

THE RUSSIAN and MUSLIM INVASION of ISRAEL

Bible Reading: Ezekiel 36, 37, 38, 39.

Aim: To see how current events are leading to the invasion by Russia and Muslim nations of Israel.

Introduction.

The Prophecies in Ezekiel 36-39 have much to say about the world today.

The following benefits come from such a study:

1. It shows the future destruction of Russian military might.
2. It shows that God is against the Muslim religion and Muslim nations by God destroying their armies when they invade Israel.
3. It shows that God has a great future for Israel by protecting her in this invasion.
4. It proves the Bible to be true as it correctly predicts many aspects of modern world politics.
5. It contains a very likely reference to Britain and the United States in Bible prophecy.
6. The destruction of Russia and Muslim nations opens the way for Europe under the Antichrist to become the major world power in the Tribulation period.

Background:

One of the greatest proofs of the Bible is the survival of the Jew since Abraham's time 4000 years ago. In spite of attempts to destroy them by Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome and Hitler they continue to survive. After 1900 years of wandering among the nations, they are back in their own land as a nation since 1948. Israel today is the focal point for world interest and peace. It is the centre of political, industrial and Muslim conflict as the world's industries are so dependent on Middle Eastern oil supplies

I. EZEKIEL 35: PROPHECY AGAINST MOUNT SEIR.

Question: Why did God devote a second prophecy to Edom (cf. 25:12-14), and why was it placed in the section on Israel's restoration?

Answer: Most likely Edom was listed here to represent God's judgment on all nations who oppose Israel. Edom was a type of all Israel's future enemies. The Edomites, who lived south of the Dead Sea "had a perpetual hatred, and shed the blood of the children of Israel" (v.5) when the Israelites fled the Babylonians at Jerusalem's fall in 586 BC. Edom will be the scene of frightful bloodshed at the battle of Armageddon, when Israel's enemies will be purged out at Christ's second coming. "Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah?..." Isaiah 63:1-6. Edom's sin was her hatred of Israel, just like the Muslim nations hate Israel today. When God restores Israel at the start of the Millennium, He will judge all nations of the world based on their treatment of Israel. (Matthew 25:31-46). Ezekiel 35 divides into 3 sections, each ending with the promise "thou shalt know that I am the Lord," v.5,9,15, each section being 35:1-4; 5-9; and 10-15.

II. EZEKIEL 36: RESTORING ISRAEL TO HER LAND.

In Ezekiel 36:1, Ezekiel prophesies to the "mountains of Israel". These mountains are highest at Hebron and Jerusalem. These are the two locations that the PLO is seeking to take off Israel in 1996 as part of the 'peace' process. God's reply to the PLO and to other nations trying to get Israel to give up Jerusalem and Hebron is as follows:

"Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the **ancient high places** (Jerusalem, Hebron) are ours in possession....v.2

Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the **residue of the heathen** (nations e.g. PLO, USA), and against all Idumea, which have appointed **my land to their possession...**v.5

Surely the heathen that are about you (Israel), they shall bear their **shame**". v.7

i) Punishing Israel's enemies. (1-7). Edom again represents all nations that would harm Israel. God promised with an uplifted hand of a solemn oath (v.7), to punish Israel's enemies for their sin in hounding, slandering (v.3), plundering (v.4,5), rejoicing over and hating Israel, and appropriating His land for themselves (v.5).

ii) Restoring Israel's land. (v.8-12). God states that:

"I am for you, I will turn unto you, ye shall be tilled and sown, I will multiply men upon you...the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded. (v.9,10).

I will settle you after your old estates, and will do better unto you than at your beginnings" v.11

I will cause men (Israel) to walk upon you,...they shall possess thee." v.12

iii) God will remove Israel's reproach. (v.13-15). The mockery and humiliation that Israel has been forced to endure (v.3-6) will cease, as she is restored to prestige as God's chosen people.

iv) God's chastening of Israel. (v.16-23). When Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their sins (v.16,17). God judged them for their murders and idolatry (v.18), and scattered them amongst heathen countries. v.19.

There they profaned God's holy name (v.20), but God had pity on them (v.21). God will sanctify His name, so the nations may know that "I am the LORD." (v.23).

v) 9 Steps in Israel's regathering. (v.24-38):

1. I will **gather** you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. (v.24).

2. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean. God will **forgive** and **cleanse** Israel of all her filthiness and idolatry (v.25).
3. I will give you a **new heart** and a **new spirit**, taking away your stoney heart (v.26). This was the new birth that Jesus mentioned in John 3:3,5,10 that Nicodemus should have known about as one of Israel's master teachers. (Jeremiah 31:33,34 Ezekiel 11:19; 18:31).
4. I will put my **Holy Spirit** within you. (v.27). This will enable Israel to walk in God's ways.
5. Ye shall **dwell** in the land in peace, prosperity and agricultural fruitfulness. (v.28-30).
6. Ye shall **remember** your own evil ways,...and shall loathe yourselves for your sins and abominations. (v.31).
7. "**Not for your sakes** do I this" means that God will restore them for Christ's sacrifice sake, not for their works (v.32).
8. Israel's conversion will bring a **great city renewal**, and reclamation of **desert** regions (v.33,34) to be like the Garden of Eden (v.35).
9. When Israel **prays** to God, He will **increase them** like a flock of sheep. "I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel." (v.37,38).

III. EZEKIEL 37: ISRAEL'S NATIONAL RESURRECTION.

The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones

This vision shows the national and spiritual restoration of Israel back to the land, as promised in chapter 36. Israel was "dead" as a nation, deprived of her land, her king and her temple. She had been divided and scattered among the nations over the last 1900 years, so that restoration and unification seemed impossible. Hence God gave two signs (37:1-14 and v.15-28) to illustrate the future restoration of Israel to the land in the last days. They are:

A. The Valley of Dry Bones. v.1-14.

The hand of the Lord carried Ezekiel in the Spirit and set him down in the midst of a valley full of very many, very dry bones. God asks Ezekiel in v.3 "Can these bones Live?" He replied "O Lord God, Thou knowest", realizing that humanly speaking it was impossible, yet it was possible for God. God told Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones. As he did, he observed 3 stages in new life:

i) Skeleton stage: "Bones came together, bone to his bone". v.7.

This corresponds to events in 1897 AD where Theodore Hertzl called the first Zionist Congress to reclaim Palestine as a national home for the Jews.

Also, in 1917 AD, General Allenby captured Jerusalem off the Turks. The Balfour Declaration was passed by the British Government promising Palestine as a national home for the Jews. This was in appreciation of Chaim Weizman's invention of an improved method of making explosives, thus giving Britain a greater fire power advantage in World War I.

ii) Sinews, flesh and skin came on the skeletons: This corresponds to the establishment of Israel as a nation in Palestine in 1948, by a United Nations mandate. When Britain moved out in 1948, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia attacked Israel. Israel won this war, increasing her territory from 5000 square miles to 8,000 square miles.

On June 5, 1967, President Nasser of Egypt, with 185,000 troops from Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia declared war on Israel. Immediately, the Israeli air force destroyed 400 Russian built, Arab war planes on the ground in one day. Israel captured Jerusalem and the Golan Heights in what became known as the Six Day War.

On October 6, 1973, the Yom Kippur War began when the Arabs attacked Israel on the Jewish Day of Atonement holiday, with much modern Russian weaponry. Israel suffered greatly but finally won, capturing vast quantities of Russian arms. In 1990, Russia permitted 750,000 Jews to emigrate to Israel.

iii) Breath stage: "Breath came into them, and they lived, and they stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army". v.10.

The word "slain" in "Breathe upon these slain" (v.9), means that over history the Jews were "killed, murdered and butchered", as they were persecuted. This breath stage corresponds to **national restored Israel receiving the Holy Spirit** as promised in Israel's New Covenant (36:24-28). This occurs after Armageddon when Christ returns to rescue them from destruction by the Antichrist. This prophecy will be ultimately fulfilled when Christ regathers believing Israelites to Israel in the Millennium. See Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Question: What do these dry bones represent?

Answer: "These bones are the whole house of Israel. v.11.

Explanation: "Behold they say, **Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off** for our parts". v.11.

• "We are cut off" means "it's all over for us". Their outlook was grimly hopeless as represented by the long unburied, sun bleached dry bones in a valley.

• The valley symbolizes Israel's depressed, persecuted, humiliated, low condition while scattered among the nations.

God's purposes of restoring Israel:

1. To show Israel that their future is more glorious than ever, and that it is not all over for Israel.

2. To show that Israel is still "My people". Twice God addresses Israel as "O my people" v.12,13.

3. To settle Israel in her ancient homeland as a regenerated nation, which embraces 4 events:

a) Bringing the Israelite people **out from the nations**.

"I will open your graves and cause you to come out from your graves". v.12.

Graves represent Israel's place of non-existence among the nations.

They are dead nationally and spiritually, like the prodigal son.

b) Israel will be **brought into the land**. "I will **bring** you into the land of Israel". v.12.

This happens gradually over a period of time, as follows:

YEAR 1870 1900 1914 1948 1955 1960 1965 1970 1978 1991 1996

ISRAEL'S 10, 40, 80, 758, 1,600, 1,900, 2,300, 2,500, 3,200, 4,600, 5,000,

POP. 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000

c) Israel's **spiritual rebirth** at Christ return. (Zechariah 12:10-13:9).

"I shall put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live" v.14. The word "live" in v.3,5,6,9,10 means to "live spiritually". (Ezekiel 36:24-28; Joel 2:28,29; Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 3:3,4).

d) Israel will be **settled securely** and permanently in the land. "I shall place you in your own land". v.14. "Place" ('nuah' in Hebrew) means "cause you to rest, settle down, remain in security and quietness".

B. The Sign of Two Sticks v.15-28.

i) The Sign Given. 37:15-17. Ezekiel was told to take 2 sticks and write **Judah** on one stick, and **Ephraim** on the other, then to join them together into one stick.

After Solomon died in 931 BC, the nation of Israel split into the Northern kingdom of 10 tribes known as Israel or Ephraim (Hosea 5:3,5) and into the Southern kingdom of 2 tribes known as Judah, being its larger tribe. Assyria took Israel into captivity in 722 BC, and Babylon took Judah captive in 606, 597 and 586 BC.

Note: Mormons wrongly claim that the 2 sticks represent the Bible (the stick of Judah) and the Book of Mormon (the stick of Joseph or Ephraim).

This wrong idea ignores the clear interpretation in v.18-28. It tries to impose a foreign meaning on the context of the sticks. Where is Mormonism mentioned here? Nowhere!

ii) The Sign Explained. 37:18-28. The uniting of the 2 sticks pictured God restoring His people Israel to the land and reuniting them as a single nation in the land. When united, Israel will be led by King David himself (34:23,24) ruling under Jesus Christ as King of Kings.

8 Results of Israel's Restoration to the land:

1. The nation will be **united** as 12 tribes. v.21,22; Ezekiel 34:23,24.

2. **David** will be resurrected to be their King under Christ.

3. Israel will be **cleansed** of idolatry and all other sins. v.23.

4. Redeemed Israel will **possess the land** given by God to Jacob. Genesis 28:12-17.

5. God will make a new, everlasting **covenant of peace** with them. v.26a.

6. God will **multiply & prosper** them, placing them **securely & permanently in the land**.v25

7. God will set His **sanctuary** in the midst of them forever. God's sanctuary will be the literal millennial temple. (Ezekiel 40:1-31; 44:31).

8. God's **tabernacle** will be with them. v.27. God's dwelling place, like the pillar of cloud and fire in the wilderness, will be a token of God's presence on every house in Jerusalem to defend them. (Isaiah 4:5,6).

IV. EZEKIEL 38: RUSSIA, IRAN, ETHIOPIA, LIBYA, GOMER AND TOGARMAH (TURKEY) INVADE ISRAEL.

Introduction: Ezekiel 38 and 39 describe Russia's last bid for world conquest, and are in the context of prophecies of Israel's restoration to the land (Ezekiel 36,37). Although Israel is militarily superior to her Arab neighbours, the possibility of a Russian attack has been her constant fear.

This battle is part of a series of battles that take place in the 7 year tribulation, just before Christ's visible return. Notice several phases of events here:

i) A political leader known as Antichrist will head up a 10 nation European confederacy, that will confirm a 7 year peace covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27). This explains the strange statement in Ezekiel 38:11 of Israel "dwelling safely", something that has never happened in 2000 years of Israel's history. This would locate the time of Russia's invasion as being around day 1000 of the 7 year tribulation period.

ii) By Russia and her Muslim allies suffering a disastrous defeat, this changes the world political situation and balance of power so greatly, that the Antichrist can easily become a world dictator by the middle of the 7 year tribulation.

iii) The Great Tribulation (the last 3½ years) will see another world war (Daniel 11:40-45; Rev. 16:12-16). This will occur just before Christ's second coming. It can be pictured as follows:

Ezekiel 38, 39 reveals a future invasion of Israel by the armies of Russia, Iran, Ethiopia, Sudan, Libya Turkey and Gomer. These invaders will be decisively destroyed. A search of history finds no such battle or outcome. Prophecies not yet fulfilled, will be fulfilled just as literally as previously fulfilled prophecies.

1. The TIME of this invasion.

When will this invasion occur? Several time indicators point to this battle occurring before the middle of the 7 year tribulation. These are:

i) When Russia, Iran, Ethiopia, Sudan, Libya and Turkey **are all united against Israel**.

38:1-6. Today Fundamentalist Muslim governments are in control of all these countries except Russia. Because Russia has lost her east European allies to Europe, she is now looking to Iran to forge economic alliances.

ii) "In the **latter years** thou shalt come into the land...that is gathered out of **many people**". v.3. Today for the first time in 1900 years, Israel has become a nation in the land having been gathered out of many people. (This was not the case when Israel returned from Babylon in 536 BC as **Babylon was only one nation** to return from).

This regathering from many nations only happens in the latter years, just before Jesus Christ's return. Hence, from 1948 onwards is the latter years.

iii) "It shall be in the **latter days**". v.16.

iv) "They shall dwell **safely** all of them". v.8,11. Since 1948, Israel have never dwelt safely in the land. The only time that they dwell safely is in the first half of the 7 year tribulation period, when Israel enjoys the peace covenant confirmed by the Antichrist European ruler. (Daniel 9:27).

v) Israel at this time is called "a land of **unwalled villages**" v.11. This is the situation today worldwide, because walls are no defense against enemy missiles or heavy firepower. Before 1500 AD city walls were necessary, but today they are useless. Hence Ezekiel 38,39 describe events after 1500 AD.

vi) **Sheba** and **Dedan** (Saudi Arabia), the **Merchants of Tarshish** (USA), and the **young Lions** (British Commonwealth countries) **protest** to the invasion in v.13.

Today the US Sixth Fleet is permanently stationed in the Persian Gulf to protect it's oil supply line from Saudi Arabia. The US and Saudia Arabian alliance repelled Iraq in the Gulf War of 1991. This western alliance is in place today.

Since there will be no warfare in the millennium (Isaiah 2:1-4; Micah 4:3,4), this invasion cannot take place after Christ returns to earth. It cannot occur after the middle of the tribulation, because the Antichrist then begins his persecution of Israel.

1948 RAPTURE 3.5 YEARS CHRIST'S RETURN

ISRAEL NOT ISRAEL AT ANTICHRIST

AT PEACE PEACE PERSECUTES ISRAEL

7 YEAR TRIBULATION PERIOD MILLENNIUM

RUSSIAN INVASION

OCCURS IN THE

FIRST HALF OF THE

TRIBULATION

The invasion cannot occur after the middle of the Tribulation because the Antichrist then begins his persecution of Israel. Israel will not dwell safely then.

Hence Israel only feels safe and secure in the first half of the Tribulation under the Antichrist's peace covenant.

2. REASON FOR the INVASION.

One reason for the Russian/Muslim invasion of the Middle East is to take a spoil (mentioned 3 times in 38:12,13) or a "great spoil". The wealth in the Middle East is its huge oil reserves, being 66% of the worlds supply. In 1990, known oil reserves were 1 trillion barrels, and daily consumption was 50 million barrels. A general calculation is given below:

Daily consumption in 1996 is 65 million barrels

" " in 2010, will be 86 million barrels

" " in 2020, will be 100 " "

Number of years of oil left = Total reserves. .
daily consumption.

= 1,000,000 million barrels.

50 million barrels/day.

= 20,000 days reserves left.

= 20,000 years reserves left.

365

= 54.79 years reserves left.

Hence, the number of years of world oil reserves left = 1990 + 54.79 years = 2044. This is

assuming that no more oil is discovered and oil consumption remains at the 1990 level. One may balance out the other.

Intelligence Digest 5 July 1996 reports:

*“The US military has a presence from one end of the Gulf to the other. It has links with all six Gulf Arab states. It is established in **Kuwait**, the country for which it fought in the 1991 Gulf War; the US Fifth Fleet’s administrative head-quarters is in **Bahrain**; US Armour is stored in two military depots in **Qatar** for use by an army brigade at short notice; the US has agreements for the use of bases in **Oman**; US and Western warships patrol the Persian Gulf, with thousands of personnel stopping for services in Gulf ports, including those in the United Arab Emirates; and the US has at least 5,000 military personnel stationed in **Saudi Arabia**.”*

Oil is a finite resource and when it is used up there will be no more. The United States now imports much of its oil. During World War II, it was America’s supply of oil and Japan’s lack of it that determined the outcome of the war.

When the US realized in 1943 that it would eventually run out of oil, negotiations focused on securing supplies from Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf states (Sheba and Dedan). If ever the Arab Gulf States needed the US, it was in 1990 when the Iraqi army moved into Kuwait and threatened Saudi Arabia. Because of the US success in Operation Desert Storm, the US consolidated its position as protector and partner of the Arab Gulf States (Sheba & Dedan) who control most of the world’s oil resources. Today we see Russia, Iran, Libya, Ethiopia, Sudan and Turkey associating together. At the same time we also see the Merchants of Tarshish (England and the USA) allying with Saudi Arabia (Sheba and Dedan) as prophesied in Ezekiel 38. Oil has played a major part in the providence of God, in bringing the oil rich Arab states together with the USA in preparation for their final role in the last days before Christ’s return.

3. IDENTITY of the INVADERS.

“Son of man, set thy face against God, the land of **Magog**, the chief (Rosh) prince of **Meshech** and **Tubal**, and prophesy against him, (v.2), And say, thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief (Rosh) prince of Meshech and Tubal:… (v.3). **Persia** (Iran), **Ethiopia**, and **Libya** with them: all of them with shield and helmet: **Gomer**, and all his bands; the house of **Togarmah** of the north quarters, and all his bands and **many people** with thee.

Thou shalt come from thy place out of the **north** parts.” v.6,15.

Note: An alternative rendering of v.1,2 is “prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal”.

Should the Hebrew word for “chief”, (Rosh) be taken as an adjective (chief prince) or as a proper noun (prince of Rosh)? Both are possible and acceptable.

The invaders named are:

1. Gog (the leader) from **Magog**, who is the prince of **Rosh, Meshech** and **Tubal**. v.2,3.
2. Persia (Iran). v.5.
3. Ethiopia (Ethiopia and Sudan). v.5.
4. Libya. v.5.
5. Gomer. v.6.
6. Togarmah (Turkey). v.5.

Let us trace each of these nations identity:

1. The leader will be Gog, from **Magog**, the prince of **Rosh, Meshech** and **Tubal**.

What country is represented by Magog, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal? Russia!

a) **Jerome**, a prominent church leader (345-420 AD) stated that Magog was located north of the Caucasus mountains, near the Caspean Sea. “Gog and Magog”, with the Scythians, who lived near the Black Sea from the Caucasus to the Danube. (A.R. Millard, “Scythians”, *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* 1988, 4, 365).

c) The **Caucasus mountains** of Russia mean “Gogs fort”. (L. Bauman, *Russian Events in the light of Bible Prophecy*, p. 23-25, D. Pentecost, “Things to Come”, p.327).

d) **Gesenius**, the famous 19th century lexicographer whose Hebrew lexicon has never been superseded says of:

- Magog⁴⁰³¹ - “a great and powerful people inhabiting the extreme recesses of the north, who are at some time to invade the Holy land. Ezekiel 38,39. Greeks called them Scythians”. p.447.
- Rosh⁷²²⁰ - proper noun of a northern **nation undoubtedly the Russians**,....and described by an Arabic writer Ibn Fosslan of 10th century, as dwelling on the river Volga. (p.752). Hence, Rosh can be a proper noun. Genesis 46:21 states Rosh as one of the sons of Benjamin.
- Meshech⁴⁹⁰² - proper Moschi, a barbarous people inhabiting the Moshian

mountains.

• Tubal⁸⁴²² - proper noun, the Tibareni, a nation of Asia Minor, dwelling by the Euxine Sea, west of the Mosch.

e) **Geographical** proof: Ezekiel states in 3 passages (38:6,15; 39:2) that this invading nation comes from the “uttermost part of the **north**” (as the Hebrew renders it). Moscow is directly north of Jerusalem, on the same longitude, as can be seen on a map.

f) **Linguistic** proof: J. Walvoord in “The Nations in Prophecy,” p.107, 108 states that “Rosh may be the root of modern Russia.....Meshech is similar sounding to Moscow, and Tubal is similar sounding to the Russian Province of Tobolsk.” The American Standard Version translates it as “the prince of Rosh”.

g) The 7 sons of Japheth were Gomer, **Magog**, Madai, Javan, **Tubal**, **Meshech** and **Tiras**. These settled into areas which became known as:

- Gomer in Cappadocia, possibly Germany.
- Magog, Tubal and Meshech in Russia.
- Javan in Greece.
- Madai in Media.
- Tiras near Greece. (Genesis 10:1,2).

The Table of the Descendants in Genesis chapter 10 shows where Noah’s descendants settled.

2. **Persia (Iran)**. This is a fundamentalist Islamic state that sponsors terrorism.

3. **Ethiopia**. This includes modern **Sudan**, an Islamic Fundamental state that severely persecutes Christians in the South.

4. **Libya**. A fundamentalist Islamic state under Colonel Qaddafi that sponsors terrorism against Israel and the West.

5. **Gomer**¹⁵⁸⁶ - his descendants may have spread to modern Germany.

6. **Togarmah**⁸⁴²⁵ - occupies the area of modern **Turkey**, which has recently become a fundamentalist Muslim state.

Four of the six invaders are fundamentalist Muslim states, that hate Israel.

A fundamentalist Muslim is one who believes strongly in the Koran and the Islam religion. The move back to these basic beliefs was triggered by the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in 1922.

When Israel defeated the **Egyptian** army in 1948 and 1949, in the Sinai war in 1956, in the Six day war in 1967, and in the Yom Kippur War in 1973, each of these defeats was seen as the Muslim god, Allah, judging Islamic countries because of their lukewarmness, by allowing Israel to be victorious over them. From 1973, fundamentalist Muslims became much more militant. In 1979, President Sadat of Egypt commenced peace talks with Israel. In 1982 Sadat arrested about 2000 militant Islamic fundamentalists, he purged the army of 200 militant Islamic officers, and he forced the registration of 40,000 mosques in Egypt. He was soon assassinated by four Islamic soldiers.

At the same time in Iran, the Shah was forced to flee the country and the Ayatollah Khomeini became the leader and spokesman for the Islamic government. In 1979 he taught that the world was in the last stage of world history, and because Allah had predestined Muslims to take the world for Allah, they had to be 100% committed to Allah. He taught that Israel was a satanic vehicle permitted by God to oppose Islam because of the lukewarmness of the Muslim masses. He taught that unless Israel was defeated and Jerusalem liberated, they could not move onto world victory.

This Islamic revolution has swept much of the world and has started up Islamic terrorist groups such as Hamas and Jihad in Israel, Hezbollah in Lebanon and other groups elsewhere such as in Sudan. All of these groups believe that they must take the world by force and terror, starting with Israel.

There is a revolution in the Islamic world. Islam believes it must remove corrupt and ineffective Islamic governments and install fundamentalist ones. This has led to much unrest in the Middle East and Africa, especially in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon. In Iran, Libya, Ethiopia and Sudan strong Islamic governments have come to power.

The INVASION predicted in Ezekiel 38 and 39 will be a combined Muslim fundamentalist confederacy led by Russia. Today we see Iran (Persia) leading a Muslim revival determined to destroy Israel. Iran has military, nuclear, space and economic agreements with Russia. Sudan has come under a Muslim government and is closely aligned with Iran. Iran has sent 30,000 Muslim “missionaries” to Sudan to take all of Africa for Islam. Libya is armed by and economically tied to Russia. In 1995 Libya and Russia signed a \$1.5 billion agreement to build infrastructure projects, and Russia has defended Libya against US accusations that Libya is manufacturing chemical weapons. Turkey now has a fundamentalist Moslem government. Turkey has signed a \$23 billion contract with Iran for a natural gas supply. Russia’s political and economic alignment with southern Muslim nations is the prelude to a military mobilization against Israel.

We know from Ezekiel 38,39 and Revelation, that Islam will not control the world, but will be destroyed by God when Islamic nations and Russia attack Israel. God will use these Islamic nations to bring Israel to repentance, and bring glory to the God of the Bible. Islam’s

defeat will prove to Muslims that their religion is not of God, and that the true God is the God of Israel.

The present unsolved Middle East peace accord between Israel and the Arabs will culminate in the Antichrist's 7 year peace covenant with Israel. Israel's Prime Minister Mr. Netanyahu has rejected the creation of an independent Palestinian state. He will not hand back the Golan Heights to Syria. He has taken discussions on Jerusalem off the agenda. He will expand, not remove, Jewish settlements on the West bank. All these things will make peace with the Arabs difficult to achieve, and will open the door for the Antichrist as the European ruler to enter the scene as a man of peace who will provide a solution to the Arab/Israeli peace problem. Israel will then dwell safely for 3½ years under his "protection". However, before he comes to power and makes his 7 year peace covenant with Israel, Jesus Christ will have returned to the air to catch away all dead and living believers to heaven as foretold in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and in 1 Cor. 15:51-53. Let us be about our Heavenly Father's business because the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ draws near.

4. The EVENTS of the INVASION.

In **Ezekiel 38:3** God says "I am against thee O Gog".

Question 1: Why would God be against Russia?

Answer: 1) Russia has for many years persecuted the Jews and supplied military equipment to the Arabs to wage war against Israel.

2) The old Soviet Union has taught Atheism, has blasphemed God, has persecuted millions of Christians, and has threatened many nations with nuclear destruction.

In **Ezekiel 38:4** Gog or Russia is compared to a wild beast running out of control, whom the Lord will turn around, put hooks into his jaws (2 Kings 19:28), and bring him and his vast army to their destruction on the mountains of Israel.

Question 2: Why does this army ride horses when no armies today ride horses, but instead have tanks?

Answer: Several answers may be possible:

- a) Russia's economy may be so broken down that their oil production is inadequate to completely fuel a large army.
- b) The world oil supplies may have run so low that Russia may have run out of oil and may see the remaining Middle East Oil as the door to world control.
- c) The worldwide catastrophes in the first 3½ years Tribulation, such as the earthquake of Rev. 6:12, or the 6th Trumpet judgment war of Rev. 9:13-21 where 1/3 of mankind are killed, may have so destroyed oil production that horses are the only means of warfare remaining in Russia.
- d) Horses may include and picture all kinds of modern military transport.

Ezekiel 38:5, 6. In addition to Iran, Ethiopia, Sudan, Libya, Gomer and Turkey, many other people or nations will participate in the invasion as well.

Ezekiel 38:7. "be thou a **guard**⁴⁹²⁹ unto them". "Guard" here means a commander or ruler, one to whom reverence is due, one who is observed as a leader by the other armies.

Ezekiel 38:8. This verse describes the time of the invasion as:

- i) Many days after 587 BC. This was not fulfilled before 1996 AD.
- ii) In the **latter years** thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword. Jews have been greatly persecuted and killed over the last 1900 years, but have now returned to Israel.
- iii) Israelites have been **gathered** out of many people to return to the land this century.
- iv) Israel will **dwell safely** all of them. Not in 2000 years has this ever happened. It will only happen by their 7 year peace covenant with Antichrist. Today Israel is an armed camp living in fear of its neighbours.
- iv) The land has been a **ruined waste** since 70 AD when Jerusalem fell to the Romans (Ezekiel 38:9). The invasion will be like a **storm**⁷⁷²² (to rush over, tempest, devastation, destruction) and a **cloud**⁶⁰⁵¹ (a thunder cloud covering the land) as the armies advance over land to Israel.

Ezekiel 38:10,11,12. Russia and her allies will think an evil thought, plan or plot against Israel. Russia will notice Israel's geographical, economic and political importance. Israel's new cities not having walls, bars or gates present an amazing prophetic detail of today as the end time, when ancient walls and gates will have been made obsolete by modern weapons of war. Israel dwelling safely and at rest is due to the Antichrist's peace covenant guaranteeing Israel's security. The invaders will covet regathered Israel's silver, gold, cattle and goods, as well as Israel's strategic position.

Ezekiel 38:13. **Sheba** and **Dedan** (Saudi Arabia), and the merchants of **Tarshish** (England, America), with all the **young lions** thereof (Canada, Australia, New Zealand, British Commonwealth countries) shall protest against this invasion, but will not intervene militarily.

Question 3: Who are these protesters?

Answer:

- a) **Sheba** and **Dedan** (Isaiah 21:13; Jeremiah 25:23,24) are in Saudi Arabia today.
- b) Merchants of **Tarshish**⁸⁵⁴⁹. Jonah took a ship from Joppa to flee to Tarshish from the

presence of the Lord (1:3). The furthest place known was Spain. This land was rich in silver (Jeremiah 10:9), iron, tin and lead (Ezekiel 27:12). These metals are found in Tartessus in Spain, which attracted the Phoenicians who founded colonies in Sardinia in Spain, where we find Phoenician monumental inscriptions in the 9th Century BC bearing the name Tarshish.

Columbus requested financial assistance of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain to fund his expedition to the Americas in 1492. The result was that South America was colonized by Spain and Portugal, while North America was colonized by England and France.

- God's judgments in the Tribulation will be against the ships of Tarshish. Isaiah 2:16.

- "The Day of the Lord is.....upon all the ships of Tarshish. Revelation 8:9 states that the second trumpet judgment in the Tribulation will result in one third of the ships being destroyed:

"a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea...and the third part of the ships were destroyed". Revelation 8:8,9.

- Early in the millennium, airplanes and the ships of Tarshish will bring Jews back to Israel:

"Who are these that **fly** as a **cloud**...?"

- "Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the **ships of Tarshish** first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the Lord thy God."

Isaiah 60:8,9.

- America has about 7 million Jews, and she assists America's wealthy, converted Jews to return to the land of Israel to take up their role as the Messiah's servants. Hence Tarshish seems to represent a maritime power such as Spain, the United States and England.

c) The **young Lions**: England's national symbol is the lion. Hence the young lions may represent the nations that England colonized such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other British Commonwealth countries. You would expect these nations to protest against Russia's invasion of Israel, but to not intervene militarily due to the fear of nuclear war.

Ezekiel 38:14. Russia will know that Israel dwells **safely** under the military protection of Europe under the Antichrist. Hence, Russia's invasion of the Middle East may have a secondary purpose of **challenging Europe's power** and alliance with Israel.

Ezekiel 38:15. Russia comes out of the **north** parts, literally the "farthest extremities and recesses of the north parts" (3411). Moscow and Leningrad are some of the northern most major cities on earth.

"All of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army".

Russian military today is indeed a mighty army.

Ezekiel 38:16. The invasion of Israel will come from all sides. From the north will come **Russia; Turkey and Iran** from the east, **Sudan and Ethiopia** from the south, and **Libya** from the west. They will advance as a cloud to cover the land. This enormous army will overrun all obstacles just as a cloud sailing across the sky.

"It shall be in the **latter days**." This comforts us living today as we see these events lining up that we are now living in the latter days just before Christ's second coming.

A result of this invasion will be that the nations will be so shocked by the outcome of this invasion that they will know that God has intervened in protecting Israel. By God destroying the invaders, God will show His holiness and power to all the nations of the world. Israel will be delivered and God will be glorified.

Ezekiel 38:17. When Gog from Russia invades Israel, God asks him the question in v.17. The words "he" and "old time" indicates that this question is asked in the future when the invasion takes place. This will be a question that many people in the world at the time will ask.

"Are you the one prophesied in Ezekiel 38,39 that would invade Israel in the latter days? Is this the fulfillment of a Bible prophecy?" Maybe God the Holy Spirit will put this question in people's minds who will know this prophecy at that time. God asks the question if Gog is the one whom the prophets (plural) of Israel have prophesied in old time about.

Question 4: What other prophets have discussed Russia's invasion?

Answer: 1) **Daniel 11:40** mentions "At the **time of the end** shall the King of the south (Ethiopia and Sudan) push at him (the Antichrist): and the King of the north (Russia) shall come against him (Antichrist) like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow (like a cloud, Ezekiel 38:16) and pass over."

Because of the Antichrist's peace covenant with Israel, a Russian attack on Israel will be seen as an attack on the Antichrist's European empire. The events that catapult the Antichrist to world rule commence with the King of the South (Ethiopia, Sudan, but not Egypt because the land of Egypt shall not escape v.42) pushing at him (the Antichrist's ally Israel). Then the king of the north (Russia) will come against him (Antichrist as protector of Israel) like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen (Ezek. 38:4,15), and with many ships (the Russian naval fleet in the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea).

v.40,41 - Russia will enter into the glorious land (Israel). Ammon (Jordan) will escape

Russia's hand.

v.42 - the land of Egypt shall not escape.

v.43 - Russia will control Egypt's gold and silver treasures. The Libyans and Ethiopians shall be at his steps (in his company, allied with Russia, as stated in Ezekiel 38:5).

v.44a "But tidings out of the **east** (China) and **north** (Antichrist's armies mobilizing against him) shall trouble him:". At this point the Russian leader will hear the disturbing news that the armies of the Antichrist, coming from north of Egypt, and the eastern armies coming from China and Japan (Kings of the east, Revelation 16:12) are mobilizing to challenge Russia's bold move of aggression.

v.44 - "therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many (of Israel)". As a result, Russia will set out in a great rage to destroy many people of Israel.

v.45 - "He shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas (Mediterranean and Dead Seas) in the glorious holy mountain (Jerusalem)." The Russian ruler Gog is described as pitching his tents between the Seas and at Jerusalem.

"yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."

The destruction of Russian military might will destroy the balance of power in the first half of the Tribulation. The Antichrist's European empire, will suddenly be propelled to a position of world dominance with the demise of Russia, so that people will ask:

"Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" Revelation 13:4.

2) **Zechariah 12:1-4** mentions "Jerusalem as a burdensome stone for all people: all (such as Russia) that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces....".

5. THE DEFEAT OF GOG'S ARMY.

Ezekiel 38:18. When Russia attacks Israel in her demon-inspired plan to thwart God's plan for Israel, God's fury, jealousy, and fiery hot anger will be aroused.

God will bring about a series of disasters to destroy the invading armies:

i) **38:19,20.** First, there will be a **great earthquake** in the land of Israel. This earthquake will affect fish, birds, beasts and all ground creatures.

• All men that are on the face of the earth shall shake at my presence.

• Mountains shall be thrown down, steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. This may be the great earthquake described in Revelation 6:12,14 "every mountain and island were moved out of their places."

ii) **38:21.** This great earthquake interrupts Gog's invasion plans, spreading fear and confusion through the ranks of his forces, just the same effect as described in Revelation 6:15-18. In the pandemonium, communication between the four invading armies will break down. The confusion will result in the armies **fighting each other**, "every man's sword shall be against his brother."

iii) **38:22.** A third judgment brought on the army will be **plague and bloodshed**. This may be caused by them using chemical weapons against each other, or it may be what God used against Sennacherib of Assyria (Isaiah 37:36). "I will plead against him with pestilence and blood."

iv) A fourth judgment God rains upon these armies will be an overflowing **rain**, great **hailstones**, **fire & brimstone**. The **rain** will combine with dirt and debris from the earthquake to produce massive mud slides and floods which will destroy, demobilize and sweep away Gog's military equipment.

Great **hailstones** will pelt the survivors, killing many (Joshua 10:11; Revelation 16:21).

The earthquake may reactivate volcanoes to spew out burning sulfur and hot ash, (as occurred with Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19:24), thus destroying the invading army.

The result is in **Ezekiel 38:23.**

i) God will **magnify** and **sanctify** Himself.

ii) I will be **known** in the eyes of many nations.

iii) They shall know that I am the **LORD**.

6. FOURTEEN RESULTS OF GOG'S DEFEAT. Ezekiel 39:1-29.

Ezekiel 39 amplifies chapter 38 giving more details of the invasion's aftermath:

1. **39:1,2** - I will turn thee back and leave one-sixth of the. v.2.

2. **39:3** - I will disarm you.

3. **39:4,5** - You will fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your bands and people with you. v.4. You will fall upon the open field. v.5.

4. **39:4b** - I will give you to the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. v.4b.

5. **39:6** - I will send a fire on Magog (Russia), and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles.

Question 1: Who are those that **dwell carelessly in the Isles?**

Answer: The Isles refer to the farthest reaches of the known world (Ezekiel 26:15,18; 27:3,15,35). The Isles may refer to island nations such as England, North and South America and Australia. People in these countries certainly are given over to pleasure seeking, material comforts and luxuries. These people do dwell carelessly. They don't care much about God or suffering humanity, only about themselves getting more money,

holidays, entertainment and pleasure.

Question 2: What is meant by God sending a **fire on Magog and island dwellers**?

Answer: Perhaps as Tarshish (US, Great Britain) challenges the Russian/Muslim invasion, there would be a nuclear shoot-out, where Russia and the United States fire nuclear tipped warheads at each other in an effort to destroy the other first. This is called "MAD" meaning "mutually assured destruction". This would leave the USA and Russia crippled, resulting in Europe and the Antichrist being in control of the Middle East and its oil resources. Deprived of oil, the Kings of the East (China and Japan) would then have no alternative but to amass a vast army to cross the Euphrates river to occupy and control the Middle East oil fields as predicted in Revelation 16:12-16. This will bring all nations to the Battle of Armageddon in order to control the remaining world's oil supplies.

"I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle." Zechariah 14:2.

Note: Joel tells us that the remnants of the Russian army will retreat deep into Russia:

"I will remove far off from you the **northern army**, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, (possibly Siberia), with his face toward the east sea (possibly the Caspian Sea), and his hinder part toward the utmost sea (possibly the Arctic Sea), and his stink shall come up..." Joel 2:20.

6. Israel's Repentance. Ezekiel 39:7.

"I will make my **holy name** known in the midst of my people Israel.

I will not let them pollute my **holy name** any more.

The heathen shall know that I am the Lord, the **Holy one** in Israel".

Through all this God will teach Israel that He is Holy & will not be profaned by their sins any more.

7. 39:9,10 - The Israelites shall **burn the weapons** for **7 years** so that they need not cut wood from the field or forests. This shows the completeness of Gog's defeat. The plunderers will be utterly plundered. Israel will be burning Gog's weapons throughout the Tribulation period and into the Millennium.

8. 39:11-16 - The Israelites shall be burying **Gog's army** for **7 months**.

i) The smell of dead corpses will be so bad that passengers will stop their noses. v.11.

ii) Gog's multitude will be buried on the east side of the Dead Sea in the valley of Hamon-gog, (meaning hordes of Gog) in Jordan, on the highway from Syria to Egypt via Petra. v.11.

iii) All the Israelites will help in burying the dead, v.13. Burial specialists will search the land for 7 months to bury corpses and to cleanse the land. v.14.

Passengers (or travelers), on seeing a bone, will set up a marker sign next to it for the buriers to bury it.

iv) The burial operation will be so vast that a town will be set up in the valley at the gravesites to accommodate those workers cleansing the land. It will be named "Hamonah", meaning "the multitude or horde", to commemorate the victory over Gog, and will be the headquarters of the burial operation. v.16.

9. 39:17-20 - An invitation is given to every bird and beast to come to God's sacrifice on the mountains of Israel to eat the flesh and drink the blood of mighty men, of princes of the earth, of all men of war, and of horses, who have come to invade Israel. This feast occurs before the soldiers are buried.

10. 39:21 - The **nations** will **see God's glory**. v.21.

"I will set my glory among the heathen." "Glory" is used 16 times in Ezekiel (1:28; 3:12,23; 8:4; 9:3; 10:4,18,19; 11:22,23; 39:21; 43:2,4,5; 44:4), and in each instance it refers to the shekinah glory cloud, just the same cloud that led Israel through the wilderness. This same shekinah glory cloud will be set among the nations of the world in the millennium for all to see. (Isaiah 66:18).

"All the heathen (nations) shall **see** my judgment that I have executed..."

Question: How will all nations see God's destruction of the Russian and Muslim armies?

By satellite/cable television news broadcasts.

11. 39:22 - "Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward."

Israel will turn back to God. God's dramatic, shocking defeat of Gog will force Israel to acknowledge God's power. Many Jews will be saved through this.

12. 39:23,24 - The nations shall know that Israel went into captivity for their sins. It was not God's failure, but it was due to Israel's uncleanness and transgressions that God had to judge them.

13. 39:25-28 - Early in the millennium, God will regather the whole house of Israel out of their enemies lands (v.27) into the land of Israel. None will be left among the nations (v.28). It will be compulsory for all Jews to return to the land of Israel under Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 60:8,9; 66:20).

14. 39:29 - Verses 25-29 look ahead to early in the millennium when God will restore Israel to the land and when God will pour out His Holy Spirit on the house of Israel when He returns at Armageddon to rescue them from the Antichrist. (Zechariah 12:10).

Conclusion:

Let us be ready for Christ's return to catch us away. Let us be waiting and watching the

current events as signs pointing to the nearness of the catching away of believers. Let us win many souls to Christ and teach God's word all over the world before Christ returns. The Muslim religion is wrong in its stand against Israel, Jesus Christ and the Gospel. God will publicly demonstrate His wrath against the Muslim countries when He destroys their armies as they invade Israel.

This is the best proof of Islam being wrong, because Islam believes Ezekiel to be a true prophet of God. It is Ezekiel that prophecies Russia's and Islam's destruction. Muslims must leave the Muslim religion today and receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour and God.

