

The Invasion of Israel by Gog of Magog Eze 38:1-39:16

“Who” is involved in this invasion?

38:1-6 ¹ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ² Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, ³ And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal: ⁴ And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: ⁵ Persia, Cush, and Put with them; all of them with shield and helmet: ⁶ Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.

Gog (a title like “leader”) of the land of Magog – the prince of “Rosh”, “Meshech” & “Tubal.” These ancient tribes occupied areas of – Russia. They come from the “uttermost parts of the north” (38:6, 38:15, 39:2)

Russia is in a confederacy with “Persia” (Iran), “Cush” (Ethiopia or possibly Syria), “Put” (Somalia next to Ethiopia), “Gomer” (Germany), “Togarmah” (Armenia).

“Where” is this invasion?

38:7-9 ⁷ Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. ⁸ After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely (securely) all of them. ⁹ Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

- vs.8 “the mountains of Israel” – after they have been wasted and brought back from out of the nations and dwelling “securely.” Israel is still a nation in unbelief because after this battle many in Israel will believe.

- vs. 9 “a storm cloud covering the entire land”

“Why” does this invasion take place from the Invaders point of view?

38:10-13 ¹⁰ Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: ¹¹ And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely (securely), all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, ¹² To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land. ¹³ Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

To “take a spoil” i.e. “cattle and goods” (38:12) and silver and gold (38:13) & the attack is premeditated (38:10)

In vs 13 it mentions a group of nations mildly protesting the invasion including: “Sheba and Dedan” (countries in Northern Arabia) – showing at least some Arab protest to Russia being in the Middle East. The other nation mentioned is “Tarshish” followed by the phrase: “with all the young lions thereof.” This is an idiom meaning nations that have come out of Tarshish. There are 3 locations of a place called Tarshish. (1) the east coast of Africa but they never spawned other nations. (2) one in Spain, founded by the city of Tyre. If this is Ezekiel’s location it would include the nations Spain spawned like Central and South America. (3) England – if this is the location it would include the spawned nations of the United States, Canada, Australia, *et al*.

This protest is nothing more than that – no help is offered.

“Why” does this invasion take place from God’s point of view?

38:14-16 ¹⁴ Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? ¹⁵ And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: ¹⁶ And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

(38:16) – “that the heathen may know ME, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.”

The Destruction of the Invaders– 38:17-23

38:17-23 ¹⁷ Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them? ¹⁸ And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face. ¹⁹ For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; ²⁰ So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. ²¹ And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man’s sword shall be against his brother. ²² And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. ²³ Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; **and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.**

- “What” happens to the invading army is that God’s fury will come in His face (38:18) and God will move in judgment to dispose of the invaders by “earthquakes” (38:19-20), civil war breaking out among the invaders themselves (38:21), pestilence, blood, flood, hailstones, fire and brimstone (38:22).

For God’s Intended Purpose

– God will magnify and sanctify himself in the eyes of many nations and they will know that He is the Lord. (38:23, cf. 39:6-7).

Locations of Destruction 39:1-7:

39:1-7 ¹ Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal: ² And I will turn you around, and will shove you forward and will cause you to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: ³ And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. ⁴ **Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel,** thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. ⁵ Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD. ⁶ **And I will send a fire on Magog,** and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: **and they shall know that I am the LORD.** ⁷ So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: **and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.**

- The armies destroyed upon the mountains of Israel (39:2-3) and the land and people of Magog (Russia) in 39:6
- Their bodies given to ravenous birds & beasts (39:4)
- Israel also will know that the Lord has done this and the Lord’s name will be sanctified among Israel as well as the Gentile nations – (39:7)

In 39:2 The KJV says the God will leave but the sixth part of thee which the Hebrew doesn’t support. Why would God do that? The entire army will be “shoved forward” by God to be destroyed.

The Aftermath – 39:8-16

⁸ Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken. ⁹ And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years: ¹⁰ So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD. ¹¹ And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog. ¹² And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land. ¹³ Yea, all the people of the land shall bury them; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord GOD. ¹⁴ And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search. ¹⁵ And the passengers that pass through the land, when any seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamongog. ¹⁶ And also the name of the city shall be Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land.

- It takes 7 yrs for Israel to clean up & remove the weapons (39:9-10)

- It takes 7 months to bury the dead remains (39:11-16) in a newly named valley called Hamongog (39:15) and a city called Hamonah (“multitude”) (39:16)

“When” does this invasion take place in the course of history?

The 7 yrs and 7 months prohibit this invasion from being during the tribulation they won't have time to bury their own - let alone their enemies. At the end of the Tribulation there will be blood so deep it will be up to the horses' bridle for a space of 1,600 furlongs (200 miles) according to Rev 14:20. It seems highly unlikely that after the tribulation they would be burning weapons for 7 years into the millennium. The tribulation ends with all the nations of the earth involved (Zec 14:2) not just the few mentioned here. Some have suggested that this battle will be at the end of the millennium because of Rev 20:8. The millennium does end with the destruction of the Gog and Magog of that period, but it's immediately followed by the Great White Throne in which everything is melted and the dead raised, so there wouldn't be any place to bury anything for 7 years and no need to collect weapons and create a new city Hamonah for travelers to observe.

It most likely will be a pre-tribulational event. We could possibly even see this happen in our lifetime.

NB. This does not mean that this pre-tribulational view of “when” this Gog of Magog invasion takes place in any way prohibits the rapture from taking place before this battle. There could actually be an interval of time between the rapture and the tribulation. The rapture does not necessarily start the tribulation. The tribulation officially begins with the signing of a 7 yr. treaty between Israel and the Antichrist (Dan 9:27).