

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW; YOUR KINGDOM COME...ON EARTH
WEEK 7 – War of Gog and Magog (Eze. 38 & 39)
March 8, 2022

Are we watching of events that are occurring exponentially quickly? The world scene is changing rapidly!

What are the four words that summarize the Big Picture, the one story, the one narrative of the Bible? CREATION FALL REDEMPTION RESTORATION From these four “plots,” from knowing God personally through Jesus and His blood on the cross shed for us...we know God’s perspective and we can live with hope in God’s plan!

In the Bible we read about redemption from Gen. 3:15 – the first Messianic prophecy. Sin entered the world and immediately God promised the solution for sin: “the Seed of the woman” – a supernatural birth. This speaks of the virgin birth. And, the theme of redemption begins to unfold in Scripture.

God created man to have dominion on this earth. Man lost dominion when he sinned. Because God’s Plan is ALWAYS Plan A...the restoration of His plan begins to unfold as well. AND, this is the path for “END TIMES”!!

CONSIDER that we are in end times today!

Heb. 1:1-2 - God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,

God is CONTINUING to set the stage for the latter days for Israel which will impact the WORLD!

Latter days, according to the Bible in the OT, speak to the “Day of the Lord” which oftentimes speaks of God directly intervening in Israel’s history, and in the future, i.e. the tribulation and then Jesus’ physical Second Coming

What about the Church (comprised of Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus)? What is the next event on God’s calendar for the Church? The rapture! What do we know about the rapture? Three passages in the NT: John 14:1-3; II Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:51-52. I Thess. 4:13-18 – Paul had told the believers in Thessalonica to NOT sorrow about their loved ones, who were believers, who have died. *I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep (euphemism for death), lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up*

together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

2

God has promised in His Word that the coming of Jesus in the rapture is imminent - it will happen at any moment – so that the Church, I strongly believe, will not go through the tribulation when God’s wrath will be poured out on the earth!

Re: Jesus’ return in the rapture, the Church’s meeting Him in the air, NOTHING ELSE needs to take place prophetically before the rapture! And so, it is said of Jesus in Rev. 22:20 - *He who testifies to these things (Jesus) says , “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

SO WHY is God still setting the stage?

- God is NOT finished with Israel.
- God will vindicate Himself.
 - God’s desire is that the *earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God* (Hab. 2:14).
 - Is the earth currently filled with the knowledge of the glory of God?

WHAT is GOD UP TO? God is UP TO BEING GOD – He ALWAYS IS BECAUSE HE ALWAYS IS GOD! Things are NOT falling apart. Things are FALLING INTO PLACE!

How we do describe what is ongoing in the world NOW?

God has been setting the stage for world events. And Israel is front and center in that stage-setting!

Why do we see so much turmoil particularly in the Middle East?

What’s up with ISRAEL? GOD! God is protecting Israel. God has chosen Israel for His purposes. God has guaranteed Israel’s survival. Therefore, Israel remains in existence today – and will remain so (Isa. 14:1; Isa. 66:22). God chose Israel to accomplish His purposes. This does not mean that all Jewish ppl will be saved. BUT GOD has always promised a remnant (Rom. 11:5) who will come to faith in Jesus.

God chose Israel because – God chose to do so. God’s choosing of Israel is based on GOD’S SOVEREIGN CHOICE! And, God chose Israel as the instrument of blessing for the WORLD!! Gen. 12:3; Gen. 18:18; Rom. 15:8-13

God's end times plan – which culminates in RESTORATION and with the knowledge of the glory of God filling the earth – surrounds Israel.

And so God has placed Israel in the CENTER of history and in the CENTER of Bible prophecy!

Eze. 5:5 - *Thus says the Lord GOD: 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her.*

Don't interpret Scripture by current events. Interpret current events by Scripture! We need to know Scripture!

3

God has placed Jerusalem in the eye of the storm – so that God can be glorified – because HE will intervene and protect Israel.

God's name is in Jerusalem – II Chron. 6:6 - *I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there.*

Jesus will rule and reign from Jerusalem for 1,000 years (Isa. 2; Zech. 14; Rev. 20).

Is it any wonder why God would tell us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psa. 122:6)? Jerusalem is where God's plan of redemption – of salvation – is anchored!

Let's look at what's Biblical!

Eze. 34:11-31 – God spoke of bringing Israel back to their land.

Eze. 35:5-15 – Esau's descendants, Edom, were enemies of Israel. There was hatred for the children of Israel.

Eze. 36:16-28 *Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ¹⁷ "Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own ways and deeds; to Me their way was like the uncleanness of a woman in her customary impurity. ¹⁸ Therefore I poured out My fury on them for the blood they had shed on the land, and for their idols with which they had defiled it. ¹⁹ So I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed throughout the countries; I judged them according to their ways and their deeds. ²⁰ When they came to the nations, wherever they went, they profaned My holy name—when they said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD, and yet they have gone out of His land.' ²¹ But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went.*

²² "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. ²³ And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. ²⁴ For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ Then I will sprinkle clean water on you,

and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. ²⁸ Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

I've shared ALL these Biblical principles – in Scripture – that lead up to a specific war in Scripture re: which we very well may be witnessing a precursor to that war.

The timeframe of the first war of Gog and Magog that is not clear. Because the timing is speculative, I'm going to share with you my view. YOU need to study it out for yourselves and arrive at a view supported by Scripture. Be BEREANS!

4

There are two wars of Gog and Magog in Scripture. One in Eze. 38 & 39 and the second in Rev. 20:7-9. The second will take place following the Millennial Kingdom.

Re: the war of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel, I'm suggesting that the main participants of this war will be Russia, Iran, and Turkey – who have already formed an alliance.

Consider: In about 2018 a host at a nationally syndicated secular radio program described a recent trip she took to Israel. She talked about looking over the border into Syria. She said, *When you look over the border today, you're not looking at Syria anymore. You're looking at Russia, Iran, and Turkey.* The nation of Syria exists in name only. What used to be Syria has been carved up and divided by any number of groups. And the three biggest are Russia, Iran, and Turkey. SO? Why is this so significant? It's significant because it sets the stage for an event the Bible prophesied over 2,000 years ago which we find in the book of Ezekiel (Ezekiel's last message to the people – 571/570 BC).

CREATION FALL REDEMPTION RESTORATION

What's going to happen? REDEMPTION AND RESTORATION

In the last days, the Bible tells us, a horrible series of events will take place in the lands of Israel and Syria. One of these events is the DESTRUCTION of Damascus, the capital of Syria, as one of the premiere cities in the world. The oldest continuously inhabited city on the planet. Isa. 17 speaks of the destruction of Damascus. The current existence of Damascus, which will one day cease to be a city, is proof that Isaiah 17 prophesies events yet future. NOTE: there is no listing of nations. Isa. 17 speaks to some of Israel's cities being destroyed, but not by name. And Israel's glory growing dim.

In the future, the enemies of Israel will view her suffering as an opportunity to invade. The enemies' goal is to destroy Israel forever. However, God has a different plan in mind...OF COURSE HE DOES...and He will destroy these invaders Himself.

Remember – this is speaking of future events!

In Psa. 83, Israel is crying out to God.

Psa. 83:1-5, 13-18 - *Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O God! ² For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. ³ They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. ⁴ They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more. ⁵ For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You: ... ¹³ O my God, make them like the whirling dust, like the chaff before the wind! ¹⁴ As the fire burns the woods, and as the flame sets the mountains on fire, ¹⁵ **so pursue them with Your tempest, And frighten them with Your storm. ¹⁶ Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek Your name, O LORD. ¹⁷ Let them be confounded (through an ambush??) and dismayed forever; yes, let them be put to shame and perish, ¹⁸ That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.***

5

Can Psa. 83 be describing the same scene envisioned in Isaiah 17? Perhaps. Let's compare the two. Here's how the intentions of Israel's enemies in both Isa. 17 and Psa. 83 are described:

Plunder & Destruction

"This is the just reward of those who plunder and destroy the people of God" (Isaiah 17:14, NLT).

Destruction

"They devise crafty schemes against your people, laying plans against your precious ones. 'Come,' they say, 'let us wipe out Israel as a nation. We will destroy the very memory of its existence.' This was their unanimous decision" (Psalms 83:3-5, NLT).

Plunder

"For they said, 'Let us seize for our own use these pasturelands of God!'" (Psalms 83:12, NLT). Going after Israel's possessions; the spoils of war.

Fate of the Enemies - here's how the fate of Israel's enemies is described: (same in Isa. 17 and in Psa. 83) (both are blown away as chaff in the wind)

"They will flee like chaff scattered by the wind or like dust whirling before a storm" (Isaiah 17:13, NLT).

"O my God, blow them away like whirling dust, like chaff before the wind!" (Psalms 83:13, NLT).

From the description of their fate alone, perhaps we can conclude that the armies of Isaiah noted as the many people in Isa. 17:12 are the same nations that sign a treaty against the Lord in Psalms 83:5-8. I'm suggesting that according to Psalms 83, in the aftermath of the destruction of northern Israel and Damascus noted in Isa. 17, Israel will be invaded by armies mentioned in Psa. 83. In Ezekiel 38-39, a coalition of nations, "a

vast and awesome horde”–will roll down on Israel “like a storm and cover the land like a cloud” (38:9, NLT). BUT this is NOT Armageddon! There are nations that are NOT coming against Israel in this war (Eze: 38:13).

Could the events predicted in Isaiah 17 and Psalms 83 be a catalyst for the war of Gog and Magog prophesied in Ezekiel 38-39? A mortally wounded Israel will become an irresistible target for her enemies. The surrounding Muslim nations will see an opportunity to destroy her and will be wiped out. Russia will then see an opportunity to seize the upper hand in the oil-rich Middle East. Russia/Iran/Turkey go after the spoils.

The enemies of Israel surround her – those noted in Psa. 83– Hamas in Gaza, the Palestinians in the West Bank and Jordan, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Syria leadership and its Axis of evil partners in the city of Damascus. The conditions are ripe for the fulfillment of Isaiah 17 and Psalms 83 leading to the first war of Gog and Magog.

6

Eze. 38 & 39

Gog - title of the leader (like a Pharaoh or Czar)

Magog - connected with Japheth (Noah’s son); becoming the Scythians, per Josephus (a Jewish historian & Roman citizen). The Scythians settled north of the Baltic Sea in what is now **Russia** and the former Soviet republics

Rosh - “chief”

Persia - **Iran**

Cush - Sudan, Ethiopia, and possibly Eritrea in Africa (east of Sudan and north south of Ethiopia)

Put - Libya, Algeria, and Tunisia

Gomer, Meshech, and Tubal - **Turkey** (and possibly Germany and Austria)

Togarmah - Turkey, Armenia, Turkish-speaking people of Asia Minor & Central Asia.

Eze. 38

Several nations will come against Israel: Russia with Iran, Turkey, Ethiopia, and Libya, and others...coming from the FAR NORTH (Eze. 38:6). What about the enemies of Israel directly surrounding her? Is there a notable omission in Ezekiel 38? Not one of the Arab nations immediately surrounding Israel is listed as participating in this campaign against Israel. God has wiped them out.

Gog has been turned around – by God – and led out with his armies. . . .

Russia’s motive in invading Israel – to take plunder and booty – to take Israel’s wealth (Eze. 38:12ff)

Israel – living without walls and dwelling “safely”? Hebrew word for safely is *securely*. Root word – confidence! Israel is a strong nation having fought in the past against all odds. This will occur again!

Are we grasping that God is going to cause this? The Lord is bringing about this invasion? WHY? The Lord clearly tells us that the nations will know and understand that this has happened by God's hand. Many will know that God is the Lord!

Eze. 38:23 - I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.

Eze. 39:7-8 - So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. ⁸ Surely it is coming, and it shall be done, says the Lord GOD. This is the day of which I have spoken.

Where does this War of Gog and Magog fall in light of the Tribulation? Through the War of Gog and Magog, the world will witness God defending Israel! Notice that Israel will stand alone when attacked by the massive northern military coalition.

BUT GOD fights for Israel!!! Wouldn't the world, following Israel's victory, desire to make peace with Israel? What a seemingly perfect time for the antichrist to step onto the scene and solve all the problems by brokering a seven-year peace treaty with Israel (Dan. 9:27). In Rev. 6:2 when Jesus opens the first seal Jesus on the scroll, the rider on the white horse with no arrows in his bow appears. This is the antichrist! And at that time

7

the seven-year Tribulation will begin. The peace treaty initiated by the antichrist will launch the seven-year Tribulation (Dan. 9:27 tells us that the peace treaty begins a 7-year period).

I'm suggesting that the War of Gog and Magog that we find in Eze. 38 and 39 happens perhaps AFTER the rapture of the Church but BEFORE the Tribulation. I'm suggesting that it is this war of Gog and Magog that precipitates/leads to the peace treaty.

NOW, during the Church Age, God is saving individual Jewish people and Gentile people – one at a time. This is where we need to focus. Lost people are FEARFUL with all that is going on in the world. Share Jesus with them! Take heart because God is bringing this world and His plan to the point of RESTORATION! Restoration must happen because God is faithful!

In light of such developments, we should zealously preach the gospel of Christ to all who will listen, for the hour is late, and the return of Christ is at any moment!

QUESTIONS

What was new to you?

What did you not understand?

What did you understand?

What difference will it make regarding your walk with the Lord?

Do you need to let others know...esp. those who don't yet know Jesus?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 7 with Bible references.

Write down observations and questions.

Share this end times account with others.

Read Week 8 when you receive it.