



EZEKIEL 38&39

Part 1

AIRED ON The DOVE MARCH 19, 2009

Perry Atkinson and John Mittendorf

INTRODUCTION

In the wake of recent developments such as the collapsing United States economy, the expanding national debt, the resurgence of Russia, the capability of rogue countries possessing nuclear weapons, the largest transfer of wealth in human history to buy oil, increasing frequency of international terrorism, the rise of radical Islamic extremism, and other similar global concerns, many people (Christians and non-Christians alike) are asking where is this world going, and are we in the “*end times*?” Additionally, consider the following current headlines of world events:

- The U.S. fears that Mexico is losing control of its territory and borders due to drug violence (Mail Tribune, February 27, 2009).
- Estimated 1.75 trillion dollar federal deficit for this year (USA Today, February 27, 2009).
- Estimated 3.6 trillion proposed budget for next year (USA Today, February 27, 2009).
- General Motors at risk of collapse and considers filing for bankruptcy (USA Today, February 27, 2009).
- How The Crash Will Reshape America (The Atlantic, March 2009).
- The Sleeping Giant Awakens (The Oregonian, February 26, 2009). This article refers to China.
- The percentage of Christians in the United States has declined, and more people say they have no religion at all (The Associated Press, March 9, 2009).
- World Bank warns of global recession (The Washington Post, March 9, 2009).

In addition to the aforementioned world events is the continued violence and turmoil in the mid-east with the alignment of Islamic nations that was prophesied in Ezekiel 38 and 39. People that are familiar with the specific prophetic section of Ezekiel 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 Mahmoud Ahmadinejad against the United States and Israel, and the potential of Iran, Syria, 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.

Within the events that are delineated in Ezekiel is the glaring fact that the United States is not specifically mentioned in the list of nations that will form an alliance and invade Israel or even try to repel the invasion. 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 invasion of Israel and/or the rapture! As an example, check the following prophecies that have been fulfilled:

- Israel has to be scattered and regathered as a nation – (*done*).
- There has to be a strong-hostile nation to the North of Israel that could possibly invade Israel – (*done*).
- Israel has to be isolated from other nations of the world (this has not quite happened as the United States still supports Israel – (*almost done*)).
- Israel has to be dwelling with security and confidence – (*done*).
- There needs to be a system to track/or identify each person who supports the Anti-Christ – (*done*). On May 10, 2002, Jeffrey and Leslie Jacobs along with their son Derek in Boca Raton, Florida, had a “Verichip” made by Digital Solutions, installed under their skin. This chip carries all of their personal records and/or any records of interest.

So, before we look at the events as described by Ezekiel over 2,500 years ago, let’s begin by considering the question of the United States in Bible prophecy in Part 1, and then we will consider Iran, Russia, and Islam in Part 2. Once we understand how these major players fit into the current scheme of global power and events, we will begin to fit the prophetic puzzle together and look at Ezekiel 38 and 39 in Part 3 and any additional items that are necessary.

IS THE UNITED STATES MENTIONED IN BIBLE PROPHECY?

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

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 it's Jewish inhabitants. These nations are (depending on which translation is used):

- Gog (*this name is the exception to the listed nations and represents a leader, likely of Russia*)
- Magog (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and possibly Afghanistan)
- Rosh (Russia)
- Mesech and Tubal (portions of Turkey)
- Persia (Iran)
- Cush (Ethiopia)
- Put (Sudan, Libya and possibly Algeria and Tunisia)
- Gomer (Turkey and/or modern-day Germany)
- Beth-Togarmah (Turkey and Armenia)

Nearly all of the aforementioned 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 forth coming sessions on the DOVE. Within this list of nations are three locations by the name of "*Sheba, Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish with all its young warriors*" (Ez. 38:13). Although there is considerable debate between biblical scholars, a noteworthy number of these scholars believe the following:

- 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 "*the merchants of Tarshish and all her young warriors*" (NET). The better translation is probably "*Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof*" (NKJV). 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.

POSSIBLY INDIRECTLY

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. This final battle is known as the Gog and Magog battle which has the same name as the Gog and Magog battle in Ezekiel 38, 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.

HOW COULD THE MOST POWERFUL NATION IN THE HISTORY OF THIS WORLD NOT BE 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 most powerful nation on earth, 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 seven 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 there was still strong support for Israel during the “end times.” However, America is not specifically mentioned in Bible prophecy. This option does not have strong 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 a result of the Iraq war.

(3) America Will Be Weakened From 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 "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.*" 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.

Note: Recent news headlines verify Iran has conducted the first test of its nuclear power plant at Bushehr on February 25, 2009 (World magazine, March 14, 2009), on March 8, 2009, National Public Radio announced that Iran had test fired a long-range missile, on February 23, 2009, Debka-Net-Weekly reported that Turkey has joined the mid-east nuclear arms race to keep pace with Iran, and Iran sets up bases in Eritrea and seizes positions for blocking sea routes and toppling pro-western rulers.

The increasing military capabilities by Iran and other mid-eastern countries should cause deep concern as Ahmadinejad has often stated that he "*will bring the Great Satan (U.S.) and the Little Satan (Israel) to their knees.*"

This option does have credibility from biblical scholars.

(4) An Oil Crisis Begins An Economic Crash

Today, the United States is in a very precarious position as OPEC controls the supply of oil that America is so dependent upon. In 1979 the United States imported 25% of its oil. Today, that has risen to 70% and continues to steadily rise. If OPEC were to decide to slow or stop oil imports to America, the economy would crash and it would be difficult if not impossible to remain a military superpower for very long as the military and civilian day to day operations run on oil (remember the oil embargo of 1979?). Of particular interest, is the fact that in 2006, terrorists attempted to attack the heart of the Saudi Arabian oil and gas industry, the Abqaiq processing facility. Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the failed attack (this news story only appeared for one day in the news media). Additionally, the nations that

comprise OPEC hate America and Israel. Without a doubt, oil is America's Achilles Heel! This option is more than a possible reality.

(5) 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.

(6) 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 affects of this catastrophic event (from the World's viewpoint) would instantly change the America that you now know. This option is supported by numerous biblical scholars, and 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.

(7) The Dollar Will Be Significantly Weakened

The subprime lending crisis, major bank failures, the possible failure of major corporations, the addiction to oil, and China owning 1.5 trillion dollars of American money as a result of the trade imbalance all add up to foreign nations controlling America's financial destiny. Since the recent election, Americans have lost 3 trillion dollars in wealth as reported by the Investors Business Daily, the markets have plummeted about 30%, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has dropped from 9,625.28 on November 4, 2008 to 6,647.49 on March 4, 2009, and since the market's high in October 2007, the Dow Jones Industrial average is down about 50%. Therefore, America's wealth has been reduced by about 50%. Additionally, if China decided to replace the American dollar with the Euro, the dollar would collapse. Interestingly, Iran only honors the Euro as payment for its oil exports. The pertinent question is how much will the dollar continue to erode within the world financial market.

CONCLUSION

From the preceding seven factors that overviewed possible areas of decline for the United States, it is easy to visualize in the not too distant future a United States that is significantly different than the United States of just a few years ago as we are potentially more vulnerable in 2009 than ever in the history of the United States! Therefore, it is not surprising that the United States is not specifically mentioned in Bible prophecy.

However, 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?

Part 2 of this series will continue on The DOVE, March 26, 2009, at 8:30 am.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following sources offer an expanded view of this subject and can be purchased at the Evangel book store in the Medford Mall. Four sites are also listed and can be accessed on the internet. The Late Great United States and What In The World Is Going On are particularly recommended for their date of publication, content, and being an "easy read."

www.joelrosenberg.com (Flashtraffic)

www.debka-net-weekly.com (Israeli intelligence)

www.israelnewsnow.com (Israeli news)

www.prophecyhotline.com (Prophetic news)

THE LATE GREAT UNITED STATES (*)

Mark Hitchcock

2009, Multnomah Publishers

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David Jeremiah

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IRAN THE COMING CRISIS

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Tim LaHaye and Ed Hinson
2007, Harvest House Publishers
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THE SECOND COMING
John MacArthur
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Dore Gold
2007, Regnery Publishing, Inc.
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2001, Harvest House Publishers



EZEKIEL 38&39

Part 2

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INTRODUCTION

During our last session in March, we began this series by taking a quick look at global events that seem to have a significant number of people asking questions that focus on the *"last days"* and *"is America mentioned in Bible prophecy?"* When listening to the radio, watching television, or reading a newspaper, the rapidly changing world events seem to signal that humanity, the world economy, and this planet are spiraling downward to the point that it is becoming obvious that something must radically change or else a point of no return will have been reached.

Bible prophecy is very clear on the subject of mankind - sin will continue to increase to the point that Christ will return to this earth, destroy Satan and his armies, and establish a new kingdom. Additionally, the Bible is also very clear that Russia will form a coalition of Islamic countries and march on Israel to occupy the land and destroy its Jewish inhabitants. Interestingly, this will be attempted without any resistance from Israel or western countries as delineated in Ezekiel 38.

In our last session on March 19th, we overviewed the question of *"is America mentioned in Bible prophecy?"* To continue with this series and as it appears that Russia is currently actively engaged in forming alliances with the very countries that are mentioned in Ezekiel 38, let's focus on Russia, Iran, and Islam from the perspective how these two nations and an ideology are coming together as predicted in Ezekiel over 2,500 years ago. First, let's look at three prophetic guidelines:

PROPHETIC GUIDELINES

- **JESUS WILL RETURN!!** Matt 24:37
- **THE TIME IS UNKNOWN!!** Matt 24:36
- **BE READY!!** Matt 24:42

RUSSIA

Although Dmitri Medvedev is the current president of Russia, Vladimir Putin is the Prime Minister and the real power "*behind the scenes.*" The following is an overview of Vladimir Putin and Russia:

- 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.
- Putin has asked the Iranian Supreme Leader (Ayatollah Ali 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).

WHY WILL RUSSIA LEAD AN INVASION AGAINST ISRAEL?

- To be a world superpower, Russia needs energy - - oil. Additionally, 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 be constructed in the near future.
- The mineral deposits in the Dead Sea have been estimated as incalculable. It has been projected there is two billion tons of potassium chloride, twelve billion tons of sodium chloride, and twenty-two billion tons magnesium chloride.

- Russia needs a warm water port (as opposed to their port in the Baltic Sea) into the oceans of the world.
- Russia has delivered 30 Tor-M1's to Iran at a cost of 700 million (currently the most advanced surface to air missile system available).

IRAN

- The history of Iran (the name was changed from Persia to Iran in 1935, and 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 Medeo-Persian Empire.
- The Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is the *"behind the scenes leader"* of Iran. Akmadinejad is the front person.
- The 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 in Iraq and Afghanistan.
 - (4) The West (U.S.) dependence on oil.
 - (5) Extensive ties with Russia and China.
- Iran's hatred for America and Israel is without limit.
- Akmadinejad believes he is the *"chosen one"* to usher in the arrival of the Mahdi/Twelfth Imam.
- Akmadinejad 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.
- The primary difference between Akmadinejad and Hitler, Stalin and other similar dictators is that Akmadinejad believes that it is an honor for him to die, whereas the other dictators wanted to live.

- Akmadinejad believes that he is invincible - - *"I have a connection with God, since God said infidels will have no way to harm believers."*
- 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

OVERVIEW

- 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).
- Terrorism is not an enemy, it is a method. You do not make war on a method.
- 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 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:

- 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:

- 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.*

DID YOU KNOW?

- When the CIA confiscated records from the computer of Dr. Sultan Bashiruddin Mahmood, a former chairman of Pakistan’s Atomic Energy Commission, they discovered evidence from Mahmood’s computer that at least one Al-Qaeda nuke had been forward deployed to the United States from Karachi in a cargo container. On October 11, 2001, George Tenet, former CIA director, met with President Bush to inform him that at least two tactical nukes had reached Al-Qaeda operatives in the United States. This news was substantiated by Pakistan’s ISI, the CIA, and the FBI (WorldNetDaily, September 3, 2005, Article ID=46127).
- Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan’s Atomic Bomb has admitted to *“freely selling nuclear technology to Iran, Libya, and North Korea between 1989 and 1991 so they could become nuclear powers and strengthen the Islamic world”* (Daily Telegraph of London, England, February 3, 2004).
- Paul L. Williams, a former consultant to the FBI on terrorism, indicates that there is empirical proof that Al-Qaeda possesses nukes. Additionally, Williams reports that there just isn’t one team in the United States, but at least seven. They are working within mosques and Islamic centers. Seven U.S. cities have been targeted for simultaneous terrorist attacks. They are New York, Miami, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington D.C. (WorldNetDaily, September 3, 2005, Paul Williams Details American Hiroshima).
- Hezbollah and Al-Qaeda are working with the MS-13 gang. Hezbollah is paying between \$3,000 to \$5,000 dollars for each Hezbollah member to be smuggled into America and Al-Qaeda is paying between \$25,000 to \$50,000

for an Al-Qaeda member smuggled into America (Because They Hate Us, Brigitte Gabriel).

DEFINITIONS

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.
- 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.

SIX-STEP PROCEDURE FOR MAKING A NUCLEAR BOMB

DIG IT

- Mine uranium ore and soak with sulfuric acid, leaching out pure uranium.

CRUNCH IT

- Dry the uranium and filter into a coarse powder - - *"Yellow Cake."*

BAKE IT

- Expose to fluorine gas and heat to 133-degrees F, converting into the gas uranium hexafluoride.

SPIN IT

- Spin in a centrifuge at the speed of sound. This removes the heavier U-238 and keeps the lighter U-235 (fissionable material).

SPIN IT AGAIN

- Keep feeding into additional centrifuges (cascading) where the purity of the U-235 is increased. When 20% pure, it is considered highly enriched. To achieve 90% purity (weapons grade) requires about a year of this process.

SQUEEZE IT

- When the desired purity is reached, the enriched uranium ore is converted into a metal powder, uranium oxide, it can be molded into a sphere and placed into a weapon (Nuclear Terrorism, Graham Allison, Times Books, 2004).

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?

This series will continue on TheDove on May 21, 2009

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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www.joelrosenberg.com (Flashtraffic)

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EZEKIEL 38 & 39

Part 3

AIRED ON TheDOVE, JUNE 25, 2009

Perry Atkinson and John Mittendorf

INTRODUCTION

This series began by taking a quick look at global events that seem to have a significant number of people asking questions that focus on the “*last days*” and *Bible prophecy*?” When listening to the radio, watching television, or reading a newspaper, the rapidly changing world events seem to signal that humanity, the world economy, and this planet are spiraling downward to the point that it is becoming obvious that something must radically change or else a point of no return will have been reached.

Bible prophecy is very clear on the subject of mankind - sin will continue to increase to the point that Christ will return to this earth, destroy Satan and his armies, and establish a new kingdom. Additionally, the Bible is also very clear that Russia will form a coalition of Islamic countries and march on Israel to occupy the land and destroy its Jewish inhabitants. Interestingly, this will be attempted without any resistance from Israel or western countries as delineated in Ezekiel 38 and 39.

In the last several sessions, we have had the privilege to interview Joel Rosenberg and discuss his perspective on current events in the Middle East and specifically, the prophecy that is delineated in Ezekiel 38 & 39 (CD's of the interview are available from TheDove). In the last session, we graphically traveled back to Adam and Eve to see how their sin resulted in a prophecy

countdown, and then overviewed how the Arabic people split from God's chosen people; the nation of Israel, and sub-sequentially has brought us to the spiraling turmoil we currently see in the Middle East. Interestingly, the aftermath of the recent elections in Iran have gained worldwide attention as it appears that the Mullah-led government is under significant opposition (riots, etc) from the Iranian people who are demonstrating against what they feel is a "rigged election" and for democracy. This revolution has the potential to dramatically change the current Iranian government, their worldview, and their status in the Islamic countries. The next several weeks could very-well see significant changes in Iran. If not, it is obvious there is an underlying resentment against the current Mullah-led government.

With these thought in mind, let's look at Ezekiel 38 & 39 verse by verse and see what God's word specifically and prophetically delineates concerning the who, what, when, and why in this portion of scripture

Note: The New King James translation will be used).

EZEKIEL 38

SUMMARY

- Ezekiel 38:1 to 39:29 delineates the removal of Israel's enemies from the land.
- Ezekiel 38:1-16 delineates the invasion of Gog to plunder Israel.
- Ezekiel 38:17 to 39:29 delineates the intervention of God to protect Israel.

WHO

(Ezekiel 38:1-6) 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.

(Ezekiel 38:13) **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?

Gog - - Title (prince/leader, etc).

Magog, Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal - - These four countries are Russia and the former Soviet Republics.

Persia - - Iran.

Cush - - Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea.

Put - - Libya, *Algeria, Tunisia.*

Gomer - - Turkey, *Germany, and Austria.*

Togarmah - - Turkey, Armenia, Asia Minor and Central Asia.

Many Peoples - - Includes Lebanon, Syria, and *Jordan.*

Sheba and Dedan - - Gulf States (Saudi Arabia, etc).

All The Young Lions - - Possibly *Great Britain, America, Australia, and New Zealand.*

Note: The countries in italics are not confirmed but are possibilities and are debated by scholars.

Interestingly, although the aforementioned list of countries are fundamentally Islamic and hate Israel, there are two countries that are missing, are close to Israel, are Islamic, and also hate Israel. 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 2,000 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 has recently become apparent that these countries have multiple common interests:

- They hate Israel and support her destruction.
- They are basically Islamic nations and/or have a high percentage of Islamic people.
- They are a northern confederacy who are currently 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 30 Tor-M's 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 **dwelt 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 restored from the sword, unwalled villages, and living securely, 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 living securely (as compared to the past).”* However, many scholars believe that:

- The words *“latter years”* refers to Israel’s restoration. That began in May of 1948.
- The words *“dwelt safely”* occurs in several contexts devoted to the Israelites blessed estate after God has brought them back to their land (28:26, 34:25-28, 39:26, Jer. 32:37, and Zech. 14:11).
- The words *“unwalled villages”* refers to that period of 3.5 years when Israel is secure under the protection of the world-ruling “prince that shall come,” called Antichrist (Dan 9:27).

In our session in July, we will consider the Why and Reason of this prophecy.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following sources offer an expanded view of this subject and can be purchased at the Evangel book store in the Medford Mall. Four sites are also listed and can be accessed on the internet. The Late Great United States and What In The World Is Going On are particularly recommended for their date of publication, content, and being an “easy read.”

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EZEKIEL 38 & 39

Part 4

AIRED ON TheDOVE, JULY 23, 2009

Perry Atkinson and John Mittendorf

INTRODUCTION

This series began by taking a quick look at global events that seem to have a significant number of people asking questions that focus on the “*last days*” and *Bible prophecy*.” When listening to the radio, watching television, or reading a newspaper, the rapidly changing world events seem to signal that humanity, the world economy, and this planet are spiraling downward to the point that it is becoming obvious that something must radically change or else a point of no return will have been reached.

Bible prophecy is very clear on the subject of mankind - sin will continue to increase to the point that Christ will return to this earth, destroy Satan and his armies, and establish a new kingdom. Additionally, the Bible is also very clear that Russia will form a coalition of Islamic countries and march on Israel to occupy the land and destroy its Jewish inhabitants. Interestingly, this will be attempted without any resistance from Israel or other countries as delineated in Ezekiel 38 and 39.

In the last session, we started to specifically look at Ezekiel 38 & 39 from the perspective of the who and how this prophecy will unfold and dramatically change the world as we now know it. As this portion of scripture is interesting from the perspective that the current events in the Middle East appear to be

setting the stage for the Ezekiel prophecy, let's take a brief look at four current events that *appear to be* linked to biblical prophecy:

- The Euphrates river is drying up as a result of the water policies of Turkey and Syria; a two-year drought; and years of misuse by Iraq and its farmers. This has resulted in a river that is significantly smaller than it was just a few years ago. This has decimated farms along its banks, and has left fisherman impoverished and has depleted riverside towns as farmers flee to the cities looking for work. Some officials worry that it could soon be half of what it is now. Although the shrinking of the Euphrates river is a significant detriment to one of the world's great rivers (it was also crucial to the birth of civilization), it is noteworthy that the book of Revelation (Rev. 16:12) prophesied that the Euphrates river would dry up as a sign of the end times. Although this is a dynamic and not a static development, it is certainly another curious development.
- German Intelligence has reported (July 15, 2009) that Iran has mastered the enrichment technology necessary to make a bomb and has enough centrifuges to make weaponised uranium which could lead to detonating an atomic bomb in half a year's time.
- Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has again pressed for a one-world supernational currency (July 12, 2009) to replace the dollar. The coin (which he carries) bears the English words "United Future World Currency."
- Bible prophecy says the ancient city of Babylon, Iraq will be rebuilt and become the greatest center of wealth, commerce and power in the "last days" of history. The books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Revelation are explicit on this subject. Interestingly, Babylon is currently being rebuilt, in part with U.S. taxpayer funds. Consider the June 28, 2009, edition of *Stars & Stripes*, a U.S. military publication which headlined: **"U.S., Iraqi experts developing plan to preserve Babylon, build local tourism industry."** To facilitate this development, the State Department and the World Monuments Fund have committed \$700,000 to the project which will be used to preserve the site and develop a local tourism industry. It is expected that as Iraq becomes increasingly stable and secure, direct foreign investment will increase, and Iraq will become the wealthiest country on this planet. As an example, Exxon Mobil (as well as other major oil companies) is positioning itself to become a major investor in the Iraq energy sector. Lastly, consider this headline from the Associated Press: "World's big oil companies prepare for return to Iraq."

With these thought in mind, let's again look at Ezekiel 38 & 39 verse by verse and see what God's word specifically and prophetically delineates concerning the who, what, when, and why in this portion of scripture. During

the last session, we looked at the countries that will be part of the invasion force to march on Israel (the Who of Ezekiel 38). For this session, let's look at the When and Why of Ezekiel 38.

Note: The New King James translation will be used).

EZEKIEL 38

SUMMARY

- Ezekiel 38:1 to 39:29 delineates the removal of Israel's enemies from the land.
- Ezekiel 38:1-16 delineates the invasion of Gog to plunder Israel.
- Ezekiel 38:17 to 39:29 delineates the intervention of God to protect Israel.

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 **dwelt 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 restored from the sword, unwalled villages, and living securely, 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 living securely (as compared to the past)."* However, many scholars believe that:

- The words *"latter years"* refers to Israel's restoration. That began in May of 1948.
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- The words *"unwalled villages"* refers to that period of 3.5 years when Israel is secure under the protection of the world-ruling "prince that shall come," called Antichrist (Dan 9:27).

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 the current wealth of Israel:

- Citrus exports are \$1 billion
- Agriculture exports are \$3.3 billion
- Flower exports are over \$238 million
- Home of millionaires
- 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 is projected to be one of the world’s ten richest countries in less than ten years
- The GDP of Israel almost exceeds the total GDP of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan

So, what would drive a Russian led coalition to attack Israel for “Great Spoil?”

- Searching For Oil In Israel, CBS News, September 20, 2005
- Is Israel Sitting On An Enormous Oil Reserve?, WorldNetDaily, September 21, 2005
- A Vision Of Oil In the Holy Land, Newsweek, June 13, 2005

Does the Bible 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

In our session in August, we will consider the Reason of this prophecy.

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EZEKIEL 38 & 39

Part 5

AIRED ON TheDOVE, AUGUST 20, 2009

Perry Atkinson and John Mittendorf

INTRODUCTION

At the start of each program, we try to spend a few minutes on current events that could influence or be relevant to our prophetic discussion as delineated in Ezekiel 38 & 39. However, as we have spent numerous programs on the evolution-creation debate, there are two noteworthy admissions from the secular scientific community regarding the fallacy of evolution that should be briefly highlighted. So, let's take a few minutes and discuss these admissions; and in addition, current events, an interesting article that gives advice to Christian students who attend secular colleges and take science classes (which likely begins next month), and then the Reason and Method of the Ezekiel prophecy.

EVOLUTION Vs CREATION

This month, two prominent secular scientific magazines made two remarkable admissions that underscore the fallacy of evolution. The lead article on the cover of the August issue of Astronomy magazine boldly states in large letters "The Day Earth Came To Life," with a sub title in small letters "In the past, non-living matter started to replicate itself. Scientists are still trying to figure out how." Although secular science currently endorses the theory of the Big Bang that supposedly happened about 13.7 billion years ago (and which violates the First Law Of Thermodynamics; energy cannot be created or destroyed), there has always been the thorny problem of how life started from non life, particularly since Louis Pasteur and Rudolph Virchow proved in the 1800's that life only originates from life. This is known as The Law

of Biogenetics. Quoting from the aforementioned magazine article on page 24, *"It seems that scientists have a good handle on how everything around us began, with one glaring exception: We don't know where life came from."* The article then goes on to suggest some possible theory's that might explain this dilemma by using words such as *"might," "could have," "possible,"* and the list goes on. The important point is that secular science cannot explain the origin of life; therefore, evolution has no beginning. However, that beginning is clearly delineated in Genesis 1:1.

MISSING LINK

Since the beginning of the evolution Vs creation debate, secular science has meticulously looked for "the missing link" that would tie the evolution of mammals to humans. Anyone who is familiar with this debate knows that there have been numerous false claims (Piltdown Man, Java Man, etc) and other claims that have been proven to be false or at the least; highly controversial. Interestingly, it is not uncommon for a paleoanthropologist to discover a fossil and quickly make bold claims to the scientific community that are often heralded as a scientific "breakthrough." Briefly quoting from an article in the August issue of Scientific American, "On May 19, the world met a fossil of a house-cat size primate that lived 47 million years ago and was quickly given the user-friendly name of Ida. In an elaborate public-relations campaign, Ida's significance was described in no uncertain terms as the missing link between us humans and our primate kin. In news reports, team members called her *"the eighth wonder of the world," the Holy Grail,"* and a *"Rosetta Stone."* Unfortunately, time has **not** been kind to these "scientific revelations" as it is now known that Ida is too old to reveal anything about the evolution of humans and may not even be related to the primate family (monkeys, apes, and us). In the meantime, the first and second chapter of Genesis still delineates the origin of man.

CURRENT EVENTS

Since the attack of terrorists on this country on 9/11 and a lack of subsequent attacks, it is easy to assume the threat of terrorist attacks on the United States is minimal and/or a problem for other countries. This is not the case as three major terrorist plots against the United States and Israel have recently been thwarted by three major intelligence and law enforcement operations:

- Egyptian intelligence thwarted a plot by Radicals in Cairo to assassinate the Israeli ambassador to Egypt, bomb Muslim and Christian holy sites, and bomb the gas pipeline that links Egypt and Israel through the Sinai Peninsula.
- Kuwait officials have thwarted a terror plot by al-Qaeda operatives to attack U.S. bases in the Gulf kingdom (we have about 15,000 forces there).

- A terrorist sleeper cell in North Carolina that was run by radical Islamic jihadists was thwarted by the FBI. They had prepared to engage in violent jihad and were willing to die as martyrs.

From a different perspective, Israel, Russia, and Iran have also been in the news as follows:

- The Obama administration and the leaders of the G8 industrialized nations have given Iran a deadline of September to accept serious, high-level negotiations over its nuclear program or risk stiffer economic sanctions. So far, Ahmadinejad has rejected any negotiations with the “infidels.”
- Israeli President Shimon Peres has met with his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev and expressed Israel’s serious and growing concerns about the state of the Russian-Iranian alliance (Ezekiel 38?), Russia’s continued assistance to Iran’s nuclear program, and the extreme views of the Iranian regime, and the gravity of Iran acquiring nuclear weapons.
- In a separate but related note, there are growing concerns expressed by evangelical Christian leaders in Georgia that Russia may be preparing to attack the small democratic republic. Interestingly, Russia needs to go through Georgia and the Caucasus, Turkey, Syria, and Lebanon to reach the northern border of Israel.

CHRISTIAN STUDENTS RETURNING TO SECULAR SCHOOLS

An item that we have previously discussed is the dilemma that Christian students face when they attend a secular school and are confronted by secular science and its claims that are directly opposed to the biblical account of creation. This month, Dr. Jason Lisle (Astrophysics) with Answers in Genesis authored an excellent article titled “Surviving Secular College.” The complete article can be found at www.answersingenesis.org, and then type Surviving Secular College in the search engine if the article is not readily displayed. The article is *highlighted* as follows:

Staying in the Word and Prayer

A Christian must make it a priority to spend time studying the Bible and praying (Psalm 119:11 & 15).

Fellowship

The importance of being part of a Bible-teaching church cannot be overstated (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Biblical “Glasses” and Biblical Resources

A Christian student must be discerning about the information presented in the classroom and be constantly on guard and not conformed to the thinking of the secular world (Romans 12:2).

Remaining Silent

It is recommended that students of science use discretion when talking about creation. Specifically, they should not (in most circumstances) let their professors know that they believe in creation if at all possible. This does not mean that they should lie; rather, it means that they should not volunteer that information. There is an appropriate time and season (Ecclesiastes 3:1). A student should put down the answer that they have been taught in class as they are being tested on what they understand they have been taught in class; they are not being tested on what the student believes is true.

EZEKIEL 38 & 39

In the last session, we specifically looked at Ezekiel 38 & 39 from the perspective of the When and Why this prophecy will unfold and dramatically change the world as we now know it. With these thoughts in mind, let's again look at Ezekiel 38 & 39 verse by verse and see what God's word specifically and prophetically delineates in this portion of scripture. For this session, let's look at the Reason and Method of Ezekiel 38 & 39.

Note: The New King James translation will be used).

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 mighty 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.

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.

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EZEKIEL 38 & 39

Part 6

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INTRODUCTION

At the start of each program, we try to spend a few minutes on current events that could influence or be relevant to our prophetic discussion as delineated in Ezekiel 38 & 39. So, let's take a few minutes and discuss current news that relates to our discussion of the prophecy in Ezekiel, and then we will finish this series by turning our back to the focus to the prophetic events of the Ezekiel prophecy.

CURRENT EVENTS

One of the most intriguing events deals with Iran striving to maintain nuclear capability which will have the capability to dramatically change the power structure in the Middle East. The following is an overview of recent events:

- 8-18-09: The Obama administration and the leaders of the G8 Industrialized nations have given Iran a deadline of September to accept serious, high-level negotiations over its nuclear program or risk stiffer sanctions. Thus far, President Ahmadinejad has rejected any negotiations with the "infedels."
- 08-21-09: Iran's Supreme Leader, the Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has called on Muslims in neighboring countries (Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan and Afghanistan) to intensify preparations for the coming of the Islamic Messiah known as the Mahdi.

- 09-01-09: Careful reading of the IAEA report (International Atomic Energy Association) indicates that Iran now appears to have enough uranium to produce at least two nuclear bombs.
- 09-09-09: Today, Iran began suggesting its own terms for nuclear negotiations with the West.

EZEKIEL 38 & 39

In the last session, we specifically looked at the Reason and the How this prophecy will unfold and dramatically change the world as we now know it. With these thought in mind, let's again look at Ezekiel 38 & 39 verse by verse and see what God's word specifically and prophetically delineates in this portion of scripture. For this final session, let's look at the Aftermath of Ezekiel 38 & 39.

Note: The New King James translation will be used).

AFTERMATH

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 portion of scripture 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 application of the phrase "*seven years*" is highly debatable with numerous scholars as some believe this prophecy must happen right before the start of the Tribulation as the Tribulation is also "*seven years*" long. If this is correct, the seven years that are necessary to rid the land of the weapons will

conclude at the close of the Tribulation and prior to the beginning of the thousand year Millennium. However, some scholars believe that if this battle were to commence during the Tribulation (or at the end of the Tribulation), then the seven year period that would be necessary to rid the land of the weapons would carry-over into the Millennium. Lastly, some scholars believe that this prophecy will happen right before the Tribulation as the conclusion of the prophecy will leave the world in turmoil which could allow a select person (anti-Christ?) to step forward and offer to heal the wounds of the past and unite the world.

- 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).
- 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) 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!

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following sources offer an expanded view of this subject and can be purchased at the Evangel book store in the Medford Mall. Four sites are also listed and can be accessed on the internet. The Late Great United States and What In The World Is Going On are particularly recommended for their date of publication, content, and being an “easy read.”

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