

Future Russian Aggression!

Ezekiel 38:1-6; Psalm 83:1-8

East Berlin Community Church

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March 13, 2022

Introduction

- The current invasion of the Russian army of the sovereign nation of Ukraine.
- The prophetic Scriptures reveal FIVE major world players in end time events.
 - **The Nation of Israel**
 - God's 490-year plan to spiritually prepare the Jewish people to welcome their Messiah
 - We today are living in the "intermission" between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel 9
 - The 70th week, or last 7 years, will start when the Antichrist and Israel sign a covenant.
 - All prophetic events ultimately revolve around Israel, which God considers the center of the world
 - **The Nations of the West**
 - God's plan for Gentile Domination of the Jews and Israel
 - Four successive Gentile world powers: Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome
 - Rome was never conquered but continues today in the Western World, including the United States.
 - The Antichrist will arise out of the West, and will play a major role in end time events.
 - **The Nations of the East**
 - Revelation 16:12-- *"Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, so that the ways of the kings from the east might be prepared."*
 - Revelation 9:13-16 -- *"The sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, 'Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.' So the four angels, who had been prepared for that hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them."*
 - **The Nations of the South**
 - Daniel 11:40-- *"At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through."*
 - **The Nations of the North**
 - At the very end, they will gather with the rest of the world to do battle at Armageddon.
 - Earlier, the leader of the North will lead a coalition against Israel to seek to destroy the Jewish nation and her people.

Future Russian Aggression!—Ezekiel 38-39

A. The Coalition: 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, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, "Thus says the LORD God: 'Behold. I am against you, O Gog, the prince of 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.'"*

1. **The Coalition will be comprised of Six Countries**
 - a. **“Magog”,** over which there will be a ruler by the title of “Gog”, along with two cities, Meshech and Tubal. **Modern day Russia**
 - 1) “Magog” first mentioned in Genesis 10:2, *“Gomer and Magog and Madai and Javan and Tubal, and Meshech and Tiras. And the sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz and Riphath and Togarmath.”*
 - 2) Descendent of Japheth and settled in the region of the Caucasus and northern Armenia, in an area that today is occupied by Russia.
 - 3) “Gog” is described in verse 2 as the *“prince of Rosh”*. The people of “Rosh” lived to the north of the Black Sea. And the people were called “Rus” from ancient times. Today they are called “Russians”
 - 4) Gog is also the *chief prince of Meshech and Tubal”,* two cities in Russia identified as the modern cities of Moscow and Tobolsk, the western and eastern capitals of Russia.
 - 5) The armies of “Magog” will come from the far north.
 - Ezekiel 38:6c-- *“the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops”*
 - Ezekiel 38:15-- *“Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding horses, a great company and a mighty army.”*
 - b. **Persia,** the ancient name for the country of Iran.
 - c. **Ethiopia**
 - 1) Some identify it as modern-day Ethiopia in central Africa, the Sudan region, that today is in alliance with Russia and has a large Islamic population.
 - 2) Others identify it as the land of Cush, which is located in the region of Iraq or Saudi Arabia.
 - d. **Libya** or North Africa
 - e. **Gomer**
 - 1) Some identify this as Germany, especially the region of the former East Germany.
 - 2) Or it could be a reference to the ancient Cimmerians which occupied territory in modern Turkey.
 - f. **Togarmah,** usually identified with modern Turkey
2. **Those NOT a part of the Coalition: The Arab States: Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and perhaps Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. Why?**
 - a. **The Arab nations may have been destroyed prior in a “Psalm 83” war.**
 - Psalm 83:1-8-- *“Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold your peace, and do not be still, O God! For behold your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, ‘Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.’ For they have consulted together with one consent: They form a confederacy against You; The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; Gebal, Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia and the inhabitants of Tyre; Assyria also has joined with them; They have helped the children of Lot.”*
 - 1) The Psalmist lists the perennial enemies of Israel, the Arab nations surrounding them.
 - 2) They are intent on Israel being *“cut off from being a nation”*
 - 3) But, there is no mention of an armed conflict or invasion by these nations on Israel.
 - 4) Instead, the psalmist asks God to *“deal with them”*.
 - Psalm 83:13-18-- *“make them like the whirling dust, like the chaff before the wind. As the fire burns the woods, and as the flame sets the mountain on fire, so pursue them with Your tempest, and frighten them with Your storm, Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek Your name, O LORD. Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish,*

that they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth."

5) No further prophetic revelation on this alleged conflict

b. **The Arab nations are included in the "many people with you" of Ezekiel 38:6.**

B. The Chronology: When?

1. **There is NO historical record of any invasion from the north** against Israel that fulfills Ezekiel 38-39. So, the event is still future?
2. **The CONTEXT of Ezekiel 38-39 would indicate that the event takes place sometime between the regathering of the Jews to the land of Israel and the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom.**
 - a. Ezekiel 37 details the regathering of the Jewish people to form a Jewish nation.
 - b. Ezekiel 40-48 details what happens during the Millennial Kingdom, when Jesus Christ will reign over a Davidic kingdom and the Millennial temple will be built.
 - c. Ezekiel 38:8 reveals that Gog and the coalition of nations with him will come against Israel when the Jews are occupying the land but before the kingdom has been established.
 - Ezekiel 38:8-- *"In the latter years you (that is Gog and those aligned with him) 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."*
3. **The Conflict will take place either during the Intermission in which we are currently living or right after the Antichrist and the nation of Israel enter into a covenantal agreement to start the 70th week or the tribulation period.**
 - a. **It is going to take seven year for the Jews to burn the instruments of war, and seven months to bury the dead.**
 - Ezekiel 39:9-- *"Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelin and spears; and they will make fires with them seven years."*
 - Ezekiel 39:11-13-- *"It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and I will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury God and all his multitude. Therefore 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 land. Indeed all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified', says the Lord God."*
 - b. **There is credible evidence to place this invasion during the intermission period prior to the Antichrist's covenant with Israel.**
 - 1) At the middle of the tribulation, the Antichrist will break the covenant with Israel, will be Satanically possessed, and will begin persecuting the Jews, who will flee from Jerusalem to the mountains and seek God's protection. They will not be free to move around the country, to burn the instruments of war or bury the dead. **This means that the invasion takes place at least 3 ½ years prior to the beginning of the tribulation.**
 - Matthew 24:15-16-- *"When you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."*
 - Revelation 12:13-14-- *"When the dragon saw that he had been cast out to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent."*

- 2) **This fits with the Western response to the invasion of Russia and her allies.**
 - 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?'"*
 - a) Sheba and Denan are countries in northern Arabia
 - b) Tarshish and *"all her their young lions"* has been identified as either Spain or Great Britain.
 - c) The "West" response is merely to protest the invasion. No mention of any military intervention or help. It shows how weak the West will be at this time. If the covenant with the Antichrist is to provide protection for Israel, then why no military intervention?

- 3) **Objection: Attack occurs when Israel is "safely" dwelling in the land.**
 - Ezekiel 38:8-- *"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."*

- 4) **My View: This invasion will take place right after the rapture of the church and before the Antichrist comes to power.**
 - a. With the rapture, the United States will cease to be the dominant Western world power.
 - b. It will also cease to be the protector of Israel.
 - c. Russian and her coalition will seize upon the weakness of the West after the rapture to move against the nation of Israel to destroy it.