



August 18, 2019

“Israel and the End Times - Part Two of Three”

Ezekiel 38

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The Battle of Armageddon is a real war that the Bible predicts will happen in the future. Ezekiel specifically prophesied about the nations that will converge against Israel for this climactic battle, led by a Russian-Iranian alliance. And, although other nations will question why these nations are converging against Israel, no one will step up to help Israel, except the Lord Almighty! Jesus will return to strike down the nations that have waged war against Israel (and the God of Israel), and he will establish his kingdom on earth for 1,000 years, known as the Kingdom Age.

### Historical Background

1. The book of Ezekiel was written about 2,500 years ago (circa mid-6<sup>th</sup> century), and some of Ezekiel’s prophesies have been fulfilled, including the re-establishment of the nation of Israel, which occurred on May 14, 1948.
2. Pastor Gary said, “[In] order to understand the prophetic end-times that Ezekiel [wrote] about, one must first understand the unique role that the nation of Israel has played in history and will play in prophesy. Helpful to us is the fact that... Ezekiel wrote in chronological order.”
3. Ezekiel’s End-Times Prophecies
  - a. Ezekiel 36-37 - The re-establishment of the State of Israel (1948)
  - b. Ezekiel 38-39 - The Battle of Armageddon
  - c. Ezekiel 40-48 - The Kingdom Age (aka, the Millennial Kingdom)

### The Confederation Of Nations

4. The Battle of Armageddon is a real event that will take place at some point in the

future, but we should not be alarmed or worried because Jesus Christ will return and be victorious over his enemies, and he has promised that he will rescue all who believe in him!

- a. **John 14:1-3** - *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”*
5. At some point in the future a confederation of nations will form to come against not only the nation of Israel but the God of Israel.
6. **Ezekiel 38:1-2** - *“Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him...’ ”*
  - a. The most significant “players” will be Russia and Iran.
  - b. Gog is a title, like czar or prince.
  - c. Ancient historians, including Josephus, Pliny, and Herodotus, said that Magog was the land of the Scythians, which was north of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea in what is modern-day Russia.
  - d. Bible scholars believe Meshech is modern-day Moscow.
  - e. Bible scholars believe Tubal is modern-day Tobolsk.
7. **Ezekiel 38:5** - *“Persia, Ethiopia [aka Cush], and Libya [aka Put] are with them...”*
  - a. Iran was called Persia until 1935.
  - b. Iran was an ally of the United States until the Islamic revolution in 1979.
  - c. Pastor Gary said he believes President Trump’s decision to withdraw the United States from the Iran nuclear deal was the right decision, but the President’s decision had an unintended consequence, which was to further ally Russia and Iran.
8. **Ezekiel 38:6** - *“Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops...”*
  - a. Gomer represents what today is eastern Europe, specifically Germany and Poland.
  - b. Togarmah represents what today is Turkey, Armenia, and Georgia.

### The Questioning Nations

9. **Ezekiel 38:13** - *“Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty...’ ”*

- a. Sheba and Dedan represent Saudi Arabia.
- b. The ancient historian Herodotus said that Tarshish was located beyond the Pillars of Hercules, which is what we refer to as the Strait of Gibraltar.
- c. Most Bible scholars believe Tarshish is a reference to England, and “*young lions*” is most likely a reference to British territories/colonies, which may be the only veiled way of speaking about the United States.
- d. Pastor Gary said, “Have you ever wondered, ‘Where does the U.S. fall in biblical prophecy?’ We’re not really mentioned, friends. This may be [referring to “*young lions*”] veiled reference. And [this] might be because some scholars believe that all of these events begin to transpire right around the time of The Rapture. And, so, when... Christians are snatched from the earth, what will be the population of the United States? What will be the military force of the United States? What will be the executive branch, legislative [branch], [and] judicial branch, if, in fact Christians are taken [or] raptured from the earth? We might be rendered... not a world power. ... Perhaps we are not mentioned in biblical prophecy because are not a formidable force at that point.”
- e. Egypt isn’t mentioned, and that may be because Egypt has had a peace treaty with Israel since 1979.
- f. Jordan isn’t mentioned, and that may be because Jordan has had a peace treaty with Israel since 1994.
- g. It may be that Syria isn’t mentioned because they’ve essentially been rendered useless at this point.
  - i. [Isaiah 17:1](#) - “Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap.”

10. Although there will be a number of nations that will question the actions of the confederation of nations, none will come to the aid of Israel; however, the Bible tells us that the Lord will be their defender!

- a. [Psalm 121:4](#) - “Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.”

11. [Ezekiel 38:18-23](#) - “And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel, ‘says the Lord God, ‘that My fury will show in My face. For in My jealousy and in the fire of My **wrath** I have spoken: ‘Surely in that day there shall be a **great earthquake** in the land of Israel, so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The **mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.**’ I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all my mountains,” says the Lord God. ‘Every man’s sword will be against his brother. And I will bring him to judgment with **pestilence and bloodshed**; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, **flooding rain, great hailstones,**

*fire, and brimstone. Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.’ ”*  
(Emphasis added)

12. Pastor Gary indicated that he believes all of the nations, including those from the east, will join in the assault on Israel, including China, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, and all of the nations of the Pacific rim, and that the events of Ezekiel 38 and Revelation 16 are concurrent, versus what some Bible scholars believe to be two separate events.
13. **Revelation 16:16-21** - *“And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, ‘It is done!’ And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a **great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake** as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His **wrath**. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each **hailstone** about the weight of a talent [about 100 lbs.!]. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.”*  
(Emphasis added to show a comparison with Ezekiel 38)

#### The Hope Of The Church

14. **Revelation 19:11-16** - *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”*
15. **Ezekiel 38:23** - *“Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.”*
16. Pastor Gary said, “God’s ultimate purpose throughout the Bible is that people might know him. And sometimes he has to reveal himself in serious ways to get our attention. You might think to yourself, ‘Well, that’s kind of an odd way [for] God to

get to know him by [putting] an end to this war and putting down the nations at the Battle of Armageddon?’ But, listen to me on this, when nations are in full-throttle opposition to God, God has to display his power and might [in a way that is] greater than the opposition against him. ... There’s no reason why you and I should fear the imminent return of the Lord. You and I shouldn’t be afraid of the Battle of Armageddon. Frankly, the way that I see Scripture and the timeline of events unfolding prophetically, I don’t think we will be here... When you look at the timeline of events I think [Christians will be] raptured before the Battle of Armageddon. [We] will be kept safe in heaven, [and] we will be the ones clothed in white [who] return with the Lord in this great battle and we fight on his behalf and for his glory, although he doesn’t need us, because by the power of his breath he will overthrow the enemies that are opposed to him. ... The final deal is this, it’s not about being afraid or worried; it’s about being ready! ... We know the world is getting crazy and it’s going to get crazier still, and crazier still, again! [But], Jesus is going to come, and we are going to be with him for ever and ever. And when he comes, he’s going to establish his kingdom on earth for a thousand years, and then after that, there’s the new heaven and the new earth, and we will be with him forever.

17. **Luke 21:28** - *“Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”*

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)