

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. God in His Sovereignty will draw them there (Eze 10:11-12). 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.

I. LINKAGE AGAINST ISRAEL IN THE LATTER DAYS

- A. 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 Zola 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.
 - a. 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.
 - b. Libya— also Phut, a terrorist nation.
 3. Egypt— Dan 11:43 indicates that Egypt will be involved in war against Israel. In Daniel 11:40, the king of the south is Egypt and the king of the north, I believe, to be Russia. In Daniel 11:41, the “glorious land” is according to Henry Morris is “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.
 - a. Syrians are of Turkish descent.
 - b. Heika Turk left Turkey and settled in Syria.
- B. Orientals will align themselves with the enemies of Israel. Daniel 11:44 indicates the involvement of China in this war. According

to Dr. Henry Morris: “The ‘kings of the east’ probably includes Iran as well as India, China, and Japan (note Rev 16:12).”

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

- A. Ezekiel 38:13.
- B. Sheba and Dedan– Of Sheba and Dedan Morris says that these are “relatively small Arab nations, who will not join in with the Muslim nations in the anti-Israel confederation” who for economic reasons “side with ‘the merchants of Tarshish’.” These are oil rich countries who side with Israel’s allies for economic reasons.
- C. 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.

III. THE MIDDLE EAST WILL BE THE HUB OF LATTER DAY EVENTS

- A. In Ezekiel 38-39, the Middle East is referred to seventeen (17) times.
- B. Ezekiel 38:8, 16; 39:2, 4, 12.

IV. WHY ISRAEL WILL BE THE FOCAL POINT OF THE MIDDLE EAST DURING THE LATTER YEARS.

- A. Israel looks like an easy prey (38:11).
- B. Ezekiel 38:12 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 (38:12)– Israel is the bread basket of the Middle East. In the Hula Valley, 10,000 acres were transformed into a bread basket.
 - a. The land that had been desolate is blooming.
 - b. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Russia would like to be the hero by settling the long-standing dispute among the nations as to Israel’s claim to Palestine.
- E. Protest made to invasion (38:13).
- F. Large armies in the invasion–
 - 1. Ezekiel 38:16, “as a cloud.”

- a. Rev 9:16 – 200 million.
 - b. Large Russian army and large Chinese army.
 - 2. Deadly weapons
 - a. Advanced weapons will be used.
 - b. Deadly effects of these weapons.
 - 1.) Joel 2:3.
 - 2.) Zech 14:12 neutron bomb.
 - 3. Bloody battle.
 - a. Jer 30:7, “None like it.”
 - b. Dan 12:1, “Such as never was.”
- V. TERRIBLE DEFEAT IN THE MIDDLE EAST FOR RUSSIA AND HER ALLIES IN THE LATTER YEARS
- A. Ezek 39:1-7, 5/6 of Russian army will be destroyed. Convulsions of nature aids in defeat (38:20-23).
 - B. Ezek 39:11-14, greatest burial.
 - C. Joel 2:20, Russian army driven to Siberia.
 - D. Ezek 39:9-10, weapons of war will be used as fuel by Israel. For seven years the burnable parts of the enemies weapons will be burned by Israel.
 - E. 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).