

GOG AND MAGOG

The prophet Ezekiel predicted 2,600 years ago that in the latter times Israel would be furiously invaded by a people “out of the far north” (*Ezek. 38:6, 15*). In *Ezekiel 38:2-3; 39:1*, the Hebrew word *rosh*, which simply means head, top, summit, or chief, is used to identify these people from the north. The interpretive problem is that the word *rosh* can be translated as either a proper noun or an adjective. Many translations use *rosh* as an adjective and translate it as the word “chief”. I believe the better translation is to interpret *rosh* as a proper noun referring to a specific place — Russia.

The fulfillment of God’s most amazing prophecies concerning Russia seems more imminent than ever before. *As we track this nation in the prophecies of the End Times, we discover that her footprints lead right to the land of Israel. In tracking the events that lead to this invasion, we must consider the appearance, the allies, the activity, the annihilation, and the aftermath.*

A madman called Gog by Ezekiel will be the end-time leader of Russia (*38:2*). A host of allies will join this leader when he invades the land of Israel (*Ezek. 38:9*). Eight other geographical locations are mentioned in *Ezekiel 38:1-6*: Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, and Togarmah (Turkey); Magog (Central Asia: Islamic southern republics of the former Soviet Union); Persia (Iran & Iraq); Ethiopia or Cush (Sudan); and Libya.

Ezekiel says that these nations, led by “Gog,” will come against Israel “in the latter years,” at a time when the people of Israel are living in peace and prosperity (38:8-12). This probably describes the first half of the Tribulation, when Israel will be living under her peace treaty with the Antichrist. Near the middle of the Tribulation, Russia and her Islamic allies will descend upon the nation of Israel “like a storm, covering the land like a cloud” (38:9).

These nations will invade Israel:

1. To cash in on the wealth of Israel (*Ezek. 38:11-12*),
2. To control the Middle East,
3. To crush Israel (the Islamic nations mentioned in Scripture **hate** Israel), and
4. To challenge the authority of Antichrist. (*Dan. 11:40-44*).

Israel will be under her peace treaty with Antichrist, so an attack against Israel is a direct challenge to Antichrist’s power. After God has destroyed the armies of *Ezekiel 38*, Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel and invade her himself (*Dan. 11:41-44*).

When Gog assembles this strike force, it will look like Israel is finished. But God will be in full control of the entire situation. He will come to rescue His helpless people and will use four judgments to destroy the nations:

1. A great earthquake (*38:19-20*)
2. Infighting among the troops of the various nations (*38:21*)
3. Disease (*38:22*) and
4. Flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur (*38:22*).

The four key events that occur in the aftermath of this invasion are:

1. The call for the birds and the beasts to feast on the dead (*Ezek. 39:4-5, 17-20, [cf Rev. 19:17-18]*)
2. The burying of the dead (*7 months, Ezek. 39:11-12, 14-16*)
3. The burning of the weapons (*7 years, Ezek. 39:9-10*)
4. And the blessing of salvation (*Ezek. 38:16, 23; 39:6-7, 21-22*).

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