

Maps by Ron Grove

# SOUTH ASIA IN PROPHECY

*Bible prophecy reveals the startling future of the nations and peoples on the outer rim of Asia!*

by Keith W. Stump

**W**E CAN KNOW! More than one third of the Bible is prophecy—most of it for *our day!*

Puzzled geopolitical analysts wonder what will happen next in the volatile South Asia region. They simply do not know what ultimately will become of Iran, of Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and adjoining nations. But you can know!

### Momentous Turn of Events

As 1980 began, international attention was riveted on South Asia. That vast region—stretching from the Persian Gulf to the South China Sea—is in a precarious state of ferment and unrest.

Yet how many know that the future of the peoples of the vast South Asia region was recorded millennia ago in the pages of the Bible? The stage is now set for the unfolding of an astounding sequence of Bible prophecies.

Turn, first, to the book of Revelation. Here is revealed a great end-time politi-

cal ruler referred to as the “beast” (Revelation 17). The beast will be a superdictator over a coming European confederation of 10 nations—a rebirth of the Roman Empire.

Daniel says that this European conqueror will become troubled by “tidings out of the east and the north” (11:44). There can be little doubt about the source of the beast’s trouble. East and north of Palestine are Russia, China and other nations of the vast Asian continent.

The clear implication of this verse is that a great Eurasian alliance will ultimately arise at or near the end of the Great Tribulation (mentioned by Daniel in chapter 12 and in Matthew 24:21) and will totally destroy the power of the restored Roman Empire. Much of Asia will eventually be marshaled into a great end-time, Communist-dominated confederacy—encompassing nearly one half of the earth’s population!

These Asian armies are also described in the book of Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39.

### Misunderstood Prophecy

Some Bible scholars assert falsely that these prophecies of Ezekiel were fulfilled anciently. They never were. Others believe they are about to occur—but some years *before* Armageddon. Both views are erroneous.

The events of Ezekiel 38 and 39 are without question still future—for the “latter days” (38:16) and “latter years” (38:8). Moreover, Ezekiel 38:14 describes the time setting as being “in that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely.” This is certainly not the situation in the State of Israel today! The Israel described by Ezekiel is a nation that dwells in security, in *unwalled villages*, totally unprepared for war (38:8, 11, 14). Read it for yourself! These circumstances will be extant only after the coming of the Messiah.

### Table of Nations

The composition of the army that will come against restored twelve tribes of Israel is clearly defined:



**SOUTH ASIA** is today caught in the grip of growing political and military turmoil. Shifting alliances in the strategic region are moving South Asia into its prophesied end-time configuration.

The account begins in Ezekiel 38:1-2: "And the word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, of Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him" (*Amplified Bible*).

Here is a great power that will challenge the very rule of Christ! (This account must be distinguished from the post-millennial events of Revelation 20:7-8, where the phrase "Gog and Magog" is used symbolically for the forces of evil, rather than in a racial sense.)

Ezekiel also reveals that joined with Magog, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal in this confederacy will be Persia, Cush, Phut (incorrectly rendered "Libya" in the King James Version), Gomer and Togarmah (see verses 5-6).

Who are these peoples today? And what do these prophecies have to do with the future of South Asia?

With the exception of Persia, the names mentioned by Ezekiel are

nowhere to be found as names of nations on world maps today. The names of the majority of the world's modern nations are of fairly recent origin. Nations and peoples have undergone sometimes dozens of name changes over the centuries and millennia of history.

In the Bible, nations are named after their ancestors. Nations are families grown big. The whole human family of today, according to the Bible, springs from Shem, Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah (Genesis 10:32). The "Table of Nations" of Genesis 10 is an account of the origins of today's nations and races.

Through migrations, these diverse peoples overspread the entire earth. You can read the story in Genesis 11. In many cases we can accurately trace their travels from the starting point of Babel (in what today is modern Iraq) through the pages of history to their present locations.

Especially helpful in such research are the accounts of the classical histo-

rians and geographers (such as Herodotus); Persian, Tatar and Arabic histories (such as *Meadows of Gold* by al-Masudi, the Herodotus of the Arabs); the works of early Jewish historians (such as Josephus); and Chinese and other Asian traditions.

Modern scholars generally give little credence to the Table of Nations or to many of these early histories and traditions. Consequently they are ignorant of the true identities of many of the world's peoples today.

Let us look again at the names mentioned by Ezekiel. Where are these peoples found today?

#### **Gog of the Land of Magog**

Ruling over all these allied peoples is Gog. Gog (meaning *mountain* or *high*) is described as a great prince, the political/military head of the vast region in question. Ezekiel pictures Gog as a guard and commander over the assembled peoples (38:7). Along with the beast, the miracle-working false prophet, and the "king

of the south” (the coming leader of an Arab-Moslem confederacy), Gog is one of the four major end-time personalities specifically mentioned in the Bible.

Gog is also a people, apparently a tribal subdivision of Magog. The original Gog was probably a son or grandson of Magog.

Ezekiel describes the end-time Gog as being of the land of Magog. How, then, do we identify Magog today? The Table of Nations lists Magog as the second son of Japheth, son of Noah.

Japheth’s descendants are primarily Eurasian peoples. They include the East Slavs—Great Russians, Little Russians, White Russians—and also the Mongoloid peoples of Asia outside of the Near East and the subcontinent of India.

Japheth’s son Magog gradually become divided into two main branches. The western, Caucasian-looking branch is identified by the first-century Jewish historian Josephus and others as among the nomadic Scythian tribes north of the Black Sea in what today is the Soviet Union.

But there was also an eastern or Mongoloid branch of the Scythians that anciently inhabited the plains stretching all the way to north China. The Venetian traveler Marco Polo, who visited the Mongol realms in the 13th century, identified Magog as being part of the Munguls or Mongols. Other histories identify Magog with the Mandarin-speaking northern Chinese. (The southern Chinese, incidentally, are an Asian branch of Javan, another of Japheth’s sons.)

Which branch of Magog is intended in the prophecy of Ezekiel? The Magog of Ezekiel 38 and 39 is pictured as a people of a northern locality—i.e., the vast lands of the Soviet Union. Ezekiel describes Gog as coming “from the north parts” (39:2). The Soviet Union is far to the north of Palestine.

Moreover, Gog is described as the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal peoples clearly *Russian* by descent.

#### Russians—Great and White

The Hebrew word *Rosh* is translated “chief” in Ezekiel 38:2-3 in the King

James Version. In Hebrew, the word for chief is *Rosh*. But in Ezekiel’s prophecy the original Hebrew intends Rosh as a proper name.

Rosh is the ancient Hebrew name for the Russ who settled in the plains of Eastern Europe in the ninth century, A.D. They gave their name to the Russian nation. The people of Rosh are among the *White Russians* of Byelorussia today.

Living next to the people of Rosh are Meshech and Tubal. Both Meshech and Tubal are sons of Japheth (Genesis 10:2) and thus brothers of Magog. To Herodotus and other classical geographers and historians they were known as the *Moskhi* or *Moschi* and the *Tibareni*, occupying the region of the Caucasus between the Black and Caspian Seas. In Assyrian inscriptions they are the *Muska* and *Tubla*. Josephus calls them the *Moschevi* and *Thobelites*.

The descendants of Meshech (Moskhi) ultimately traveled into the lands north of the Black Sea, settling around *Moscow*. They gave their name to that city, as well as to the *Moskva* River and the state of *Muscovy*.

Part of Tubal also moved north, giving their name to the river *Tobol* and founding the Siberian city of *Tobolsk*. (Mongoloid branches of Tubal are found in Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, the Indian state of Nagaland, Sinkiang or Chinese Turkestan, and parts of northern China and Manchuria, according to Arabic sources.)

Together, the Caucasian branches of Meshech and Tubal form the two distinctive branches of the Great Russians of today. The Great Russians are the largest ethnic group of the Soviet Union.

#### Future Russo/China Alliance?

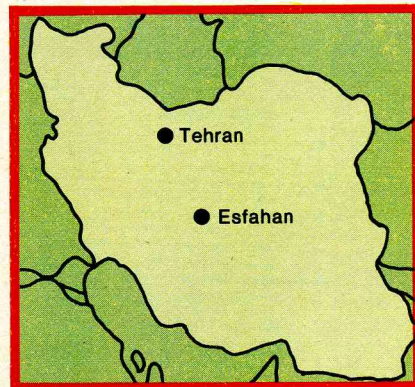
Ultimately allied with the Russians under Gog will be “many people” (38:6, 9, 15). These could hardly exclude the militarily weaker Chinese and their Asiatic kinsmen—those eastern Magogites who “dwell securely in the coastlands” of the Pacific (39:6, *Amplified Bible*).

The People’s Republic of China—the “many people” of Ezekiel 38—is thus pictured as being linked with

Gog in the last days. We can therefore conclude that, one way or another, the breach that currently separates the Soviet Union and China will eventually be bridged. Despite the prospect of an emerging Chinese-United States alliance against the Kremlin, Peking and Moscow will yet come to terms in spite of racial and political tensions!

Linked with the Russians and the other nations of the Orient in the vast endtime Asian confederacy will be Persia, Cush, Phut, Gomer and Togarmah (Ezekiel 38:5-6). Who are these peoples today?

History and scripture identify them as the very peoples of the South Asian region. Let us look at each one individually.



## IRAN

Let us begin with Persia (Ezekiel 38:5), the most easily identified. Persia is simply another name for modern-day Iran.

The name *Persia* originated from a geographical region within southern Iran. This region was anciently known as Persis, the Greek form of Old Persian *Parsa*. Historically, the people of Iran have never used the name *Persia* for their country. They have always called it Iran, “Land of the Aryans.” (*Aryan* is used to designate speakers of Indo-Iranian languages, as distinct from Semitic-speaking Arabs, for example.) The name *Iran*, however, did not come into widespread use in the West until the 1930s.

Iran today has a mixed population of some 36 million. The majority Iranians comprise nearly 70 percent of the country. Iranians, though Islamic, are totally distinct from the  
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neighboring Arab peoples of the Middle East.

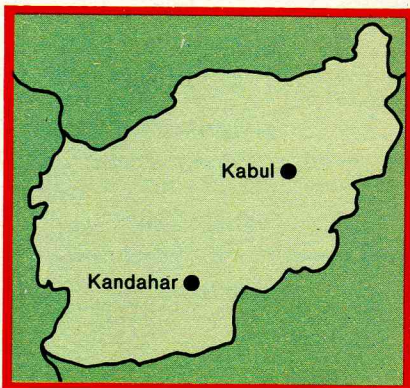
Modern Iran also includes numerous minority groups of varying ethnic backgrounds: Turks, Kurds, Arabs, Baluchis, Armenians, Lurs, Azerbaijanis, Bakhtiaris and others.

There is growing evidence of a Soviet attempt to utilize to their own advantage disputes among certain of these ethnic minorities within Iran. Some observers see this activity as aimed at precipitating an internal crisis—a crisis that could provide an opportunity for Soviet military “intervention” in Iran.

An appeal for help by any pro-Soviet ethnic minorities in Iran could be answered by a movement of Soviet troops both from the Soviet Union across Iran’s northern border and from Afghanistan across Iran’s eastern border. Even as I write, movements of Russian troops in Afghanistan toward the Iranian frontier are being reported.

Alternately, a pro-Soviet government might ultimately rise to power in Tehran and move the country into the Soviet orbit by nonviolent means.

Whatever the method, the prophecy of Ezekiel clearly indicates that Iran will eventually become linked with the Soviet Union. This is not to say that Iran or other South Asian nations will be incorporated into the Soviet Union as full-fledged republics. Rather, there will generally be only political linkage in the form of alliances or as vassal states dominated by Moscow.



## AFGHANISTAN

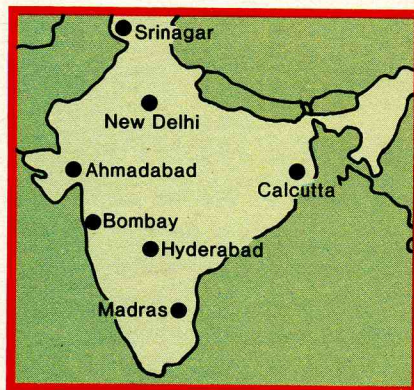
Afghanistan, of course, is already in the Soviet orbit. A Soviet-installed regime today governs in Kabul.

Known anciently as Ariana and Bactria, and in the Middle Ages as Khorasan, Afghanistan lies in the very heart of Asia. Historically, the great invasions of the Indian subcontinent have been made through its strategic mountain passes.

Afghanistan’s present racially mixed population is a reflection of its location astride the ancient trade and invasion routes of Central Asia. The bulk of the population (60 percent) is Pushtun or Pathan, the main tribes being the Durrani and the Ghilzai. Other groups represented are the Tajiks or Tadhziqs (30 percent), Uzbeks (5 per cent), Hazaras, Turkomans and Kirghiz.

The unifying factor amid all this ethnic diversity is *religion*. Afghanistan is almost wholly Islamic, mostly Sunni. Moslem armies had gained control of Afghanistan as early as A.D. 652.

The biblical origins of the Afghan peoples are widely varied. Some are traced to the sons of Japheth. (The Turkomans, for example, claim descent from Tiras, a son of Japheth.) Others descend from branches of the families of Joktan, of Gomer, of Uz and of Esau. Some Afghan chronicles even claim that elements of the Pathans are descended by intermarriage from King Saul of ancient Israel through his grandson Afghana.



## INDIA

Also predicted to cluster around the banner of Gog in the latter days are *Cush* and *Phut* (or *Put*). These peoples of Ezekiel 38:5 are generally found today in the region of India and Pakistan.

Cush was a son of Ham (Genesis 10:6). Cush is often translated

“Ethiopia” in the Bible. But not all Cushites live in Ethiopia!

The descendants of Cush split into two major groups, the Eastern and Western Cushites. Josephus and Herodotus recognized these two divisions.

The western Cushites are found in major areas of Black Africa today, including modern Ethiopia, now under Soviet influence.

The Eastern Cushites, on the other hand, are the brown peoples of central and southern India and part of Ceylon (Sri Lanka). They are represented by such groups as the Dravidians, Tamils and Telugus. Herodotus calls these eastern Cushites “Asiatic Ethiopians.” During their migrations, incidentally, these Asiatic Cushites gave their name to the Hindu *Kush* mountain range of Central Asia.

Interestingly, the names of Cush’s sons Seba and Raamah (Genesis 10:7) have been perpetuated in the Indian god *Siva* or *Shiva* (the destroyer) and the hero *Rama* (an avatar of the god Vishnu).

*Phut* was also a son of Ham. *Phut* is often translated “Libya” in the Bible, referring to the land of Libya in North Africa. As with *Cush*, there is also an Asiatic branch of the family of *Phut* or *Put*. It is that Asiatic branch that will eventually become associated with the U.S.S.R.

Along with elements of *Shem*, descendants of *Phut* (or *Put*) were among the Indo-Aryans who settled northern India and drove the Cushitic Dravidians into the south of India in the second millennium B.C. The warrior-caste *Rajputs* were rulers over the historic region of *Rajputana*, a former group of princely states comprising what is now Rajasthan state of northwestern India.

Elements of *Phut* are also found today in other states of northern and central India and in the neighboring country of Pakistan.

The clear implication, therefore, is that the nations of India and Pakistan will ultimately be politically associated with the U.S.S.R., with Pakistan most likely becoming Communist dominated.

India, along with China, will

undoubtedly contribute heavily to the 200 million man army of Revelation 9:16. After Communist China, India has the largest population of any country in the world. India today is militarily the most powerful country in the South Asia region.

The nation of India is officially a neutralist state aspiring to a nonaligned stand between the superpowers. But in light of India's long and often tension-ridden borders with China and Pakistan, the Soviet Union has become necessary insurance for New Delhi. India leans on Soviet protection to counterbalance the alliance of China and Pakistan.

India is heavily dependent on the Kremlin for key military supplies. New Delhi also has a friendship treaty with Moscow, signed in 1971 by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. And the Soviet Union has become India's major trading partner.

Because of India's close relationship with Moscow, events in Afghanistan have been viewed differently in India than in many other parts of South Asia. Mrs. Gandhi has been careful not to openly denounce the Soviet occupation. She cannot afford to undercut the Kremlin at this time. Her position on Afghanistan has raised serious doubts among opposition parties within India and among the Indian press about the strength of New Delhi's commitment to non-alignment.



## PAKISTAN

The government of Pakistan—lying to the east and south of Soviet-occupied Afghanistan—is growing more nervous by the day.

Pakistan now stands as the only

obstacle between the Soviet troops in Afghanistan and Moscow's goal of a warm-water Arabian Sea port. By virtue of the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, the Kremlin is now in a prime position to exert political and military pressure on Pakistan.

The Moslem nation of Pakistan consists of four provinces, two on each side of the Indus river. The two provinces on the eastern side—*Punjab* and *Sind*—are firmly in the control of President Zia ul-Haq's government in Islamabad.

The two provinces west of the Indus—*North-West Frontier* and *Baluchistan*—are in a state of unrest. These provinces share a 1,200-mile border with Soviet-occupied Afghanistan. The Pakistani government fears that the Soviets may now use Afghanistan as a base to exploit the separationist sentiments among the ethnic groups in these two provinces. Trouble among these ethnic minorities is already straining Pakistan's unity.

Of primary concern is the long-simmering independence movement among the Baluchi tribesmen of western Pakistan. The Baluchis there have long sought to unite with fellow tribesmen in southern Afghanistan and eastern Iran to form an independent state of Baluchistan.

There is strong evidence of deep Soviet involvement in this effort to carve out a separate Baluchi state. A pro-Russian vassal state in Baluchistan would effectively extend Soviet influence all the way south to the Arabian Sea. The Kremlin would at last have the warm-water ports that it has sought since the days of the czars.

As an added bonus, the Soviets would be in a position to control the major oil supply lines leading from the Persian Gulf!

Pushtu-speaking tribesmen in northwestern Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan have also long dreamed of their own independent state of Pushtunistan. These peoples, like the Baluchis, provide potentially fertile soil for Soviet revolutionary propaganda.

The predominantly Moslem nation of Bangladesh—formerly known as East Pakistan—broke away from

Pakistan in a bloody civil war almost nine years ago. Though Bangladesh officially adheres to the principle of nonalignment, its military government has gradually moved into the Indian and Soviet orbits.



## CENTRAL ASIA

Also allied with Gog will be "Gomer, Togarmah and all their bands" (Ezekiel 38:6).

Gomer was the eldest son of Japheth. Contrary to the assertions of many students of Bible prophecy, Gomer in this prophecy is not West Germany.

Who, then, is Gomer? Among the Oriental descendants of Gomer's three sons are found elements of the Turkic and Tatar (Turko-Mongol) peoples of the Asian steppes and deserts.

Many of these peoples—inhabiting the five socialist republics of Soviet Central Asia—have already been incorporated into the U.S.S.R. The nation of Mongolia, wedged between the Soviet Union and China in the region just south of Siberia, is a virtual Soviet satellite. The Turkic Uighurs of Sinkiang (western China) and the Mongols of Inner Mongolia are under Communist Chinese control.

Gomer's third son, Togarmah, is specifically mentioned in Ezekiel 38. Togarmah, in part, settled ancient Armenia. Descendants of Togarmah also migrated eastward into Mongolia, where they are today found mixed with elements of Magog. Togarmah's modern-day descendants are also found in China's Sinkiang (Xinjiang) province and in Russian Siberia or Tartary.

Ezekiel, however, speaks specifically of Togarmah "in the uttermost

parts of the north" (38:6, *Amplified*). This is a clear reference to the *Siberian* branch of Togarmah.

But what of Southeast Asia?



## S.E. ASIA

The modern-day nations of this region are of the southern Mongoloid racial group. These nations are primarily Japhetic in descent. Here communism has already deeply penetrated.

Vietnam is already a communist nation in the Soviet fold. After some two decades of fighting, the American-backed government of South Vietnam surrendered to Soviet-supported North Vietnamese forces in the spring of 1975. Within days the communist conquest of South Vietnam was effectively completed. Vietnam was officially reunited as a communist state in July 1976.

Some 40,000 Viet troops assure complete control of neighboring Laos. Nearby Cambodia (Kampuchea) is also dominated by Vietnam today.

Continuing Vietnamese military activity within Cambodia poses a potential threat to the security of Thailand to the north and west. Malaysia also sees a potential military menace from expansionist Vietnam. Adding to the uncertainty, small bands of communist guerrillas continue to roam the Thai-Malaysia border area.

In Burma, a militarily active communist party is challenging the socialist government of General Ne Win. Insurgent uprisings among the country's ethnic minorities add to the instability in that nation.

In Indonesia and the Philippines,

communist insurgency has occasionally assailed the authority of the central governments. But communist opposition in those nations now appears to be on the back burner—for the time being.

Most of Southeast Asia will undoubtedly find it difficult to withstand incessant communist pressure. Ultimately, the region will be forced into cooperating with the Soviet Union and her allies.

### "I Am Against You!"

As we have seen, the coming Eurasian confederacy will devastate much of Western Europe. After Christ decimates the armies of all nations gathered at Armageddon, Gog will assemble a large army from among his remaining Eurasian forces. That army will attempt to impose its ideology on a restored Israel. But it will not succeed!

"Behold, I am against you, O Gog!" God declares (Ezekiel 38:3). The fate of his armies is vividly portrayed: "You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops, and the peoples who are with you; I shall give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field" (Ezekiel 39:4, *Amplified*). The people of Israel will labor seven months burying the millions of Gog's dead (39:12).

The survivors will know that God rules.

The demise of Gog and his allies will furnish a powerful witness to the nations of the world. "And I shall set My glory among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed," God declares (39:21).

The people of Israel will utterly destroy the weapons carried by Gog's army (39:9-10). With the power of Gog irretrievably broken, the nations of the world will at last submit to the Government of God. After 6000 years of war and international strife, worldwide peace and prosperity will finally become reality. "And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Micah 4:3; Isaiah 2:4). □



# Will Mankind Survive

...THE NEXT DECADE?

First take a look at the facts:

1. Nuclear weaponry brandished even by small unstable nations.
2. Tempers grow short; reason gives way to desperation in international affairs.
3. Economic strangulation, perhaps total collapse.
4. Shrinking resources—too little food, oil, fertilizer, etc.
5. World population doubling in 30 years—14 billion people on the planet by 2035?

Nobody likes bad news. But if present trends continue, mankind is headed for grave danger. World leaders are alarmed. Terms like "Armageddon" and "Apocalypse" are commonly used. Is doomsday at our door?

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