

## THE FUTURE INVASION OF ISRAEL

*Ezekiel 38 and 39*

*Ezekiel 38:9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou and all thy bands, and many people with thee.*

September 28, 2009, Fox Net News headline, "Iran ups the ante", Iran says it test-fires the longest range missiles in its arsenal, capable of carrying a warhead and striking Israel, U.S. Bases in the mideast, and parts of Europe." September 27, 2009, Picayune Item by Dr. Stanley Watson, syndicated columnist, cites Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's view that "there was no Holocaust," and "Israel must be wiped off the map." He further sets forth Ahmadinejad's view that he has been chosen by Allah to prepare the way for the return of the 12th imam. The Shiites believe the 12th imam called Mahdi, will return and rule a just world in which Islam will be universally embraced. It is easy to conclude from the above quotes that Israel has bitter enemies. Christians know that Jesus Christ will eventually rule upon this earth. Christians also know that there will come a time when the "Man of Sin", the Antichrist, will have great influence upon this earth. Just exactly how our text fits into end time events might very well be debated. But let us be sure of one thing, this particular invasion of Israel has not yet happened but it will surely happen for here God's word says so.

**FIRST The originating force of this invasion** *Ezekiel 38:4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Ezekiel 38:16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.*

Bible believers understand that Israel is back in their ancient land just like God said they would be. But Israel as a nation has yet to accept Jesus Christ the Lord as their great Redeemer and Messiah. They spent many sorrowful years in dispersion among other nations because of their ultimate rejection of Jesus Christ during his first advent over 2,000 years ago. Hear the sad words of Jesus Christ.

*Matthew 23:37-39 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*

Israel will indeed eventually say "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." God will allow great pressure to be brought against them until only he can rescue them. Rescue them he will, and repent they will!

**SECOND The underlying purpose of this invasion-Gods glory** *Ezekiel 38:23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD. Ezekiel 39:7 So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.*

Could anything be more plainly stated? God's powerful intervention will be of such a nature that secular Israel will come to recognize him as their true God and turn to him. The whole world will have the opportunity to see that there really is a God in Heaven and turn to him. But will they? Sad to say that succeeding events demonstrate that that will not be the case but overwhelming evidence will be there and the world will not have an excuse. But there is also the possibility that many will see and believe in God. Surely the Churches will understand and possibly a great revival will break out among the churches and millions of lost souls could be saved. Let us pray that will be the case. We know that we desperately need revival.

**THIRD The coalition of invading nations** *Ezekiel 38:1-6 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.*

Many scholars identify Magog as the nation of Russia. Although there are many believers in Russia, the nation is atheistic in practice and sympathetic toward these other listed nations, even selling them arms. Persia is present day Iran, having changed their name from Persia to Iran in 1935. The other nations listed are aligned with Magog and Persia or are at least sympathetic with them. The coalition is so great in number that they are described as being “like a cloud to cover the land”. They will seem to be a overwhelming force and were it not for God they would be. Their geographical locations place them as completely surrounding the small nation of Israel.

**FOURTH The time marks of this invasion.** There are at least three time indicators. *Ezekiel 38:8 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Ezekiel 38:16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.*

Notice that this invasion takes place in the “latter years” and “in the latter days”. It is clearly stated that the time frame is after the regathering of Israel. “thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people”

*Ezekiel 38:11 And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates.*

It will come at a time that Israel will seem to finally have some rest from their enemies. Coming to grips with the time frame of this invasion is assuredly debatable. But what is not debatable is whether or not this event will happen. It is here clearly set forth in God's word in such a concise manner that leaves no room for doubt. In this writers view, this event is not the same as the final Armageddon conflict. But having said that, I can see where this event might very well set the stage for further events that will eventually lead to the final show down of the world verses God. It might set the world stage

for the “Man of Sin” to emerge. Even in the face of such upheavals brought on by Divine intervention in this Gog invasion, there remains a world system that is against God. This world system is hardhearted in their spiritual darkness and will not give up their rebellion against God. I see several differences between this invasion and the final world rebellion event.

1. In the Armageddon battle, the Antichrist will be the leading personality, *Revelation 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army, setting his armies directly against Jesus Christ.*

*Revelations 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouthed goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

In the Gog battle Gog will be the leader of a named coalition, *Ezekiel 38:1-6, setting themselves against Israel.*

2. In the Armageddon battle the Antichrist desperately tries to prevent the invading Jesus Christ from destroying him and establishing his own rule on this earth. In the Gog battle the invading coalition is trying to gain control of Israel and her land.

3. In the Armageddon battle all nations of the world are involved.

*Zechariah 14:1-4 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

In the Gog battle specific nations are named.

4. In the Armageddon battle Jesus Christ wins and cast the beast and false prophet into a lake of fire and Satan is bound in the bottomless pit for a thousand years.

*Revelation 19:20-21 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. Revelation 20:1-3 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the*

*bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

In the Gog battle God defeats them and they fall upon the mountains of Israel with Israel spending much time cleaning up the ravages of this defeat. Ezekiel 39:1-12

In addition to the above mentioned considerations, close attention should be given to the fact of the non mention of the Antichrist in these two chapters of Ezekiel. Daniels dealings with the end times clearly includes the Antichrist which puts Daniel and Armageddon in line with each other. Some writers place Ezekiel 38 and 39 in line with Revelation 4:3-4. But clearly the Antichrist is in place in Revelation 6:3-4 and Gog does not seem to be the Antichrist. Finally, in trying to mark the time frame of this invasion, let us remember well the words of our Lord:

*Matthew 24:3-8 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

Let it be clearly understood that Jesus was speaking of end times and the verses here quoted set forth awful times ahead. Let it further be clearly seen the these times come before the great events of Daniel as set forth in Matthew 24:15-31 for in verse 6 above quoted Jesus said “but the end is not yet”. Ezekiel 38 and 39 might very well fall into verses 6 and 7 of Matthew 24:3-8 above quoted.

**FIFTH The intent of the invading nations** *Ezekiel 38:12 To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.*

The intent is to take direct control of Israel and her resources and neutralize her power in the mideast.

**SIXTH The devastating defeat of the invaders** *Ezekiel 38:18-23 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall down, and every wall shall fall to the ground. And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every mans sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood: and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD*

(1) There will be a great shaking and mountains falling This suggests earthquakes. (2) There will be confusion, verse 21 suggest that they will harm each other. (3) There will be destructive weather

conditions, verse 22. (4) There will be great loss of lives, *Ezekiel 39:2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:*

The threatening language of the mideast suggest that this great war might very well come soon. This means that the return of Jesus Christ is near. If your are not saved, turn to Jesus Christ now and ask him to save you.