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The Middle East and Russia in Prophecy
Pt. 2
Ezekiel 38-39

INTRO: The Bible teaches us in Ezekiel 38 and 39 that the Russian army will march from its place in the north to do battle in the Middle East (38:14-16; Joel 12:20). Moscow is due north of Jerusalem. They will not march against Iraq, Kuwait, or Iran; they will march against Israel. This battle will be in the "latter days" (38:16). This battle will be part of the Armageddon campaign and will take place during the tribulation period.

1. LINKAGE AGAINST ISRAEL IN THE LATTER DAYS

1. Ezekiel 38:5-6 tells us about Middle Eastern countries that will link up with Russia to fight Israel.
 1. Persia+ for many centuries Iran was called Persia. The Shah of Iran was the Shah of Persia. Tom McCall and Zolo Levitt say: "Persia, or Iran, would make a first rate ally for Russia in a land invasion of Israel. Its location and terrain would greatly facilitate troop movements" (29).
 2. Ethiopia and Libya- parts of Africa.
 1. Ethiopia+ communist+ Biblical Cush. The descendants of Cush migrated southward into all parts of Africa (Gen 10). This may represent more than the country of Ethiopia.
 2. Libya+ also Phut, a terrorist nation.
 3. Egypt+ Dan 11:43 indicates that Egypt will be involved in war against Israel.
 4. Gomer+ Gomer is identified by Gibbons, the writer of The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, as modern Germany (Vol 1, p 204). In the Talmud, Gomer is identified as Germany.
 5. Togarmah+ Turkey.
 1. Syrians are of Turkish descent.
 2. Heika Turk left Turkey and settled in Syria.
2. Orientals will align themselves with the enemies of Israel. Daniel 11:44 indicates the involvement of China in this war.

2. THE ALLIES OF ISRAEL IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR DURING THE TRIBULATION

1. Ezekiel 38:13.
2. Sheba and Dedan+ this pictures Saudi Arabia and other Muslims not going along with the Arab pact. These are oil rich countries who side with Israel's allies for economic reasons.
3. Tarshish+ Great Britain.
 1. Famous trade merchants.
 2. Britain+ "Land of Tin," this is what Tarshish means.

3. Lion+ symbol of Britain.
4. Young lions+ U.S. and Canada.
3. THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE THE HUB OF LATTER DAY EVENTS
 1. In Ezekiel 38-39, the Middle East is referred to seventeen (17) times.
 2. Ezekiel 38:8, 16; 39:2, 4, 12.
4. WHY ISRAEL WILL BE THE FOCAL POINT OF THE MIDDLE EAST DURING THE LATTER YEARS.
 1. Israel looks like an easy prey (38:11).
 2. Ezekiel 38:2 tells us that those who invade Israel do so for a spoil and a prey. Israel is a nation reborn (37:11-12).
 1. A spoil+ Israel is the bread basket of the Middle East.
 1. The land that had been desolate is blooming.
 2. In the 1950's, the world-wide plea of the Jews was "Plant a tree in Israel." Now Israel is blooming.
 2. Dead Sea is worth two trillion dollars in minerals.
 3. The Jews are a hated people.
 1. Anti-Semitism abounds.
 2. The devil hates the Jews.
 3. Every week there are new threats against Israel.
 4. Russia would like to be the hero by settling the long-standing dispute among the nations as to Israel's claim to Palestine.
 5. Protest made to invasion (38:13).
 6. Large armies in the invasion+
 1. Ezekiel 38:16, "as a cloud."
 1. Rev 9:16 + 200 million.
 2. Large Russian army and large Chinese army.
 2. Deadly weapons
 1. Advanced weapons will be used.
 2. Deadly effects of these weapons.
 - 1.) Joel 2:3.
 - 2.) Zech 14:12 neutron bomb.
 3. Bloody battle.
 1. Jer 30:7, "None like it."
 2. Dan 12:1, "Such as never was."
5. TERRIBLE DEFEAT IN THE MIDDLE EAST FOR RUSSIA AND HER ALLIES IN THE LATTER YEARS
 1. Ezek 39:1-7, 5/6 of Russian army will be destroyed. Convulsions of nature aids in defeat (38:20-23).
 2. Ezek 39:11-14, greatest burial.
 3. Joel 2:20, Russian army driven to Siberia.
 4. Ezek 39:9-10, weapons of war will be used as fuel by Israel. Russia has perfected a wooden gun; they compressed wood harder than steel, lighter but combustible.
 5. Ezek 39:17-20, Fowls will feast on flesh and blood.

CONCLUSION: The Middle East will be in turmoil before the coming of the Lord. General Moshe Dayan, hero of the 1967 Six Day War, has said: "Israel is now at war with Russia."

The purpose of the battle:

1. For the benefit of the Gentiles (39:21).
2. For the benefit of the Jews (39:22).