

## ***Ezekiel 38 - The Antichrist's Invasion of Israel***

### **I. Background & Introduction**

- a. In *Numbers 24* the Moabite king Balak hired the prophet Balaam to prophesy a curse over Israel, but instead “*the Spirit of God came upon him (Numbers 24:2)*” and he spoke a blessing over Israel. Balaam stated that Israel’s King (*Jesus*) would be higher than “*Agag* (earliest manuscripts say “*Gog*”)”. The Jewish perspective understood “*Agag/Gog*” to be Israel’s final enemy.

***(Numbers 24:7 NASB) “Water will flow from his buckets, and his seed will be by many waters, and his king [Jacob’s King- Jesus] shall be higher than Agag (Gog), and his kingdom shall be exalted.”***

- b. Ezekiel has the vision of the valley of dry bones, the vision ends with a Messianic prophesy about the age to come and Israel’s restoration. This is important context to have in mind, because *Ezekiel 38* details the Antichrist’s invasion of Israel during the Great Tribulation which results in the “*smashing of the holy people (Israel)*”.

***(Ezekiel 37:24-28 NASB) “And My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances, and keep My statutes and follow them. 25 And they will live on the land that I gave to My servant Jacob, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons’ sons, forever; and My servant David will be their leader forever. 26 And I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and set My sanctuary in their midst forever. 27 My dwelling place also will be among them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. 28 And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.”***

***(Daniel 12:7 NASB) “as soon as they finish smashing the power of the holy people [Jewish. People], all these events [end of the age events described in Daniel 11 & 12] will be completed.”***

### **II. Gog of the land of Magog**

***(Ezekiel 38:1 NASB) “Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,”***

- a. A popular, yet incorrect view among end time teachers states that Gog is not the Antichrist, but is a future leader from either Russia or somewhere in Europe who will invade Israel at a time before the Antichrist. The fundamental problem with this view is the inconsistent method of interpretation. Proponents of this view selectively trace the “*blood-line*” of the ancient “*Magogians*” and determine they settled in modern day Russia or Europe, yet don’t follow the bloodlines of all of the other nations mentioned in this prophecy to define them.
- b. A more consistent method of interpretation is a historical and grammatical approach, meaning that we should define the nations and peoples spoken of in this prophesy based on their location at the time of Ezekiel (*i.e. Egypt means Egypt not Europe, Israel means Israel not America, etc...*).
  - i. Gog is not only said to be “*of the land of Magog*” but is called “*the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal*”, so identifying where those regions were located during Ezekiel’s day will help to determine the general region that Gog will emerge from.
  - ii. The overwhelming scholarly consensus places Magog, Meshech, & Tubal (as well as Gomer & Togarmah in modern day Turkey [[References](#)]). *Those that differ with this scholarly consensus tend to be those with an existing “prophetic presupposition”.*

- c. The context of *Ezekiel 39*, confirms that “Gog” is the coming Antichrist. As a result of the destruction of Gog and his armies; 1) God’s name will never again be profaned (*Ezekiel 39:7*), 2) the surviving Gentiles will know that God is “the Lord” (*Ezekiel 39:6-7*), 3) The captives of Israel will be delivered (*Ezekiel 39:25-28*), 4) God will pour out His Spirit on Israel (*Ezekiel 39:29*), 5) The survivors of Israel will come to know the Lord forever (*Ezekiel 39:22*), 6) Israel will dwell securely in her land forever (*Ezekiel 39:26-28*).

### III. The Antichrist’s Military Coalition

*(Ezekiel 38:3-7, 10 NASB)* “...Behold, I am against you, Gog... 4 So I will turn you around and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them magnificently dressed, a great contingent with shield and buckler, all of them wielding swords; 5 Persia, Cush, and Put with them, all of them with buckler and helmet; 6 Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops—many peoples with you. 7 “Be ready, and be prepared, you and all your contingents that are assembled around you, and be a guard for them... 10 ‘This is what the Lord God says: “It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil plan””

*(Psalm 83:3-8 NASB)* “They make shrewd plans against Your people, And conspire together against Your treasured ones. 4 They have said, “Come, and let’s wipe them out as a nation, So that the name of Israel will no longer be remembered.” 5 For they have conspired together with one mind; They make a covenant against You: 6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, Moab and the Hagrites; 7 Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek, Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Assyria also has joined them They have become a help to the children of Lot.”

- a. Gog, the Antichrist through smooth deception, will develop an incredibly strong military coalition and conspire against the “holy covenant” and will invade many nations and ultimately, Israel.

*(Daniel 11:28, 32, 41 NASB)* “28 Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but his heart will be set against the holy covenant, and he will take action and then return to his own land. 32 And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant...41 He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall”

*(Revelation 13:4 NASB)* “They worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?””

*(Revelation 16:13-16 NASB)* “And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; 14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the entire world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty....16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.”

- b. *Ezekiel 38* and *Psalms 83* list some of the nations that will be included in His coalition:

- i. Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Gomer (*Ezekiel 38*) – Turkey
- ii. Togarmah (*Ezekiel 38*) – Turkey, Armenia
- iii. Persia (*Ezekiel 38*) – Iran
- iv. Cush (*Ezekiel 38*) – Sudan
- v. Put (*Ezekiel 38*) – Libya
- vi. The Tents of Edom, Moab, The Hagrites, Ammon, The children of Lot (*Psalms 83*) – Jordan
- vii. The Ishmaelites (*Psalms 83*) - Saudi Arabia & portions of Jordan

- viii. Gebal (*Psalm 83*) – Lebanon
- ix. Amalek (*Psalm 83*) – Southern Israel
- x. Philistia (*Psalm 83*) – Gaza
- xi. Inhabitants of Tyre (*Psalm 83*) - Lebanon
- xii. Assyria (*Psalm 83*) – Turkey, Syria, Iraq

#### IV. The Setting Within Israel at the time of the Invasion

***(Ezekiel 38:8 NASB) “After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual place of ruins; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them.”***

***(Ezekiel 38:11-12, 14 NASB) “And you will say, ‘I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will go against those who are at rest, who live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates 12 to capture spoils and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the ruins that are now inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who live at the center of the world.’...14 This is what the Lord God says: “On that day when My people Israel are living securely, will you not know it?”***

- a. Israel will have a season of “peace” before the Antichrist turns his armies toward her. She will be a land of “unwalled villages” and be “dwelling securely” after having been “gathered from the nations”.
- b. This prophecy gives insight into what the result of the Antichrist’s “covenant with many” will look like. The season leading up to the Great Tribulation (final 3 ½ years of this age) will be marked with a “false” sense of safety and security particularly in the nation of Israel.

***(Daniel 9:27 NASB) “And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate.”***

***(Isaiah 28:15,18 NASB) “We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we have made a pact. The gushing flood will not reach us when it passes by, Because we have made falsehood our refuge and we have concealed ourselves with deception. 18 Your covenant with death will be canceled, And your pact with Sheol will not stand; When the gushing flood passes through, Then you will become its trampling ground.”***

#### V. Gog’s invasion

***(Ezekiel 38:9, 12-13, 15-16 NASB) “And you will go up, you will come like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you... 12 to capture spoils and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the ruins that are now inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who live at the center of the world.’ 13 Sheba and Dedan [Saudi Arabia] and the merchants of Tarshish [Lebanon] with all its villages will say to you, ‘Have you come to capture spoils? Have you assembled your contingent to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to capture great spoils?’ 15 You will come from your place out of the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding horses, a large assembly and a mighty army; 16 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 show Myself holy through you before their eyes, Gog.”***

- a. The Antichrist's invasion of Israel will be like a vast storm. He will have a multitude of people ready to capture spoils and seize plunder (to rob and diminish something). Other nations (Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon are mentioned here) will be concerned about the military intentions of the Antichrist. In a very short time, the Antichrist will capture many nations and turn his focus towards Israel.
- b. God is the one who has brought Gog against Israel, so that the nations would see clearly the holy intentions of God to refine and restore Israel and the body of Christ.

***(Daniel 9:24 NASB) “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the wrongdoing, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy Place”***

#### VI. God's Fury, Zeal, & Wrath against the Antichrist

***(Ezekiel 38:18-23 NASB) “It will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,” declares the Lord God, “that My fury will mount up in My anger. 19 In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will certainly be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. 20 The fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, all the crawling things that crawl on the earth, and all mankind who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; and the mountains will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground. 21 And 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. 22 With plague and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and brimstone. 23 So I will prove Myself great, show Myself holy, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the Lord.”***

- a. This puts God's 21 end time judgment series (7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls) into perfect perspective. His true and righteous judgments are directed at the Antichrist, his empire, and his army because of his invasion of Israel. What God declares here is a clear foreshadow of the judgments found in the book of Revelation (specifically the Bowl Judgments that annihilate the Antichrist empire).
  - i. A great earthquake – (Revelation 16:18-19 NASB) “and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since mankind came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty. 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell...”
  - ii. The mountains will be thrown down – (Revelation 16:20 NASB) “And every island fled, and no mountains were found.”
  - iii. Plague and blood – (Revelation 16:2,4 NASB) “So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and a harmful and painful sore afflicted the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. 4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood.”
  - iv. Torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and brimstone – (Revelation 16:18, 21 NASB) “there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder...21 And huge hailstones, weighing about a talent each, \*came down from heaven upon people; and people blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because the hailstone plague was extremely severe.”
- b. These judgements are loosed, during the 30-day period following the return of Jesus. He will march up through the Middle East delivering Jewish captives and preparing to end the reign of the Antichrist. In the next session, *Ezekiel 39* will give us more insight into the fall of the Antichrist.