



Welcome back!

Let's pray.

In keeping with the topic of today's study, here is some current news from an article in Wednesday's ArmyTimes:

"More than 2,500 U.S. troops have taken part in the Juniper Cobra joint exercise with Israeli Defense Forces, which concludes Thursday.

This year's event served as a dress rehearsal for a joint response to an Iranian missile attack on Israel.

Contingency plans could be activated at any moment, with U.S. forces arriving in Israel from Europe, officers from both countries explained."

Later in the article there is a further meaningful comment:

"According to Kaduri, who has played an active role in planning multiple Juniper Cobra drills, scenarios driven by the Iranian threat are increasingly relevant.

'It's not just Iran's involvement in Syria, but everywhere,' he said. 'We understand Iran has its arms spread around a lot of places in the Middle East, and we can safely say that's our main threat.'"

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The slide features a vertical title 'EZEKIEL' on the left, with each letter aligned with a corresponding image of a sunset or sunrise. The main title 'OVERVIEW' is in a blue box at the top center. Below it is the subtitle 'History of Israel Part 3, Gog's Attack on Israel, Gog's End and God's Restoration of Israel (Ezek 38-39)'. A bulleted list follows, detailing the topics: Change in British Mindset, Betrayal of the Jewish People, Partitioning of Palestine, Gog's Attack on Israel and God's Defense, and The Utter End of Gog and God's Cleansing and Restoration of Israel. At the bottom, there is a date '09/18/2018', a name 'B. G. Hirsch - Ezekiel 38 - 39', and a page number '2'.

In this lesson we will study chapters 38 and 39 of the book of Ezekiel.

As before, we will continue with the next major events in the founding of the modern nation of Israel.

We will then continue with chapter 38, where we will be introduced to Gog, and we will see a yet-future battle between a host of nations and Israel.

Chapter 39 will retell and add detail to the story told in chapter 38. We will hear of the end of Gog, and the LORD's plans for the nation of Israel.

As we are now talking about future events, even though they were written over 2600 years ago, we no longer have the advantage of hindsight to guide our evaluation of the passages that we are studying. Multiple possibilities exist for the prophecies in chapters 38 and 39. And we are again in an area where there is a great deal of controversy.

I will do my best in the time we have to point out the major positions that have good scholarship behind them. I will give you my opinion as to what I think is going on. Nevertheless, you should all be Bereans and not trust what I say, but do your own study.

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Review

- Ezekiel, a priest, a prophet, and a watchman in Babylon continues his ministry to the exiles – between 586 and 574 B.C.
- Studied the Ottoman Empire, the waves of Jewish immigration to “Palestine”, the Balfour Declaration, and the San Remo Conference
- The LORD declared the coming desolation of Edom
- The LORD prophesied the return of the nation of Israel – initially without the Spirit

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Let's review.

Ezekiel, a priest from Jerusalem, was taken to Babylon in Nebuchadnezzar's second conquest in 598 B.C. As the LORD's prophet and watchman Ezekiel is continuing to give the LORD's prophetic messages regarding the future of the nation of Israel to the exiles in Babylon. The year is sometime between 586 and 574 B.C. as we begin our study.

The last time we met, we reviewed the history of the Ottoman Empire, which existed for 600 years and which had control over the land that was called Palestine.

We examined the waves of Jewish immigration to Palestine that took the Jewish population from around 25,000 in 1880 to 650,000 on the eve of independence in 1948.

Next we studied the Balfour Declaration and its call for a national home for the Jewish people in the land of Palestine. We also heard the Balfour Declaration was incorporated into both the Sevres (sây vâh') Peace Treaty that ended the Ottoman Empire, and the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine.

The San Remo Conference we discussed was the location for the assigning of the Mandate for Palestine to Britain. We also saw that the region allocated for the eventual nation of Israel was much smaller than what was originally intended.

Following the history of Israel we returned to the book of Ezekiel, where chapter 35 gave us a more in depth look at God's pronouncement of the coming desolation of the nation of Edom.

Then in chapters 36 and 37, the LORD's focus shifted to the restoration of the nation of Israel and the gathering of the Jewish people from all the nations where they had been scattered.

We stood with Ezekiel in the Valley of dry bones, and we watched and heard as those bones came together and took on flesh and lived again, we even had musical accompaniment.

We learned that the modern nation of Israel is the fulfillment of the prophesy in Ezekiel, but that the current nation is flesh and bone without the spirit. We also learned that the spirit would come to Israel and the Jewish people after a significant event occurs. Today, we will study that event...

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Change in British Mindset

- Shift to anti-Zionist Britain
- British War Office and Foreign Office populated by “Arabists”
- Enamored with the “noble” Bedouin
- Worked strongly against the Balfour Declaration
- Widespread atmosphere of hatred

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Now we will continue our history of the modern nation of Israel.

Over the next few years after the Balfour Declaration there was a shift in the British government to an anti-Zionist posture. The British policymakers began to think that it was more in their interest to have an alliance with the Arabs than with the Jews. Many officials felt that it was wrong to go against the local Arab opinion by supporting Zionism. Therefore, even though the Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, and Lord Balfour continued to be supporters, the rest of the government had very few pro-Zionists.

The British War Office and the Foreign Office were populated with “Arabists”. This consisted of a rather large group in the Foreign Office who had “spent their lives learning to speak Arabic”. They went to places like Cairo and Khartoum, and they were enamored with the “noble” Bedouin. They also wanted to create a continuous overland empire from South Africa to India, and this required the land of Palestine. Hence, they and the military leaders, such as General Allenby and General Money, worked strongly against the Balfour Declaration and refused to even allow its publication in Palestine.

Vladimir Jabotinsky, a Russian, Zionist activist, orator, and writer, at the time wrote, “Not in Russia, nor in Poland had there been such an intense and widespread atmosphere of hatred as prevailed in the British army in Palestine in 1919 and 1920.”

One of the few genuine non-Jewish British establishment Zionists was Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen, the British chief of intelligence in the Middle East. Meinertzhagen felt that supporting a Jewish National Home would be good for Britain, and he wrote:

“The force of nationalism will challenge our position. We cannot befriend both Arab and Jew. My proposal is based on befriending the people who are more likely to be loyal friends – the Jews....Though, we have done much for the Arabs, they do not know the meaning of gratitude; moreover they would be a liability; the Jew would be an asset....The Jews have moreover proved their fighting qualities since the Roman occupation of Jerusalem. The Arab is a poor fighter, though an adept at looting, sabotage and murder.... [Mine] is a proposal to make our position in the Middle East more secure.”

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Betrayal of the Jewish People

- 1920 British officials instigate Arab riots
- Haj Amin al-Husseini made Grand Mufti of Jerusalem for life
- Authority over Palestine transferred to Middle East Department
- 1921 British install Abdullah in TransJordan (eastern Palestine)
- 1922 British detach TransJordan from Palestine

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In 1920, the British Arabists tried to install their candidate, Feisel, as king of Syria, including Palestine. In order to pressure the British government into ending the Jewish National Home policy, they instigated "anti-Jew riots to impress on the Administration the unpopularity of the Zionist policy."

They recruited Haj Amin al-Husseini who led a group of Pan-Arabist radicals. And in early 1920, they put up posters saying that, "The Government is with us, Allenby is with us, kill the Jews; there is no punishment for killing Jews." An Arab mob then killed six Jews and wounded 211.

When the Moslem religious leader post of Mufti of Jerusalem became vacant, Haj Amin al-Husseini ran and lost the election, coming in fourth. The British anti-Zionists deposed the winner and installed Hussein as the "Grand Mufti for life". Haj Amin al-Husseini was Yassar Arafat's uncle, and he was later a confidant of Hitler's in crafting the "final solution" for the Jews.

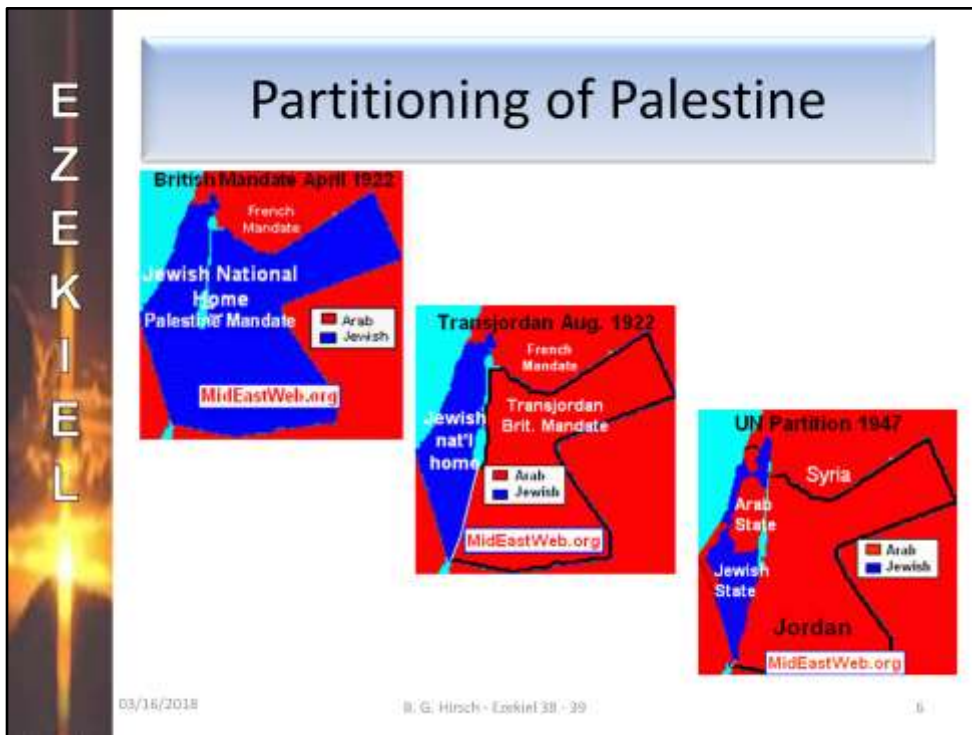
The authority over Palestine was transferred from the Foreign Office to the Middle East Department at the Colonial Office. This department was headed by Sir John Evelyn Shuckburgh, who was "saturated with anti-Semitism" and he loathed Zionism and the Jews. At this point the minister for the Colonial Office was none other than Winston Churchill, who was outspoken in his sympathy for Zionism.

Shuckburgh and T.E. Lawrence, of Lawrence of Arabia fame, convinced Churchill that TransJordan, the majority portion of Palestine, had been promised to the Hashemites of Mecca during the war. This led in 1921 to the installation of Abdullah and his army as ruler of TransJordan, which was still considered part of Palestine.

The Colonial Office subordinates of Churchill believed that they were earning the Arabs loyalty. However, less than 2 months after the decision on TransJordan, Arab mobs again went on a rampage, and a number of Jews were murdered.

In 1922 TransJordan was detached from Palestine and later became the Hashemite Kingdom of TransJordan. We know this simply as Jordan today.

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The original British Mandate including the Balfour Declaration in April of 1922 provided for an area of 43,000 square miles. As we discussed Britain had already demarcated the part of the mandate east of the Jordan river as "Transjordan."

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In August of 1922, the League of Nations accepted the British demarcation of Transjordan, as discussed in the [The Churchill \("Command"\) White Paper](#). About 32,500 square miles, roughly 76% of the area of the Jewish National home, were given to Transjordan. The Jewish National Home now had an area of about 10,500 square miles. Jews were barred from living or owning property east of the Jordan river, violating Article 15 of [The British Mandate for Palestine](#), which read, "No discrimination of any kind shall be made between the inhabitants of Palestine on the ground of race, religion or language. No person shall be excluded from Palestine on the sole ground of his religious belief." In 1946, Britain granted independence to Jordan, in violation of Article 25, but by that time however, the League of Nations was no more.

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In 1947, the [UN Partition Plan for Palestine: General Assembly, Resolution 181](#), divided the remaining area of the British Mandate, about 10,000 square miles, into a "Jewish state" and an "Arab state." The Jewish state was to get about 5,500 square miles of the area, which was 12.8% of the originally promised land area. The Arab state was to get about 4,500 square miles. The Arab state was divided into three areas, and the Jewish state into two areas. The areas were theoretically contiguous, touching at two points. The Arabs rejected the partition plan and attacked Israel when it declared its independence.

Now let's return to our study of the Book of Ezekiel.

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The Players – part 1

- Gog = Title for the leader of Meshech and Tubal
- Within the land of Magog
- גִּיג רֹשׁ נָסִי ro'sh nasiy = Chief Prince (Ruler)
 - Some say Rōsh is a proper name of a people Rōs or Rus, meaning Russia, but this is tenuous
 - Rōsh means “head” (also in place, time, or rank) as in Rosh Hashanah the Jewish New year (Head of the Year)
 - Therefore Gog is a Head or Chief Ruler
- Appears in the New Testament Rev 20:8

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So, let's read chapter 38 of Ezekiel verses 1 – 6. (*Read verses 1-6.*)

Chapter 38 begins with the LORD telling Ezekiel to set his face toward a ruler and a land. This is something we have seen The LORD do before against Pharaoh and Egypt. However, this time the LORD is speaking about a previously unmentioned ruler and land. What is worse, is that the LORD speaks of a number of other nations as well, even though we have only heard of a few of them, such as Cush and Put.

So just who are these nations? Do they exist today?

We actually do have mention of the primary nations in this section all the way back in Genesis 10, which is often called the “Table of Nations”.

Gen 10:2 (KJV)

²The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras.

These are in fact the ancient tribal names for these peoples and nations. We know in this list that Madai became the Medes, and that Javan became the Greeks. So what about the nations found here that match the nations in Ezekiel chapter 38? Unfortunately, they are not so well known, but we do have references that help us to identify some of them.

The only reference outside of Ezekiel in the Old Testament for a Gog is in 1 Chr 5:4 for a descendant of Reuben. This seems to have no relation to the Gog of chapter 38. In the New Testament there is one reference to Gog and Magog in Revelation 20:8, which speaks of the final battle with Satan at the end of the Millennium.

Commentaries vary as to who Gog is. Gog is called the Rosh Nasiy in Hebrew. Some writers mispronounce Rōsh as Rōsh, and they say that this is really a proper name for the Ros or Rus, and hence this is indicating Russia. I do think that chapter 38 is speaking in part about Russia, but this is not why. I will explain why in a few moments. Instead, based upon the text of the chapter, I think it is apparent that Gog is a title rather than a name. I agree with most translations that indicate that Gog is the chief prince or ruler of Meshech and Tubal.

Therefore, Gog is the title of a future ruler, who may be living now, and who will be the primary leader of part of the land that was known in the past as Magog. Now let's see, if we can pin down Magog, Meshech, and Tubal.

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The Players – part 2

- Josephus and Herodotus (among others) were historians that wrote of these areas
- Magog = Scythians
 - North of Black Sea
 - Some of the first horsemen
 - One of the ancestors of the Russian people
- Meshech (Ukraine & Southern Russia) and Tubal (Georgia)
 - Meshech identified as Sarmatians by Herodotus
 - Tubal is associated with Iberians – Georgia today

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We have extra-biblical sources, meaning outside of the Bible, that mention these nations.

Titus Flavius Josephus, a Jewish historian that worked for Rome had his own table of nations. In Josephus' work Antiquities, book 1 chapter 6, he says that Magog was the land of the Scythians [sith-ee-uh n]. The Scythians were one of the earliest horse riding people. They were supposedly very fine archers. They made incredible jewelry, and they were pretty ornery. They were one of the ancestors of the Russian people.

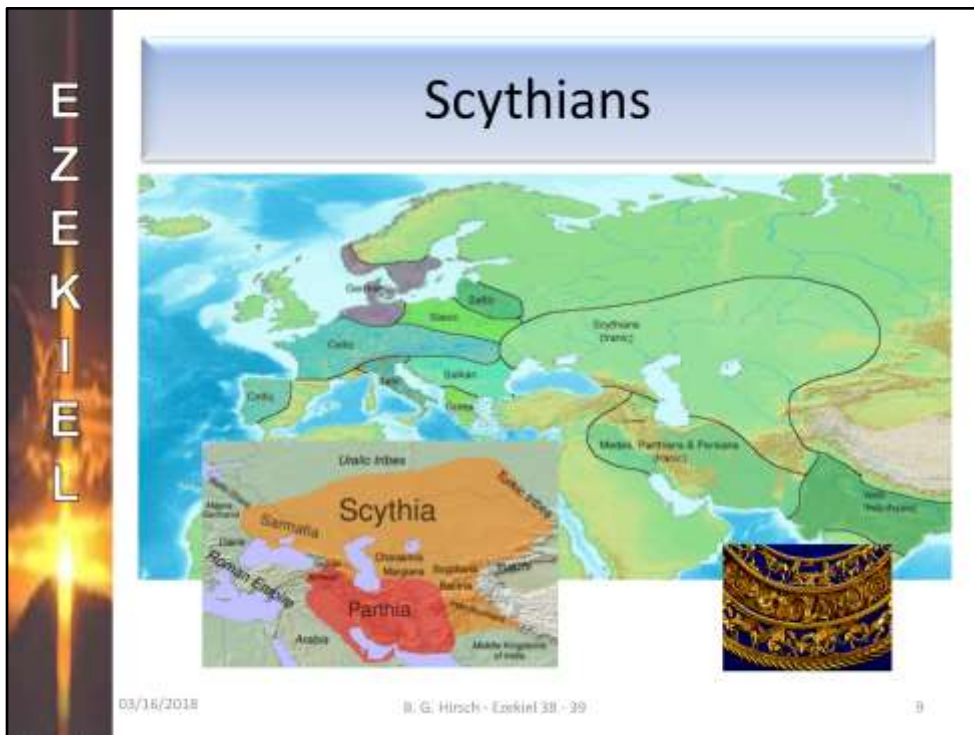
Herodotus in the fourth book of his history identifies Meshech and Tubal as Sarmatians and Muscovites, who occupied the north eastern area of what is now Russia.

Along with other early writers and archaeological evidence, it therefore appears that the land of Magog is an area that we would now call Russia as well as a number of the "Stan" states (i.e. Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, etc.).

According to Herodotus Meshech is identified as the Sarmatians. Their territory, which was known as Sarmatia corresponded to the western part of greater Scythia (mostly modern Ukraine and Southern Russia, also to a smaller extent the north-eastern Balkans and the area around Moldova).

Tubal was the grandson of Noah through Japheth. Tubal is said to be the ancestor of the Caucasian Iberians. Modern day Georgians descended from the Caucasian Iberians. Today, Georgians claim that they came from the nations of Tubal, Togarmah, and Meshech.

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According to Wikipedia, not always the best source, the Scythians were a group of Iranian people, known as the Eurasian nomads, who inhabited the western and central Eurasian steppes from about the 9th century BC until about the 1st century BC. Scythia was the Greek term for the grasslands north and east of the Black Sea.

A wealthy class known as the **Royal Scythians** ruled the western Scythians, which were based in what is modern-day Ukraine, Southern European Russia, and Crimea. The Scythians established and controlled a vast trade network connecting Greece, Persia, and China.

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The Players – part 3

- Persia = Iran
- Cush = Ethiopia, Sudan
- Put = Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia
- Gomer = Western Turkey (Galatians), Cimmerians
- Togarmah (or Beth-Togarmah) = Eastern Turkey
- Sheba & Dedan = Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Peninsula
- Tarshish = Not known, but most feel it is either Great Britain or more likely Spain; possibly the World outside of Israel

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The remaining nations that are mentioned also have modern equivalents:

Persia is modern day Iran. Actually, Iran was commonly called Persia until 1935. This is when Reza Shah requested that the International community refer to the country by its native name, Iran. Iran is home to 81 million people making it the 18th most populous country according to the UN.

Cush and Put are found in other places in the Bible, such as Genesis 10, 1 Chr 1:10, Ps 7, Isaiah 11:11, and Nah 3:9. Cush is usually identified with Ethiopia, and Put is usually identified with Libya, and your translation may list them as such. The area called Cush also includes Sudan. And Put also includes Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia.

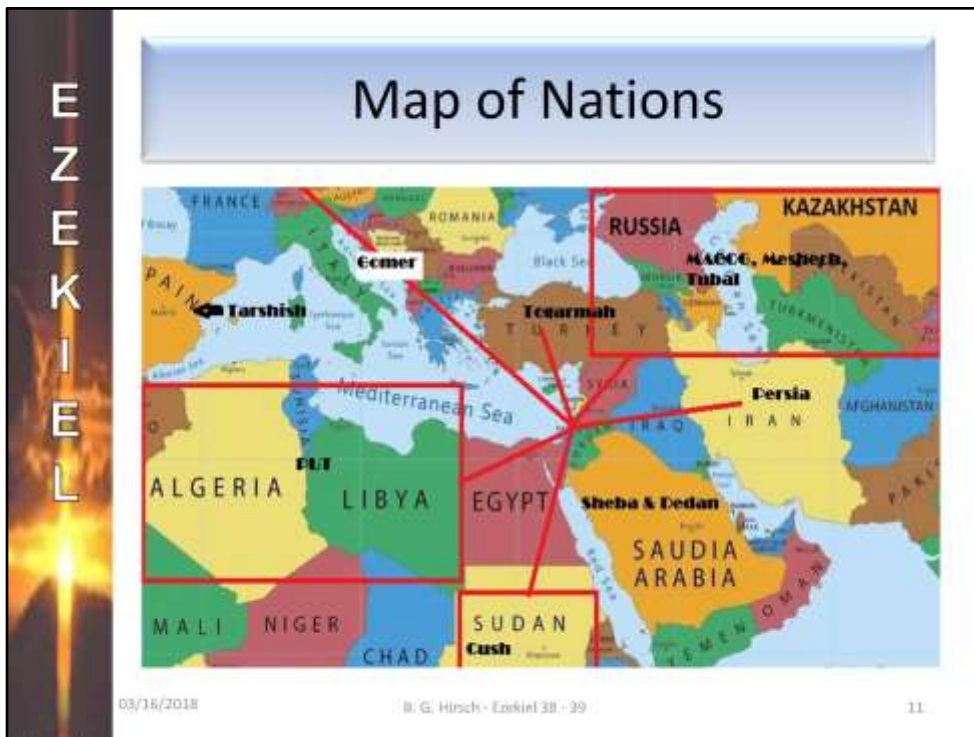
Gomer is associated with the Cimmerians, who were later called Galatians. This is the area of western Turkey. However, some commentators say the Cimmerians also would include Germany as well as Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Togarmah or Beth-Togarmah refers to the area of eastern Turkey.

Sheba and Dedan are mentioned as part of those who stand back and watch this attack occurring. Sheba and Dedan were the grandsons of Abraham through his 2nd wife, Keturah. They were sent into the area we know as Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Peninsula.

Where Tarshish was is not known with certainty. Most scholars place it in Great Britain or more likely in Spain. However, at least one writer states that Tarshish is the biblical term for the West. In other words, Tarshish may simply represent the world outside of Israel.

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Here is a map showing the supposed location of the nations in chapter 38. I recognize that this map does not match all that we have discussed, but it is reasonably close.

Notice that the nations are coming at Israel from all directions. In fact, the LORD says that He will put hooks into the jaws of Gog and the leaders of these nations to force them to come!

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In the Latter Years

- Gog is to get his forces ready
- Gog is to be a defense for his allies
- This will occur “in the latter years”, after Israel is restored to the land, and the land is once more productive
- Gog’s forces will come like a storm to “seize spoil and carry off plunder”
- The other nations of the world will comment but not act

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Now, let’s read chapter 38 of Ezekiel verses 7– 13. (*Read verses 7-13.*)

In verse 7, the LORD tells Gog to get ready and to keep ready. Gog is to assemble his forces and defend his allies . The LORD says that Gog is to do this because Gog is going to need his forces.

However, the LORD says that Gog will not need to muster his forces to act for a very long time. In fact, Gog will have to wait until the latter years. When is that?

The LORD says that the latter years will take place when the nation of Israel is “restored from war” and her people are once more gathered into her. World War I and World War II played major roles in the rebirth of the nation of Israel. The LORD also indicates that the land will once more be productive after it “had been a continual waste”, and He says that it has “acquired livestock and goods”. This prosperity will be an enticement for Gog.

So, the LORD says that a thought and an evil scheme will occur to Gog. That thought will be that Gog should attack Israel with his forces, because Gog believes that for some reason Israel is not prepared or adequately protected. And Gog will then come with a massive military force that will be like a storm cloud covering all the land.

At that time other nations, including Saudi Arabia will comment and perhaps complain to Gog, but they appear not to act. This sounds a great deal like the UN. By the way, Russia has veto power in the Security Council of the UN.

It is very interesting who is not included with the forces of Gog. We have just seen that Saudi Arabia is not an ally. Also, Egypt and Jordan are not mentioned. Why not?

Egypt and Jordan have peace treaties with Israel. And Saudi Arabia has actually had private discussions with Israel because the Saudis are concerned about Iran.

How did Ezekiel know this 2600 years ago? Ezekiel was told what to say by the LORD.

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Gog's Attack on Israel and God's Defense

- Gog attacks with a massive army
- The LORD's wrath will be aroused
- The LORD will cause a tremendous earthquake which will cause all people on the face of the earth to shake at His presence
- The LORD will destroy Gog and his army
- This will be a sign to everyone

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Now, let's read chapter 38 of Ezekiel verses 14 – 23. (*Read verses 14-23.*)

Ezekiel is told to prophesy to Gog and to tell him that Gog will know when Israel is back in the land and it is time. When Gog and his army come against Israel, the LORD says that His anger will be roused. In the King James it says "my fury shall come up in my face". Imagine the anger of God directed at you...

In verse 16 the LORD says that Gog is coming against "my people" and "my land". It's high noon, and the Sheriff is back in town when the bad guys arrive.

The LORD will cause a great earthquake that will shake the whole earth, causing "all people who are on the face of the earth" to shake at His presence. I certainly don't want to experience that.

The LORD will cause the army of Gog to turn against each other, and the LORD will pummel the army with pestilence, rain, hailstones, fire, and sulfur. The LORD will make an end of Gog and his army.

So, why is the LORD against these nations? In fact, why will the LORD compel them, put hooks in their jaws, to bring them against the nation of Israel?

Who is the LORD speaking to in chapter 38? He is speaking to Gog! So, essentially the LORD is speaking directly to the leader of Russia. It doesn't matter whether the leader or the other nations want to get involved, because the LORD will drag them in.

Why would the LORD do this? As the LORD says 54 times in the Book of Ezekiel, "So they will know that I am the LORD." This will be proof to these nations, the rest of the world, and most of all to Israel that the LORD is GOD.

Please recognize that the LORD does not have to do this! He is choosing to give a mighty object lesson about who He is just like he did with the Exodus.

In the Exodus God judged Pharaoh, Egypt, and all their false gods, and there was not a thing that they could do about it. That lesson is still celebrated today by the Jewish people with the Passover celebration. That was a lesson to the whole world. Remember, even 40 years later, Rahab in Jericho had heard what God had done to Egypt, and the people of Jericho were very afraid.

Well, here again the LORD will let the whole earth know who is LORD. And there is not one thing anyone can do about it. (next slide)

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Detail of the End of Gog

- The LORD will disarm Gog
- Burn weapons for 7 years
- Will send a fire on Magog and those who dwell securely in the coastlands
- Event will change the people of Israel, and all nations will know the LORD
- Bury army in Hamon-gog
- Professionals will search for and bury

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Let's read chapter 39 of Ezekiel verses 1 – 20. *(Read verses 1-20.)*

Chapter 39 is a detailed description of the destruction of Gog and his forces as well as some other areas.

Ezekiel is again told to prophesy against Gog. This time the LORD lets us know that He will disarm Gog when Gog comes against Israel. So, whatever weapons Gog plans to use will not be effective. Arrows, might just be a metaphor for missiles, but that is just a conjecture on my part.

The LORD says that He will send a fire on Magog and those who dwell securely in the coastlands. So, the LORD plans some level of destruction on the land that spawned Gog. But, what is meant by those who dwell securely in the coastlands? We don't know who this refers to. Could it be the United States? Yes. But, it could mean any of a number of others.

In verse 7 the LORD says that this event will change the people of Israel. I should hope so! The LORD says He will now be known to Israel. The LORD also says that He will no longer let His holy name be profaned. I don't know what this means He will do to those that profane His name after this, but I would not recommend testing it. Now, all the nations, at least those that are left, will know the Holy one of Israel is the LORD.

Amazingly, the LORD says that the people of Israel will burn the weapons of Gog for 7 years, meeting all the energy needs of the nation of Israel. This is puzzling if we are talking conventional weapons, although there could be a great deal of liquid fuel for so massive an army, and Israel is a small country. It could also mean that nuclear weapons were used. But, the explanation regarding the remains of the army may give us a clue.

The LORD will give a valley for the burial of the army of Gog. The valley will be called the valley of Hamon-gog, or the multitude of Gog. It will take 7 months to bury the remains. After this, there will be a group of professionals who will search for remains. If a traveler spots remains, they do not touch them. They mark the spot for the professionals who bury the remains down wind. This certainly gives the impression of a hazmat crew, which means it could be chemical, nuclear, or biological in nature.

The LORD also tells Ezekiel to speak to the birds so they will come to eat the remains of Gog's army. The language suggest that this is God's giving the army of Gog as a sacrifice to the birds.

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Cleansing and Blessing Israel

- The LORD will be glorified in the nations
- Israel will know the LORD
- Have mercy on the whole house of Israel
- The LORD will forget Israel's treachery and protect them
- Will not leave any of the Jewish people in other nations
- Pour out His Spirit

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Let's read chapter 39 of Ezekiel verses 21 – 29. (*Read verses 21-29.*)

The LORD says that He will set His glory among the nations, as He said in chapter 38:23. This will occur because all the nations will see the LORD's executed judgement. Was it possible in Ezekiel's day for even a few, let alone all nations to see God's judgement? No. But in our time, we can see whatever happens anywhere in the world.

Verse 22 says that once these events occur Israel will know the LORD from that day forward.

Additionally, Israel and the nations will know that the LORD had sent Israel into captivity and scattered them because of Israel's sins. The LORD will restore the "fortunes of Jacob" and "have mercy on the whole house of Israel".

Now, the LORD says that He will forget their shame and treachery. The LORD will ensure that nothing will make Israel afraid.

God also says that he will leave none of them in other nations anymore.

And at last, the LORD declares that He will pour out His Spirit upon the house of Israel.

Questions?

Please read chapters 40 through 43 for next week. We will move even further into the future as we discuss the Millennium and the Millennial Temple.

Let's pray.