

## **Prophetic update Middle East peace and Ezekiel 38 war, 1 of 3- 20201003**

Hi all,

In the midst of the world pandemic and US election news something has been taking place that lays the prophetic foundation for a world-changing war.

### **First the news**

With barely a notice in the news over several months President Trump has quietly brought Arab nations, former enemies of Israel, into an alliance between themselves and with Israel, even the start of diplomatic ties between nations.

First was news in November 2017 the administration had brokered a military alliance between Gulf states, motivated by the aggression of Iran. The nations in this alliance include Saudi Arabia, Oman, and UAE. The agreement included a provision to allow commercial flights between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Then came treaties with Egypt. Then Jordan. In the recent news has been United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain formally recognizing Israel's right to exist, joining a mutual defense agreement, and the normalization of diplomatic relations with Israel.

A few weeks earlier Serbia and Kosovo (predominantly Muslim nation) signed a peace accord that included the provision Kosovo formally recognizes Israel as a nation and Serbia moving its embassy to Jerusalem. Iran and Turkey heavily criticized the agreements...

The motivation of these Gulf nations to join together militarily and recognize Israel's right to exist is because of the threat of Iran, Turkey, and Russia in the region. But it also fulfills prophecy.

### **What does this have to do with the prophetic?**

The news of these agreements lines up perfectly with the classic view of the Ezekiel 38 war, specifically the belief that it prophesies Israel will have Arab and western allies in a war against an invasion force that includes Russia, Iran, Turkey, and other nations. Let me set the stage.

### **The classic view**

In chapters 36 and 37 Ezekiel prophesies of a time when the nation of Israel will be reborn and prosper in the land. At the time he saw the vision the nation was in captivity in Babylon in the 500's BC. His was the time of Daniel and the lion's den, and the "three Hebrew children" and the fiery furnace. Ezekiel too had been taken captive and lived in Babylon.

It was there he saw the visions revealing Israel in the last days that became our Ezekiel chapters 36 through 39. There in Babylon he sees visions in chapters 36 and 37 telling of Israel again as a sovereign nation dwelling in their land, though threatened on all sides.

He then sees chapters 38 and 39 which detail a war of several nations allied against Israel, with Israel and her allies defeating the aggressors.

That war is not Armageddon and we know this for several reasons. The first is that Israel has allies who along with Israel, defeat the invading armies. At Armageddon they are alone, requiring the return of Jesus to save the nation. Also, The Revelation says Armageddon's armies will consists of a 200 million man army of 'kings from the east' that will march across Southern Asia to invade Israel by crossing the Tigris and Euphrates, while Ezekiel 38 describes the army coming directly from the north through Syria.

It also states Israel will require 7 months to bury the dead from the invading armies, and be left with a 7 year supply from the spoils of the war. That is not a description of the end of the age.

The classic understanding of Ezekiel 38 is of an Arab alliance with Israel and the west who will stand with Israel against the invading forces. It is that alliance of Gulf nations that fulfills prophecy. But there is more, much more...

### **On the one side we have these nations gathered...**

And that is where we will pick it up next week...until then, blessings,

John Fenn

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## **Prophetic update to Ezekiel 38 war, 2 of 3 - 20201010**

Hi all,

We left off last week detailing the recent news of a series of economic and military agreements between several Arab nations and Israel which fulfill prophecy. Here is some detail of Ezekiel's prophecy.

### **Gog in (of) the land of Magog**

Ezekiel 38 opens with God saying He is against Gog, ruler of the land of Magog. The classic understanding of the land of Magog is the area north of Turkey, modern Russia and Central Asia, former USSR nations.

It should be noted that God does not say He is against the people of Magog (Russia), but just against the ruler of Magog, whom He calls 'Gog'. Magog was originally Noah's grandson through Japheth. The name means 'rooftop', alluding to Magog moving north after the flood to the area now known as Russia.

In verses 4-7, speaking to that ruler, God says He will 'put hooks into your jaws, you and your army' and they will be drawn into the Middle East. This indicates Russia will be drawn into a Middle Eastern conflict but not wanting to do so, at least not at the first. Thus the hook.

Prophetically speaking, Christians and Jews have been looking to see what the 'hook' is that first draws them into the Middle East. If we look at current headlines, it would be their involvement with Syria and Turkey. Verses 10-12 tells us Gog, the ruler of Russia, while in the Middle East with all those forces, has an evil thought: Take Israel.

In fact the verses specifically state at that time Israel will be at peace within their borders. I have long suggested for this to happen there must be a local or regional alliance to give Israel peace locally, while on a larger level Gog and his allies plan their demise - and these peace accords would seem to play a part in that local peace.

Ezekiel 38: 7 tells Russia to 'be a guard to them', meaning the nations which are named. Those nations include Togarmah, which is ancient Turkey. Persia, which is ancient Iran. Some of ancient Persia included modern Iraq, so there could be possible development between those 2 nations.

Also Libya which is the same today, and 'Ethiopia', which in Ezekiel's time was largely northern Sudan, now a Muslim nation. It also mentions 'Gomer', which are the people north of the Black Sea, in southern Russia in our day.

Ezekiel 38 speaks of an alliance between these nations with Russia as the 'guard' uniting them, and that they will be drawn into a Middle East by a hook, and then once there, have an evil thought to invade Israel.

### **On the other side we have this alliance...**

When the alliance gathers its forces and comes 'as a cloud to cover the land' (Air assault?), verse 13 says these nations will take exception to the attack:

"Sheba and Dedan, and the Merchants of Tarshish, and all the young lions thereof, will say to you (Gog):  
"Do you think you can come and take a spoil? Have you gathered your army to make them a prey? Do you think you will carry away a spoil of silver and gold and cattle and goods in a great spoil?"

The classic understanding of these nations is that there would be an alliance between Sheba and Dedan, which is understood to include the modern areas of Saudi Arabia and the (moderate) Persian Gulf nations.

Tarshish is Spain, so the merchants of Tarshish would be those nations settled by the merchants of Spain - which is the Americas. The phrase 'and all the young lions thereof' in classic understanding, is Great Britain and their symbol of the lion. Therefore the nations which are 'offspring' in the blood line of Britain.

Understand the 2 points made by Ezekiel: Besides the Arab alliance, the other nations which support Israel were founded for economic motives from Spain, and blood line from Britain. That is why the US has always long been believed to lead the alliance with Israel against the invading forces.

Prophecy watchers have been waiting for an Arab alliance that would side with the west and Israel when this war comes to pass. That is what these agreements in the news mean that have taken place since November 2017 through his summer of 2020.

### **How the war starts - what to look for in the headlines**

Where is the US, what causes Gog to think he can take Israel, what the war will look like and how it ends. That's for next week, until then,

Blessings,

John Fenn

[www.cwowi.org](http://www.cwowi.org)

### **Prophetic update to Ezekiel 38 war, 3 of 3 -20201017**

Hi all,

The big question prophecy watchers who have believed the 'traditional view' I'm outlining in this series have wondered for years is: Why would the Russian alliance think they can invade Israel successfully? Let's look at the circumstances the scripture describes.

In Ezekiel 38:9 it says the gathering forces will come 'as a cloud to cover the land' to the 'mountains of Israel', indicating both ground and air assaults being prepared. The phrase 'mountains of Israel' in terms of geography, refer to the range of ancient mountains that run from Africa then northward through Israel into Syria. The prophecy therefore indicates starting in Syria they will come from the north along and through the mountains into Israel.

Perhaps the invading forces will enter Syria to end that conflict once and for all, and being in Syria with all those forces, they will think they can easily take Israel in an overwhelming attack. God says this about the day they come as a cloud to cover the land in v10-12: "This is what the Sovereign Lord says, in that day an evil thought will come into your mind, for you will say, "I will attack the land of unwallled villages, I will attack an unsuspecting and peaceful people..."

It would seem the idea to take Israel is a spur-of-the-moment decision, not something planned far in advance. That point trips up many prophecy watchers who are looking for a well planned build up. These verses suggest this is an instant decision after finding little resistance in Syria, without much planning. That means when they are in Syria they see Israel and its allies in a more relaxed condition, certainly without a massive build up of forces like was seen in Kuwait before the US invaded Iraq. This scripture states that when they are in Syria with such force, they think why not go ahead and take Israel since there are no great armies arrayed against them?

### **The political climate**

Ezekiel 38:13 says the allied Arab nations and the nations descended from the merchants of Spain and Great Britain, will ask, 'What do you think you are doing? Do you think you can come and take a spoil?'

That statement is political, which is evidently the extent the attacking alliance thinks will happen in terms of resistance, or at worst they think the west will let the Arab alliance fight against them, which they think can easily be defeated by their overwhelming numbers and force.

Consider from their point of view the west's response to the invasion of Ukraine as an example of a merely political and economic resistance. That is a pattern with the west - punish individuals in a regime economically, and not much else on a national basis.

Additionally, with the US pulling out of Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and turning more of the defense of the Middle East over to the Arab alliances, plus reducing troops in NATO, perhaps they think the west doesn't have the stomach for yet another conflict in the region. In their thinking, it will be over and done with before anyone can react militarily, even if they had the will to do so. It is a fatal miscalculation.

### **God turns nature against them as in the days of old**

In verses 19-23 God says He will fight against them by causing a great earthquake to happen where they are, and an overflowing rain with 'great hailstones' at that same time. The rain and hail will blunt an air attack, and the earthquake ground attack. The end of v20 also says 'every man's sword will be against his brother', indicating the invading forces from so many nations will have confused communication and fight each other, in a total military disaster. Earthquake, rain, hail, confusion.

### **But wait, there's more...**

Verse 21 says: "I will call for a sword against him of all my mountains..." In prophetic literature a mountain represents a nation. Consider Daniel saw the toes of the statue of Nebuchadnezzar crushed by a mountain falling from the sky (heavenly origin) and growing to be a mountain that covered the world (kingdom of God). (Daniel 2:34-45, 44-45). In The Revelation 17:8-10 the harlot sits on 7 mountains, which we are told in the next verse are 7 kings, and so on...

When God says He is calling for a sword against him 'of all my mountains' it indicates other nations who are on 'God's side', Israel's side, in this war. This is followed by 'every man's sword will be against his brother', taking on a larger meaning that nation will be against nation in this multi-nation but very brief, war.

God says He will send 'fire and brimstone' on the land of Magog and 'on the coasts/region'. Probably the homelands of the attacking armies, and perhaps nations of the Black and Caspian Seas, Syria, Turkey, and so on.

Prophecy watchers have wondered if this will be a limited and one sided nuclear war due to the use of 'fire and brimstone'. Israel has long been assumed to possess nuclear weapons and there is no doubt they would use them should their existence be threatened. Or is Ezekiel seeing a conventional war and merely trying to use words from his day to describe modern bombs and firepower, which to him are fire and brimstone? We don't know.

The fact that neither Israel nor the battlefield is left radioactive would suggest if some of Israel's response is nuclear, it is directed to the homeland of Magog and surrounding areas, and not in the immediate region of the Mid-East.

### **The results of the war**

Much of chapter 39 is filled with descriptions of the aftermath of the war. It says Israel will have a 7 year supply gathered from the spoils, and it will take 7 months to bury the dead. In a prophetic word about modern forensic science, it says in v13-19 Israel will hire people to walk around putting flags by body parts so they may be gathered and buried. It also says birds will come and pick the bones of the bodies - what a gruesome scene!

### **Now I'll share something I rarely share**

Back in about 1995 when I first began teaching Old Testament Survey at a Bible school in Tulsa, it came time to cover this portion of Ezekiel. In all the visitations with Jesus I'd had from that first one in April of 1986 until then, the Lord had never said anything about this war. But as I always do, I was asking the Father to teach me for clarification of a time-line because I knew among the students would be many perspectives on end times, and I wanted to be accurate and correct in what I was teaching. If my 'classic view' was wrong I wanted the Father to tell me.

To my utter astonishment the Father immediately responded: "This war ends the Arab-Israeli conflict, for who is left in the region to stand against Israel? No one. This war paves the way for the kings of the east to later march across the belly of Asia for the last battle, for they would not have done so before\*. Consider these things. The world will be in shock at what takes place, and in awe of what I have done. The economic impact will be felt world-wide. A leader will quickly arise out of Europe who will sue for peace (with Israel) and make a 7 year peace treaty between them and Israel. Provisions of that treaty will include economic interests, but also a provision allowing them to build their temple. It is in that temple some 3 1/2 years later Israel is betrayed."

\*Consider that the military forces of Russia, Turkey, Iran, Libya, are destroyed in this war. With Russia in no condition to resist, some 7+ years later the 'kings of the east' with a 200 million army will freely travel across Southern Asia, cross the Tigris and Euphrates which have been dried up, and into Israel to face the returning Lord. He also said there would be treaties with neighboring Arab nations following the Ezekiel war as well.

That was all He said at the time, and He has not added to it since, though I have obeyed and considered these things and studied them, and try to keep up with regional news. Ezekiel chapters 36 and 37 detail Israel becoming a sovereign nation again, and chapters 38 and 39 deal with the war that happens when they have become that nation. Then chapter 40-47 is about the Millennial temple and Israel; how the water will flow from the temple down into the Dead Sea with such volume it becomes a fresh water lake. It even

states only the marshy areas will be left briny. It tells us fisherman will cast nets and fruit trees will grow along the banks of the river and now alive Sea.

But because the rapture and return of the Lord are mysteries, it was not shown Ezekiel nor anyone else to date when these events will happen. Because I believe in the Rosh Hashanah prophesied 'rapture', which says after that event the earth enters into a 7 year time of 'Jacob's Trouble' and 'Days of Awe' also called 'Days of Wrath', I plan to be watching from above. I believe this war may be at the start of those days - though I don't think anyone of us knows for sure the timing of all these things.

To me in my classic understanding, the war of Ezekiel 38 is something the world in our day is building towards, as seen in the various treaties between Israel and Arab/Muslim nations. But when will the Last Trumpet at Rosh Hashanah be blown to cause the dead in Messiah to rise and those alive to be changed? I don't know where it fits. I know where I'd like it to fit in, lol, but I don't know.

I hope this series gets you thinking....and praying....and watching....and wondering...we walk by faith not by sight...new subject next week, until then, blessings,

John Fenn

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