

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

JROC - Arab-Israeli War/War of Gog & Magog

May 13, 2018

What is the next event on God's prophetic calendar (according to prophecy) for the Church? The Rapture of Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus. What is the next event on God's prophetic calendar for Israel? The signing of the peace treaty which will be brokered by the antichrist! AND REMEMBER...the rapture does not launch/does not begin the Tribulation. The Tribulation begins when the peace treaty between the antichrist and Israel is signed (Dan. 9:27).

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

What is God up to? God is up to BEING GOD!

God is a God of purpose. Isa. 14:24 - *"Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand.* God has a plan. Isa. 14:1 - *For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land. The strangers will be joined with them, and they will cling to the house of Jacob.*

THINGS AREN'T FALLING APART...THEY'RE FALLING INTO PLACE

When man sinned and was separated from God, God cursed Satan, the earth was cursed – the conflict began. We see the battle of the ages throughout Scripture – God vs. Satan. The conflict continues AND the conflict increases as God is up to setting the stage for the finale. And we see the world is exploding.

Why do we see so much turmoil particularly in the Middle East? God is protecting Israel. God has chosen Israel for His purposes. God has guaranteed Israel's survival. 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. 18:18). And the world seeks to eliminate Israel? Spiritual warfare rages! BUT GOD's "end times" plan – which culminates in RESTORATION and 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! And so, Israel continues to exist against all odds.

Israel has been surrounded by enemy nations. CONSIDER: any attack to do away with Israel is an assault against God Who has chosen Israel to accomplish His purposes.

WE NEED TO KNOW that God's protection of the nation of Israel does NOT mean that every Jewish person will come to faith in Jesus. Just as God is calling individual Gentiles to place their trust in Jesus – God is calling individual Jewish people to place their trust in Jesus! AND God has placed Jerusalem in the eye of the storm – so that God can be glorified. And so all eyes in the world are on Israel – on Jerusalem! And we see God work out His plan – as the conflict continues!

Consider the aftermath of an Arab-Israeli war as just described. The world would be reeling and raging from the fallout of an Arab-Israeli war – a war in which ISRAEL is the VICTOR!

Now let's consider the first war of Gog and Magog in Scripture in Ezekiel 38 & 39. There's more speculation regarding the timing of this first war of Gog and Magog than speculation concerning the timing of the rapture!

I'm suggesting that the main participants of this war, Russia and Iran will form an alliance. . .

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 (not all nations; this is NOT Armageddon) will come against Israel – Russia with Iran, Ethiopia, and Libya, and others – along with modern-day Turkey – 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. Perhaps it's because they've been crippled by the recent Arab-Israeli war - ?? Perhaps.

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”? That might very well be the way of life in Israel following an Arab-Israeli war based on Psa. 83 in which Israel scores **VICTORY!**

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! Many will come to know Jesus in the midst of judgments and catastrophes that are rampant during end times. Many will not.

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 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 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.

Typically those who invaded would bury their own dead. However, all the invaders will die. The task of burial – to cleanse the land - will fall to the house of Israel. Burial will take a full seven months (Eze. 39:12). Following God's destruction of the northern military coalition, the Israelites will gather and burn enemy weapons for a period of seven years (Eze. 39:9). IF the seven years of burning weapons coincides with the seven years of the Tribulation, how can Israel take flight from Jerusalem in the middle of the Tribulation? In Matthew 24 Jesus urges the Jews living in Jerusalem to take flight when the antichrist sets up his headquarters in Jerusalem in the middle of the Tribulation (Dan. 11:41; II Thess. 2:4; Rev. 12). How will the Jews be able to continue the task of burning weapons if they have to take flight from Jerusalem in the middle of the Tribulation? The seven years of burning weapons cannot coincide with the seven-year Tribulation period. If the Ezekiel invasion takes place at least 3.5 years prior to the beginning of the Tribulation, the burning of weapons will be completed by the midpoint of the Tribulation.

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!

QUESTIONS

Why is there conflict in this world?

What event begins the Tribulation?

Are things falling apart?

Why does Israel continue to exist?

Why did God choose Israel? For what purpose?

How do you now view Psalms 83?

How do you view Ezekiel 38?

What is your "take home" from this lesson? Any V8 moments?

Did this lesson help you place more pieces into the "puzzle" of end times?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Re-read the week 7 handout and look up Scripture references.

If you have a different view, write it out and support it Biblically.

Is God leading you to share with someone/some people re: salvation through Jesus?

Read the week 8 handout when you receive it. Read Revelation 6.