

ARAB/ISRAELI WAR AND THE WAR OF GOG AND MAGOG

October 8, 2023

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?

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!

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!

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!

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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).

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. Isa. 17 speaks of the destruction of Damascus. 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 (the northern part).

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.

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.

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 are noted in Isa. 17 and in Psa. 83.**
- **Fate of the Enemies – both Isa. 17 and Psa. 83 speak of the enemies being blown away as chaff in the wind.**

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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. These surrounding nations – surrounding Israel are wiped out!

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. Russia will then see an opportunity to seize the upper hand in the oil-rich Middle East. Russia/Iran/Turkey go after the spoils.

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! Perhaps following defeating the surrounding Arab nations (Psa. 83; Isa. 17), Israel will not need walls!

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!

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.

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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 on the scroll, the rider on the white horse with no arrows in his bow appears. This is the antichrist! And at that time

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 promised and He will deliver because He is faithful!

In light of such developments, we should, as we rest in Jesus, share Jesus to all who will listen, for the hour is late, and the return of Christ is at any moment!