

The Middle East and the Second Coming of Christ
Ezekiel 38:8, 16
Pt. 1

INTRO: There are two key words that I want us to see in Ezekiel 38. The words “latter years” in verse 8 and “latter days” in verse 16. The events that take place in Ezekiel 38 and 39 are “latter day” events. These are things that take place just before Jesus sets foot on the Mount of Olives. It was from the Mount of Olives that He was taken up, and it will be on the Mount of Olives that He descends when he comes back to earth to rule and reign.

Before Jesus comes back to earth, there are some things that must take place in the Middle East. Some things that set the stage for His coming have already happened. Jesus is coming back to Israel. The fact that Israel is a nation is a miracle. For nearly two thousand years, the Jews were scattered and then a marvelous chain of events took place:

1. In 1917, the Jews were able to return to Israel under British mandate. After World War I, the League of Nations formally assigned the Palestine Mandate to Great Britain endorsing the terms of the Balfour Declaration. A Jewish Agency was also formed to administer Jewish affairs in Palestine. The United States, having not joined the League of Nations, signed a separate treaty endorsing the Balfour Declaration.
2. On May 14, 1948, the last British troops pulled out of Haifa and David Ben-Gurion declared the creation of the State of Israel in accordance with the 1947 UN Partition Plan. President Harry Truman of the United States immediately recognized the new State followed hours later by Joseph Stalin of Russia. Arab League members rejected Israel's right to exist.
3. In 1967, during the Six-Day War, Jewish forces, under Moshe Dayan, won control of the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and other strategic lands. For the first time since British Mandate, Jews could visit Old Jerusalem and the Western wall.

The Middle East has been called the hub of ancient history. It is the hub of latter day history.

- I. THE TIME OF THE EVENTS IN EZEKIEL 38 AND 39
 - A. The latter year and latter days (Eze 38:8, 16).
 - B. During the tribulation period

1. During the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy.
2. During the last 3 ½ years of tribulation.

II. RUSSIA IS TO BE A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS

- A. All of the nations of the earth are descendants of Noah's grandsons (Gen 10:1-6).
- B. Ezekiel 38:2-3 gives us important names and places concerning the affairs of the Middle East and the second coming.
 1. Gog and Magog- read Scofield footnote 1909 edition on Ezekiel 38. *That the primary reference is to the northern (European) powers, headed up by Russia, all agree. . . . "Gog" is the prince, "Magog," his land. The reference to Meshech and Tubal (Moscow and Tobolsk) is a clear mark of identification. . . . The whole prophecy belongs to the yet future "day of Jehovah" (Isa. 2. 10-22; Rev 18. 11-21), and to the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16. 14; 19. 19, note), but includes also the final revolt of the nations at the close of the kingdom-age (Rev 20. 7-9).*
 - a. Gog is the Russian ruler.
 - b. Magog- the ruler's land. "Magog left Asia Minor settling in southern Russia" (Josephus book 1 chapter 6).
 2. Meshech- this is Moscow.
 3. Tubal- this is Tobolsk the eastern capital of Russia. This is where Francis Gary Powers was shot down in his U2.
 4. The word chief in Ezekiel 38:2 is the Hebrew word *Rosh*. When the Jews read about Russia in their Hebrew papers, they read the word *Rosh* for Russia just as it is found in Biblical Hebrew.
 - a. In our papers, we read Russia. In the Jewish papers, they read *Rosh*.
 - b. On page 75 of Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies, the word chief is *Rosh* or Russia.
 - c. In 1890, Gaebelin said that the reference in Ezekiel 38:2 was to Russia.
 - d. Over 220 years ago, Bishop Lowry crossed Britain saying Ezekiel 38:2 referred to Russia.

III. IN THE LAST DAYS, ISRAEL WILL BE INVADED FROM THE NORTH

- A. The invader from the north, coming down into the Middle East, will be Russia and others (Eze 38:15).
- B. Joel 2:20 speaks of Russia. The late Dr. M. R. DeHann said that this is unmistakably Russia.
- C. The entire book of Joel has prophetic importance and has much to say about the Great Tribulation.
 - 1. Joel 1:6 as we shall see in our next study in prophecy, Israel will be invaded by hundreds of thousands of soldiers.
 - 2. Joel 1:9, 13– During the first half of the tribulation, animal sacrifice will be reinstated in the tribulation temple. At the beginning of the last half of the tribulation, the Anti-Christ will break his peace treaty with Israel and will defile the Temple with swine's blood.
 - 3. Joel 1:15– the final battle of the Armageddon Campaign is spoken of here. God Himself will bring destruction.
 - 4. Joel 2:1 is to be linked with Ezekiel 30:3-7. This is end time prophecy, the very end time.
 - 5. Joel 2:31 speaks of the sun being turned to darkness and the moon to blood. This is another verse dealing with the end of time as is pointed out in Matthew 24:29-30.
 - 6. Joel 3:14-15 is speaking of the Valley of Megedo, the valley of decision.

CONCLUSION: We are living in the last days. We see anti-Semitism on the rise. We see the signs of the times all around us. One day it will be too late to get right with God, too late to be saved. Trust in Christ today (John 3:18, 36).