

THE PROPHESED NORTHERN ARMY

Ezekiel 38:17 (NKJV)

17 Thus says the Lord GOD: “Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?”

In Ezekiel 38:17, God tells Gog that he is the one whom the prophets (plural) have spoken about. In all of the OT Scriptures, there are only two other places that speak of a LAST DAYS’ NORTHERN army that is depicted as invading Israel. One is found in Joel 2:20 and the other in Daniel 11:44.

Joel 2:20 (NKJV)

20 “But I will remove far from you the northern army, And will drive him away into a barren and desolate land, With his face toward the eastern sea And his back toward the western sea; His stench will come up, And his foul odor will rise, Because he has done monstrous things.”

The designation northern army (lit, “northerner”) suggests that a literal army is ultimately in view. – *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

The emphasis in Ezekiel 38-39 is that the power center of the great coalition led by Gog comes from the far NORTH.

- “from the far north” – Ezek. 38:6
- “from the far north” – Ezek. 38:15
- “from the far north” – Ezek. 39:2

The other OT prophetic text that deals with a NORTHERN ARMY that comes against Israel in the latter days is found in Daniel 11:44.

Daniel 11:44 (NKJV)

44 But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.

In context, the Antichrist will be in a STRONG COVENANT relationship with Israel – a 7-year covenant (Dan. 9:27). When the HOLY LAND is attacked by a great coalition led by Gog from the NORTH (Russia), the Antichrist will respond with great fury!

“Ezekiel says this battle will occur ‘in the latter years’ (38:8) and ‘in the last days’ (38:16). This invasion involves a coalition headed by

'Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Mesheck and Tubal' (38:2). Magog has been identified as ancient terminology for the area including modern day Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. Ezekiel further identifies Magog as coming from 'the remote parts of the north' (38:6). Gog will lead the invasion of Israel, and Ezekiel 38:5-6 adds that other nations will join with Gog – Persia (Iran [directly due East]), Ethiopian or Cush (Sudan), Put (Libya), and Gomer and Beth-togarmah (Turkey). Sheba and Dedan in Ezekiel 38:13 refer to Saudi Arabia. All the allies of Magog are reasonably well identified and they are all presently Muslim. Interestingly, such an alignment of nations is already configured on the world scene today, so such an invasion does not seem like a far-fetched possibility.”-**Tim LaHaye and Thomas Ice – in Charting the End Times – pp. 92-93**

I take it this war of Gog and Magog takes place early in the Tribulation Period (the 70th Week of Daniel). Note that according to Ezek. 38-39 God Himself will destroy this alliance. It seems probable that at this critical juncture, Antichrist will then take CREDIT for such a victory and, unchallenged, will have total domination over the world.

The indication is clear that Antichrist at this point goes out with the intention to destroy, but evidently before he gets there, God sovereignly intervenes and destroys Gog and company! However, Antichrist undoubtedly (with his ego) will certainly take credit, claiming he has done it.

“...perhaps claiming that he [antichrist] destroyed the great northern army in the land of Israel, leaving the Beast/Antichrist in full control of the world.”

– **John Whitcomb**

Revelation 13:4 (NKJV)

4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

While not being dogmatic, this seems like a very probable scenario of what is being spelled out. At this point, Antichrist will no longer have to worry about these foes and he will then put down stakes in Israel going so far as to go into the rebuilt temple and declare himself to be GOD (cf. 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13).

Both Joel 2 and Daniel 11 are set within the context of the Day of the Lord. If neither of these speaks of Gog, then where are the prophets that mention Gog in the context of “Last Days” realities outside of Ezekiel 38-39?

And if Joel and Daniel are not speaking of Gog, then there must be multiple attacks on Israel in the Last Days, specifically from the NORTH. Such repetition is not likely!

It is much more likely that both Joel and Daniel are speaking of the same war as found in Ezekiel 38-39 involving a great last days northern army headed up by Gog who is specifically and repeatedly referenced as coming out of the "far north".

Consistency would link all three texts (Ezek. 38-39; Dan. 11:44; and Joel 2:20) with the war of Gog and Magog and place this war within the context of the Day of the Lord.

The "Great Northern Bear" (Russia and company) will ROAR in the last days, but God will silence this BEAR as only He can do! God has spoken as seen in His message to Gog...

Ezekiel 38:17 (NKJV)

17 Thus says the Lord GOD: "Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?"

All is being set up for fulfillment EXACTLY as the prophets have told us!

Live Ready!