

GOG & MAGOG VERSUS THE GOD OF ISRAEL

A. Background to Gog and Magog

- We currently live in the Church Age, in which we are not told to look for signs. The Church Age began suddenly and signlessly, and it will conclude in the same manner (cf. 1 Thess. 4).
- “Last Days” (in regard to the Church Age) is not to be confused with “Last Days” in relationship to Israel. General apostasy characterizes the Last Days of the Church Age, while SPECIFIC events of the Tribulation Period characterize Israel’s Last Days.
- The Bible tells of 2 end-time wars that relate to Israel. Gog and Magog (cf. Ezek. 38-39) will take place early in the Tribulation Period, while Armageddon will happen at the end.
- After the rapture of the Church, God will go about restoring His reputation as the God of Israel, as seen in the destruction of Gog and Magog presented in Ezek. 38-39.

B. Gog and his Coalition

Gog – leader from the “far north” of Israel, corresponding to modern-day Russia (cf. Ezek. 38:15; 39:2)

Magog (cf. Ezek. 38:2) = Central Asia (the “-stan” countries, making up the former Soviet Union)

Meshech (cf. Ezek. 38:2) = Turkey

Tubal (cf. Ezek. 38:2) = Turkey

Persia (cf. Ezek. 38:5) = Iran

Cush (cf. Ezek. 38:5) = Sudan/Ethiopia

Libya (cf. Ezek. 38:5)

Gomer (cf. Ezek. 38:6) = Turkey

Beth-Togarmah (cf. Ezek. 38:6) = Turkey

C. The Motive for Gog’s Invasion of Israel

- To overwhelmingly seek to take plunder and booty (cf. Ezek. 38:10,12-13,15-16)

D. A Possible Scenario of How It Happens

- Ezekiel 38-39 should be understood in combination with Daniel 11:40-44. Syria and Egypt will attack Israel (Antichrist’s covenant partner). Antichrist will respond by coming out of Europe and sweeping through the Middle East, way down into Africa. From there,

he will hear of “trouble” from the east (Iran) and from the north (Russia/Turkey). But before the Antichrist can respond, YHWH will intervene and destroy Gog and Magog.

E. The Timing of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38-39

- The setting in Ezekiel places it after Israel is back in the land in unbelief (cf. Ezek. 37), and prior to the millennial kingdom (cf. Ezek. 40). It happens: 1) when Israel is dwelling safely (cf. Ezek. 38:8, 11, 14); 2) in accordance with what the prophets said (cf. Dan. 11:44, Joel 2:20); and 3) when Israel permanently comes to know YHWH as their God (cf. Ezek. 39:22). These factors show it must transpire **AFTER** Israel’s covenant with Antichrist.
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- **Footnote:** Some reason that (based on the 7-year burning of equipment in Ezek. 39:9) the war of Gog and Magog happens **BEFORE** the Tribulation Period. However, Ezek. 39:22 and other exegetical data argue that it will transpire **WITHIN** the Day of the Lord.

F. God’s Last Days’ Debut!

- Previously, during the Times of the Gentiles, God had providentially preserved Israel while hiding His face from her; but in the matter of Gog, He will now again supernaturally reveal Himself as her covenant-keeping God (cf. Ezek. 39:21, 23-24). This is “God’s Last Days’ Debut”, to the glory of Himself (cf. Ezek. 38:16, 23; 39:7, 21, 27).