

Now we come to the 2nd half of this great section of Prophecy in Ezekiel 36-39. In chapter 36, God spoke directly to the land that He would, in the Last Days, begin to restore the land itself. We read what Mark Twain had written when he visited 'Palestine' in 1867: "The further we went the hotter the sun got, and the more rocky and bare, repulsive and dreary the landscape became...There was hardly a tree or a shrub anywhere. Even the olive and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country"...

"Palestine is desolate and unlovely. And why should it be otherwise? Can the curse of the Deity beautify a land?" Soon after that time, Jews began to come back into the Land of Israel and to cultivate it.

Then, in chapter 37, God spoke to the Valley of Dry Bones which represented the Jews, cast away from their land for nearly 19 centuries. God promised He would restore the people and bring them back into their own land, Israel.

Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Isa 66:8

Yes, the Earth brought forth in one day, a nation was reborn on May 14, 1948... the beginning of the very last days: the Last Days began with Jesus Christ; *God... Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son... Heb 1:1*

The biggest story in the World, right now, is the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Many thousands of Russian soldiers as well as countless tanks, troop carriers and missile launchers have been on the move traveling deep into Ukraine. We've seen convoys of the Russian war machine streaming into Ukraine stretching 20 to 30 miles long. The Ukrainians are putting up brave resistance but barring some miracle, Ukraine will surely fall.

People ask if this is in fulfillment of Prophecy... absolutely this is part of prophecy being fulfilled as we watch... we are that Last Generation Jesus spoke of in His 'Prophecy of the Fig Tree' in Matthew 24. We are that final generation which He said would not pass away until all things are fulfilled including the Rapture, the Ezekiel 38 war, the rise of Antichrist, the Tribulation, the Mark of the Beast, Armageddon War and Jesus' return to set up His Millennial Kingdom. We are that generation and we are watching prophecy unfold before our very eyes.

Russia moving into Ukraine is important, prophetically, in that Gomer is mentioned, in the next chapter, 39, as being one of the confederates of Gog of Magog (Russia) as they move toward their planned invasion of Israel. Gomer is the first son of Japheth, Noah's son, and Gomer's family migrated first, to the North of the Black Sea which is... present day Ukraine; but we will get to all of that, next week.

Now, in chapter 38, God prophesies what we see beginning to take shape, even today:

Ezekiel 38: And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ² Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, ³ and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal;

In order to understand what God is saying, we must determine to whom and of whom He is speaking. Gog is the leader of the people and place called Magog. The first-century A.D. Jewish historian Josephus connected the nation of Magog to the story of Alexander the Great, building a great wall to hold back Magog. The Great Wall of China has been known as the Ramparts of Magog. Josephus gives Magog, grandson of Noah, as being the ancestor of the Scythians, a cruel, nomadic and equestrian (horse) culture from the Eurasian steppes. They eventually settled in the far North... Russia.

In Genesis 10, we see many of the names we find in this prophecy: *The sons of Japheth: Gomer, and Magog, ... Tubal, and Meshech... ³ And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz... and Togarmah. ⁴ And the sons of Javan... Tarshish... And the sons of Ham; Cush... Phut, and Canaan. ⁷ ... and the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan.*

We won't take time to trace all of these through their migrations until they've become the modern nations we recognize but there is only one nation in the far north, directly above Israel: Russia.

When God gives directions: North, South, East and West, it is always in relation to His Land and people: Israel. *Thus saith the Lord GOD; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her. Ezek 5:5*

Magog, of the far North, is widely understood to be modern Russia. Tubal and Meshech, over time, came to be known as Tobolsk and Moscow, two major cities of modern Russia. God continues, to Gog: ⁴ *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...*

God is going to force Gog and Magog to come down, as if He will have put spiritual hooks in Gog's jaws... pulling him... even forcing him into accomplishing God's will for these End Times. He continues... ⁵ *Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: ⁶ Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee. ⁷ Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.*

When Gog (very possibly Vladimir Putin) leads Magog, Russia, Moscow and Tobolsk to go South, he will be joined by several other nations as well: Persia is the ancient name for modern day Iran. Ethiopia represents Western Africa with Sudan and Somalia; Libya represents North Africa, possibly including modern Algeria and Egypt.

Gomer, the first son of Japheth, originally migrated from Mt. Ararat, in Turkey, to north of the Black Sea which is modern Ukraine. From there, Gomer traveled further north up into Southeastern Europe and finally to the area of Germany. Our soldiers referred to German soldiers as *Gomer*. All the World migrated from Turkey. Armenians from Northeastern Turkey, through which Russia will travel south, have always maintained they are the *House of Togarmah*.

God will pull Russia down; they'll be joined by Ukraine, Turkey, North and West African nations, Iran and others into the mountains of Israel. Russia will be the leader; all these nations will be looking to and assuming that Russia is the guard and protector of them all; how sadly and foolishly mistaken they will all turn out to have been when they are destroyed by Almighty God, Himself.

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, (Israel) against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely **all of them**.*

Gog will invade God's land and His people who have been gathered out of the nations and are living safely in their own land. In these Last Days, Gog (Putin?) will be visited, perhaps by an angel who will suggest to him that this invasion is a good plan, something important that he really should do. Imagine: Vladimir Putin is sleeping when suddenly he is awakened by a very bright light, maybe even with the sound of a trumpet! Lucifer, disguised as an angel of light, stands before him and claims to be God. He tells Putin that he has been chosen to be God's instrument in finally destroying that wicked Israel for the sin of crucifying his son. He commands him, 'Go! I will protect you and all those under your command; You will be victorious and all the World will fall at your feet!' I'll bet Putin will even decide to lead them all, from the front, riding on a white stallion. After he does and is killed, by God... what a terrible surprise when he awakens to find himself in Sheol, the Place of the Dead: a hot, dreary place where he will remain for the next 1007 years until the Great White Throne Judgment after which he'll be cast into the Lake of Fire.

Israel is, in fact, living safely in her land. Every nation around Israel knows to never go too far in their hatred of Israel; Israel maintains a national security directive in which if threatened with annihilation, she will unleash their '*Samson Option*;' any overwhelming attack will be met with a devastating response of nuclear weapons and Israel has never been coy about their national motto: 'Never Again!' Never again will they allow themselves to be at any nation's mercy or under their power as happened with the Nazis. Israel is safe in her land, she thinks...

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. ¹⁰ Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: 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, 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.

This will be a completely overwhelming invasion against which Israel will be unable to stand, even with her nuclear arsenal. Russia has many nuclear weapons and Iran undoubtedly has a few, at least. However, it seems unlikely that Russia would resort to nuclear warfare because the text makes clear that the objective is to take over the land of Israel and its resources, especially their vast natural gas fields in the Mediterranean.

¹³ Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? Hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? To carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

There are many nations joining the invasion of Israel, thinking she will be easy prey. But here, we have a few nations listed, to their shame, who do not join the attack yet neither do they aid Israel against the attack. Sheba and Dedan are some of the ancient areas in present day Saudi Arabia. Tarshish, on the other hand, is not so easily discerned. Not much is known for sure. The three most often cited are, a port city of the Phoenicians within the Mediterranean, a port city in southeastern Spain just outside of the Mediterranean and a port area of ancient Great Britain.

All three of these, Sheba, Dedan and Tarshish will be content to sit back and watch while Israel is invaded; instead of joining one side or the other, they will simply stand far off and ask, of Gog, 'Have you come down to take a prey, to carry off silver and gold, cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? Cowards, one and all.

One of the reasons that many Bible Prophecy teachers believe that Tarshish refers to Great Britain is in its being referred to as: *Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof*. The symbol of Great Britain has always been the Lion while the British Colonies are the young lions, the nations that sprang out of Britain, especially Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.

¹⁴ Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? ¹⁵ And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

Israel is safe within her borders; Russia, Iran, Turkey and many others will see her as easy prey for their vast, combined military might. They will brutally attack! The one thing they will have failed to realize is that God has promised to protect and to fight for His own.

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.

God's first purpose in this, as always, is that He and His Great Name be glorified. He is saying that Gog and all his hordes will bring glory to God.

¹⁷ Thus saith the Lord God; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them? ¹⁸ 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. God is jealous and zealous for His wife;

*"Return, O backsliding children," says the LORD; "for I am married to you. I will take you, **one from a city and two from a family**, (a remnant of people) and I will bring you to Zion." Jer 3:14*

'When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,' says the Lord GOD. Ezekiel 16:8

This, it seems, will be the beginning of God's fury and wrath against the nations of the World which have spurned His offer of forgiveness, which have rejected His Son and which have sought Israel's destruction.

First, God will cause a great earthquake

¹⁹ 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; ²⁰ 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, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

²¹ And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

In the confusion caused by this very strong earthquake, God will destroy these armies by doing what He did previously in 1 Sam 14 when God caused the Philistines to, in utter confusion, turn their swords on each other.

²² 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.

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.

In the great confusion of the earthquake, God will finish His slaughter with heavy rainfall, huge hailstones and fire and brimstone.

Brimstone is another name for the element, sulfur which, when ignited becomes a thick, burning gooey liquid.

Here is, I believe, the source of God's fire and brimstone. When God created the Heavens and the Earth, I believe that He created a group of meteors rich in sulfur and phosphorus. I believe He set them into a very long but specific orbit and He planned to finally bring them into the Earth's atmosphere at exactly this time and aimed to exactly strike this place. As the meteors enter Earth's atmosphere, they will explode from the heat caused by friction and rain down upon all these invaders.

Of course, God could simply create the fire and brimstone at that time, but I think it will definitely generate far more glory to Himself when men and angels come to recognize that He is truly the God of all time and space, however huge or microscopic.

"So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. **Surely it is coming, and it shall be done!**" says the Lord God. This is the day of which I have spoken." Ezekiel 38:7-8

A recruiting poster from WW1:



The Nations of Ezekiel 38-39:

