

Wednesday Night Discussion

Date: 4/24/24

The Main Scripture and Topic(s): In Ezekiel 38:1-23, the Prophet prophesies against Gog of the land of Magog, who will launch an invasion against Israel in the end times. God declares that He will intervene and defeat Gog and his allies.

1. **1** The word of the Lord came to me: **2** “Son of man, face Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. Prophesy against him **3** and say, ‘This is what the Lord God says: Look, I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.
2. **4** I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws, and bring you out with all your army, including horses and riders, who are all splendidly dressed, a huge assembly armed with large and small shields, all of them brandishing swords. **5** Persia, Cush, and Put are with them, all of them with shields and helmets; **6** Gomer with all its troops; and Beth-Togarmah from the remotest parts of the north along with all its troops—many peoples are with you.
3. **7** “Be prepared and get yourself ready, you and your whole assembly that has been mobilized around you; you will be their guard. **8** After a long time you will be summoned. In the last years, you will enter a land that has been restored from war and regathered from many peoples to the mountains of Israel, which had long been a ruin. They were brought out from the people, and all of them now live securely.
4. **9** You, all of your troops, and many peoples with you will advance, coming like a thunderstorm; you will be like a cloud covering the land. **10** “‘This is what the Lord God says: On that day, thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will devise an evil plan.
5. **11** You will say, “I will advance against a land of open villages; I will come against a tranquil people who are living securely, all of them living without walls and without bars or gates”—**12** in order to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against ruins now inhabited and against a people gathered from the nations, who have been acquiring cattle and possessions and who live at the center of the world.
6. **13** Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish with all its rulers will ask you, “Have you come to seize spoil? Have you mobilized your assembly to carry off plunder, to make off with silver and gold, to take cattle and possessions, to seize plenty of spoil?”
7. **14** “Therefore prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, ‘This is what the Lord God says: On that day when my people Israel are dwelling securely, will you not know this **15** and come from your place in the remotest parts of the north—you and many peoples with you, who are all riding horses—a huge assembly, a powerful army?
8. **16** You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud covering the land. It will happen in the last days, Gog, that I will bring you against my land so that the nations may know me, when I demonstrate my holiness through you in their sight. **17** “‘This is what the Lord God says: Are you the one I spoke about in former times through my servants, the prophets of Israel, who for years prophesied in those times that I would bring you against them?
9. **18** Now on that day, the day when Gog comes against the land of Israel — this is the declaration of the Lord God—my wrath will flare up. **19** I swear in my zeal and fiery wrath: On that day there will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.
10. **20** The fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, every creature that crawls on the ground, and every human being on the face of the earth will tremble before me. The mountains will be demolished, the cliffs will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground. **21** I will call for a sword against him on all my mountains—this is the declaration of the Lord God—and every man’s sword will be against his brother.
11. **22** I will execute judgment on him with plague and bloodshed. I will pour out torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur on him, as well as his troops and the many people who are with him. **23** I will display my greatness and holiness, and I will reveal myself in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord.’

Let’s Dive Deeper

One: In Ezekiel 38, God promises to finally defeat evil among the nations, which is personified by a ruler named *Gog of the land of Magog*. The descendants of Magog, son of Japheth (Genesis 10:2), were later called Scythians, from whom the Slavic people have descended. They occupied the vast land, north of Israel, above the Black Sea (i.e., Romania, Ukraine, and Russia). For Ezekiel, Gog is a grouping of all the worst rulers in the Bible, a model of human rebellion against God. The basic story here is that Gog resists God’s plan to restore His people. Ezekiel predicted that in the latter times,

Israel would be furiously invaded by people *out of the northern parts* (Ezekiel 38:6, 15). So, where is this Northern part? In Ezekiel 38:2–3; 39:1, we see the Hebrew word *Rosh*, which simply means head, top, summit, or chief, and it is used to identify these people from the North. The interpretive problem is that the word *Rosh* can be translated as either a proper noun or an adjective. Many translations use *Rosh* as an adjective and translate it as the word *chief*. I believe the better translation of *Rosh* is as a proper noun (referring to a specific place). *Rosh* would then refer to the chief territory of the Magog, Meshech, and Tubal tribes, and its location would be, in what is now called, northern Russia (a word derived from *Rosh*). As we track Russia in the prophecies of the End Times, we discover that her footprints lead right to the land of Israel. Therefore, to Ezekiel, a madman called Gog will be the end-time leader of Russia (38:2). Along with a multitude of allies that will join him when he invades the land of Israel (Ezekiel 38:9). Eight other geographical locations are mentioned in Ezekiel 38:1-6: Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, and Togarmah (Turkey); Magog (Central Asia: Islamic southern republics of the former Soviet Union); Persia (changed to Iran 1935); Ethiopia (or Cush); and Libya (or Put). These nations will invade Israel to cash in on its wealth (Ezekiel 38:11-12); control the Middle East; crush Israel; and challenge the authority of the Antichrist (Danial 11:40-44). At this time, Israel will be under its peace treaty with the Antichrist, so an attack against Israel is a direct challenge to Antichrist’s power. After he has destroyed the armies of Ezekiel 38, the Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and invade her himself (Danial 11:41-44). When the Antichrist assembles this attack force, it will look like Israel is finished. But God will be in full control of the entire situation. He will come to rescue His helpless people and will use four judgments to destroy the nations: a great earthquake (38:19-20), infighting among the troops of the various nations (38:21), disease (38:22), and torrential rain, hailstones, fire and burning sulfur (38:22). Many will not get involved in the conflict but will question the intentions of Gog. At the beginning of this war, Tarshish being the largest of the three who question it, is believed to be modern England (the Lion being its symbol). Vs 13 (NKJV) says, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder? Who are the young lions? I believe they are the nations that derived from England and are still known as The Commonwealth Realms. They are independent nations sharing the Crown (i.e., the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka). In the aftermath of this invasion, God unleashes His justice upon Gog in a flurry of scenes. The birds and the beasts feast on the dead (Ezekiel 39:4-5, 17-20; Revelation 19:17-18), the burying of the dead (Ezekiel 39:11-12,14-16), the burning of the weapons (Ezekiel 39:9-10), and the blessing of salvation (Ezekiel 38:16, 23; 39:6-7, 21–22).

Two: Let's answer the question *are we seeing the start of Ezekiel 38 now?* My answer is *it might be* and *it might not be*. Let’s look at the *it might not be* first. Currently, the war in Israel is in the South (Gaza). The war in Ezekiel 38 does not come from the South, the war comes from the North. Secondly, it is very clear in Ezekiel 38 that no nations come to the defense of Israel. Currently, the United States has a warship in the Mediterranean Sea ready to defend the people of Israel. So that is the—*it might not be*. Now let’s look at the *it might be*. We do see alliances being formed between Russia, and Iran along with Turkey. This alliance is already formed and these nations support a different terrorist organization called Hezbollah. Hezbollah is located and headquartered in Lebanon which is to the North of Israel. So, you could see some possible dominoes drop to where Hezbollah begins to fire more Rockets into the land of Israel and if there is an escalation there, and if you see Russia and Iran and Turkey begin to send troops to the North of Israel, you know what you ought to do, pray up and look up—your redemption's drawn near. Let’s remember, end times biblical prophecy revolves around and is centered upon one nation and that is the nation of Israel. Not America! Israel is God's prophetic time clock and when the Jewish people returned to their homeland in 1948 (Isaiah 66:8), that time clock began ticking faster.

7:30—7:45 Think Through the Main Scripture Individually

Personal Study: Take a few moments to reread the main scriptures and highlight or jot down what stands out to you.

I observed in verse _____ that: _____

I observed in verse _____ that: _____

I observed in verse _____ that: _____

I observed in verse _____ that: _____

7:45—8:00 Tie up and Pray