted treacherously against Me, and I hid my face from them; so, I gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and all of them fell by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I dealt with them, and I hid My face from them.

The primary reason for the fulfillment of this prophecy is based on the key purpose of God's promise to Israel as their protector and to deliver them from harm. This promise was initially made to Abraham in Genesis and is still applicable today as follows:

*"I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you
Genesis 12:3"*

Obviously, the Muslim invaders curse Israel and also seek to destroy Israel, but God curses the invading Muslim coalition with an annihilating judgment that is watched worldwide. According to Scripture, the primary reason for God's direction in this event is found in Ezekiel as follows:

- God's affirmation - *"I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the Lord"* – Ezekiel 38:23
- Of the invaders – *"They will know that I am the Lord"* – Ezekiel 39:6
- Of the nations – *"The nations will know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel"* – Ezekiel 39:7
- Of the Israelites – *"Then they know that I am the Lord their God"* - Ezekiel 39:28

METHOD (Ezekiel 38:18-22)

*That My fury will mount up in My anger. In my zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a **great earthquake** in the land of Israel. The fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the fields, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse and every wall will fall to the ground. I will call for a **sword against him** on all My mountains, declares the Lord GOD. Every man's sword will be **against his brother**. With **pestilence** and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a **torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone**.*

(Ezekiel 39:3-6)

*I will strike your bow from your left hand and dash down your arrows from your right hand. You will fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field. You will fall on the open field; for it is I who have spoken, declares the Lord God. And I will **send fire** upon Magog and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety; and they will know that I am the LORD.*

This section of Scripture should emphasize the fact that the God of the Bible is not only a God of judgment, but also a holy and righteous judge. According to this prophecy in Ezekiel, God will use four primary methods to destroy the invading Muslim coalition as follows:

- Earthquake (Ezekiel 38:19-20)
First comes an earthquake so massive that “*the mountains will be thrown down along with pathways and walls collapsing.*” Additionally, “*the intensity will cause all the creatures of the earth to feel its effect, and all the men on the earth will shake at My presence*”
- Infighting (Ezekiel 38:21)
Phase two consists of the invading countries turning and killing each other (“*everyman's sword will be against his brother*”)
- Disease (Ezekiel 38:22)
In phase three, many troops will die of pestilence (an epidemic disease)
- Rain, hailstones, fire and burning sulfur (Ezekiel 38:22)
Lastly, execution of the invading forces will come from flooding rain coupled with great hailstones, fire, and brimstone (archaic term for sulfur)
- The destruction of the invading forces will not be complete until “*God rains down fire on Magog and those who live in security on the coastlands*” (Ezekiel 39:6)
- The previous calamities from God will totally reverse this historic battle as the focus will not be the destruction of Israel by the invading coalition of Muslim

countries that are led by Russia, but the destruction of the invading forces who end up being buried in the land

- This destruction of the Muslim coalition will make it crystal clear that the one true God, whose name is Yahweh, will prevail over the predominantly Muslim invaders, proving the impotence of the false god Allah

OUTCOME (Ezekiel 39:9-13)

*Then those who inhabit the cities of Israel will go out and make fires with the weapons and burn them, both shields and bucklers, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears, **and for seven years they will make fires of them. They will not take wood from the field or gather firewood from the forests, for they will make fires with the weapons; and they will take the spoil of those who despoiled them and seize the plunder of those who plundered them, declares the Lord. On that day I will give Gog a burial ground there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by the east of the sea, and it will block off those who would pass by. So, they will bury Gog there with his horde, and they will call it the valley of Hamon Gog. For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the lands. Even all the people of the land will bury them; and it will be to their renown on the day that I glorify myself, declares the Lord GOD.***

Of particular interest in this closing portion of Scripture (Ezekiel 39:9-13) are the following viewpoints:

- It must be remembered that Ezekiel is writing about the events that God allowed him to see in the future, so either he describes exactly what he saw in this battle (shields, bucklers, bows, arrows, war clubs, spears) that will be actually used, or, he used the only terminology he was familiar with to describe what he saw. How would a prophet before the time of Christ describe modern warfare
- The valley that will be called Hamon Gog is a major crossroad in this area. Therefore, as people travel through this area, they will be constantly reminded of the battle that was overwhelmingly won by God and displayed the protection of his chosen people (Israel)
- Notice that the Israelites will gather and burn enemy weapons for a period of seven years and will also take seven months to bury the dead involved in the battle. Normally, the invaders bury their own dead, but in this case the task will be completed by Israel (the dead must be buried as exposed corpses are a source of ritual contamination to the land as found in Numbers 19:11-22 and Deuteronomy 21:1-9). This will be part of a concerted effort to cleanse the land
- Some scholars believe that if the weapons from the battle are burned for seven years, then it is doubtful that nuclear weapons are involved as nuclear material is not easily disposed of (and/or simply burned)

- At the conclusion of this prophecy, it is important to note that (1) God has kept His promise to his chosen people (Israel), and (2) from a two-pronged perspective, God personally allows all the nations **and** Israel (remember Ezekiel 39:7-24) to see who He is. Therefore, during this time in history, no person will be without excuse in not only knowing who God is but also seeing Him display his power

CONCLUSION

The real question is “*what is your future in life?*” If the Bible is true (and the evidence from science and Scripture indicate that it is), then each person should be concerned with their future destiny and specifically, where you will spend eternity. The Bible clearly says “*All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God*” (Romans 3:23), and those without a personal acceptance of God will spend eternity in a lake of fire (Revelation 20:15). However, God has provided an alternate choice, and that choice is a free gift that only needs to be accepted by you “*For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life* (John 3:16), and “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved*” (Romans 10:13). This is God’s message to you, so have you accepted his free gift of eternal life?

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