

Bible Study Series:
The Nations in the World Tomorrow Part 3

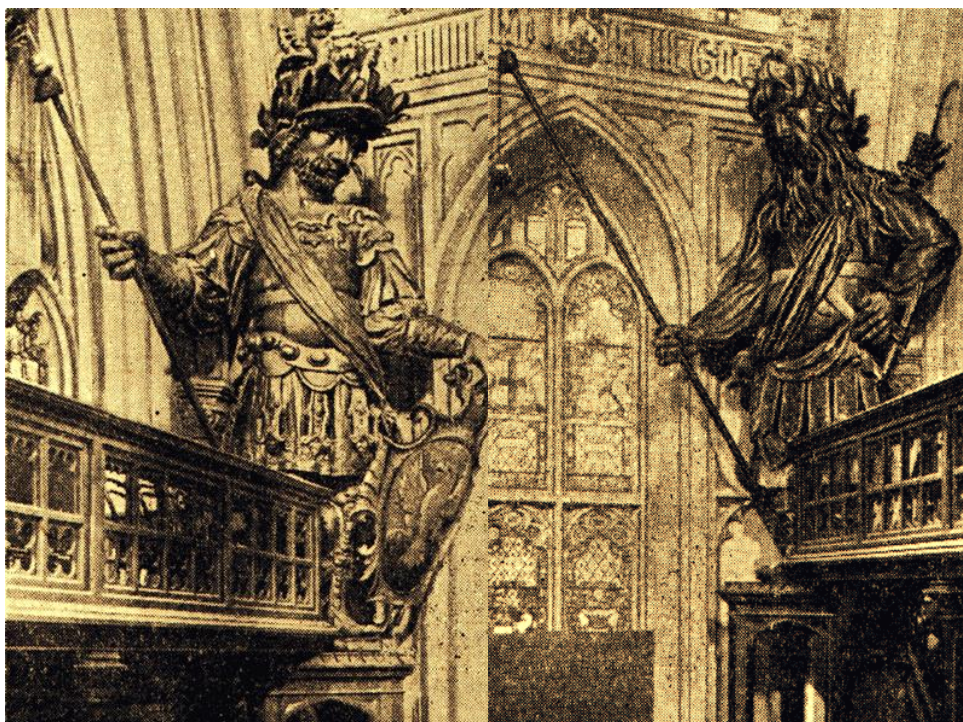
WHEN DO THE ARMIES OF EZEKIEL 38 AND 39 INVADE ISRAEL?

By C M White
v. 6.4

Does this prophecy occur prior to the return of Christ, after His return or at the end of the Millennium?

Who are the nations to be involved in the frightening onslaught? Which nations will oppose them?

Do they constitute the Beast power or a rival power? What does the Bible actually say?





When do the Armies of Ezekiel 38 and 39 Invade Israel? A Study

Version 2.0

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The purpose and desire is to foster Biblical, historical and related studies that strengthen the Church of God's message & mission and provides further support to its traditional doctrinal positions.

Bible study articles in this series:

- *Bible Study: The Second Exodus and the Last Trump (part 1)*
- *What will Israel be doing in the World Tomorrow? (part 2)*
- *When do the Armies of Ezekiel 38 and 39 Invade Israel? (part 3)*
- *The Judging of the Nations (part 4)*
- *Status of the Nations in the World Tomorrow (part 5)*
- “Kiss the son before he becomes angry, and you die where you stand”: The Messiah and the Nations (part 6)
- *The Invisible Rulers over the Nations (part 7)*
- *Feast of the Nations (part 8)*

The above should be read in conjunction with the book *In Search of ... the Origin of Nations* in order to understand the modern identities of the ancient nations listed in the mysterious Table of Nations. Once that is established, the prophecies may be understood.

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Various Interpretations

For many years the Church of God taught that the armies of Ezek 38 & 39 come against the House of Israel after they are regathered after the return of Christ:

This was covered early in the ministry of Herbert W Armstrong in his article "What's Prophesied about Russia," *Plain Truth*, Nov-Dec 1943, pp. 5-7, 12:

"But this very fact – that this invasion will not come until *after* the Second Coming of Christ – will seem preposterous to many, at first thought.

That is because we have been accustomed to merely ASSUME things that are not true. We have blindly ASSUMED that when Christ comes, there will be no opposition. Every person and power on earth, we have thought, will simply submit meekly and instantly to Him and His power. But that is not true!

The very battle at Armageddon is a battle between the "BEAST" and Christ. The power who undoubtedly shall finally conquer and disperse Israel, *prior* to Christ's coming – the power will then enforce the "mark of the Beast" and martyr many saints (Mat. 24:9; Rev 6:11) – this last coming European revival of the Roman Empire by a federation of European nations, will fight Christ. The "Beast" and "False Prophet" who heads the organized religion Christ shall abolish, shall both CONTEST Christ's right to rule." (p. 7)

"... the Gentile nations who have schemed to conquer and rule the world – they shall not submit until forced to. The European Axis power shall be subdued and conquered at Armageddon. But Russia, and the populous Oriental nations who know not God or Christ, shall still have to be brought to submission!

... Notice, these heathen nations do not see and recognise the dread DIVINITY, the MIGHT, and POWER of the Eternal Christ, with supernatural power, even after He has returned. He has to TEACH them that He is the Eternal!" (p. 12)

This article was updated, re-titled and re-published over the years as "Why Russia will not attack America!" in *Good News*, Jan 1952, pp. 1-2, 13-15 and later as "Will Russia Attack America?" or "Russia in Prophecy" in the *Plain Truth* or as an article reprint.

Another author wrote similarly:

"Gog and Magog refer to the tribes of the outer rim of civilization mentioned in Ezekiel 38 and 39. **There is no hint that all the earthly enemies of Christ are exterminated at His return; in fact, only the doom of the leaders is stated. Even under the universal reign of righteousness there could still be a smoldering discontent of evil which would burst into flame if opportunity were provided.** The integration of these factors indicates that the thousand years are an era in which the righteous dead will be resurrected; in which the former martyrs shall reign with Christ; in which the powers of evil shall be repressed and dormant; and during which the earth shall be governed by righteousness." ("The Importance and Exegesis of Revelation 20:1-8," Merrill C. Tenney, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, April 1954, pp. 144-45)

Also, later in other Church of God booklets such as *Russia and China in Prophecy*:

"These ... Asian armies are also described in Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39, where elements of those forces are prophesied to invade the Holy Land when all 12 tribes of Israel have returned ... These circumstances will be extant only after the coming of the Messiah, when surviving Eurasian forces will be supernaturally punished" (*Russia and China in Prophecy*, pp. 25, 31, 43).

In *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*, Herbert Armstrong wrote similarly:

"The second woe, with its symbols of horses and horsemen, is interpreted by Ezekiel 38:4, 15, and is also referred to as an event in the Day OF THE Eternal in Joel 2:4. This refers to a tremendous military power—also to the NORTH—due north! They come with an army of two hundred million! Think of it—an army of two hundred million!" (pp. 38-39).

An article appeared in the September 1982 *Good News* which continued these views:

"Ezekiel 38 and 39 describe a war that will take place against Israel after they have been re-established and will be living in peace and prosperity. Isaiah 30:20-21 shows how we will need to be constantly working with people who want to go their own way ...

Problems? Certainly. But every Feast of Tabernacles will see more people coming to rejoice before the Lord. Every year greater numbers of people from every nation will venture to Jerusalem to learn the laws and ways of the God of Israel (Isa. 2:1-4, Mic. 4:1-5)." ("But what if 'everything goes wrong'?" *Good News*, Sept 1982, p. 9)

The *Systematic Theology Project* also made mention of these battles:

"Then begins the millennial rule of Christ and the saints over the earth. After some continuing confrontations and battles (described in Ezek. 38 and 39), God's Kingdom shall be set up over all peoples; and Jesus Christ shall teach them God's laws, the way of happiness and eventually of eternal salvation." (chapter on "Prophecy", p. 8 (or page 108 of the entire document))

The Church taught that the book of Ezekiel followed a logical procession or "a time sequence flowing through the book" (*Will Russia Attack America?*, p. 1. The entire article is found in Appendix Six) interspersed with inset chapters, somewhat like the book of Revelation. For instance:

- Chapter 33 – end-time warning
- Chapter 34 – scattering of Israel and the Church
- Chapter 35 – punishment upon Seir and Idumea
- Chapter 36 – return of Israel to the Holy Land
- Chapter 37 – Israel and Judah re-united and restored
- Chapters 38 & 39 – invasion by the forces of Gog and Magog
- Chapters 40-48 – Millennial Temple

The sequence leads us to come to a logical conclusion, as we shall see. Below are some

typical views of these chapters:

1. it occurs shortly after the return of Christ
2. it occurs prior to the Millennium, as they are the forces of the Beast
3. it occurs prior to the Millennium, as they are allies of the Beast
4. it occurs prior to the Millennium, as they are the former allies of Babylon and invade the Middle East after the fall out
5. it is entirely historical and will not occur again
6. it refers only to the events mentioned in Rev 20:7-9 after the Millennium
7. it is entirely symbolic of the forces of evil.

Given the above, the interpretation of these chapters may be confusing to some. So, let us turn to both commentaries and obviously, and most importantly, the Bible itself.

Personally, I was taught by various Protestant groups in my early youth - in sermons and books that the chapters in Ezekiel 38 and 39 concerning the eastern and northern hordes occurred during the Great Tribulation, prior to the return of the Messiah.

Various prophecies about the blooming of the desert were interpreted as the Jewish improvement to the land of Israel; the return of the Jews the second exodus and fulfillment of Ezekiel 37 and the temple described in Ezekiel 40-48 as the pre-Tribulation temple.



Initial location of Magog after the flood

Location of the Japhethites soon after the flood of Noah

It followed to these teachers of prophecy that Ezekiel 38 and 39 referred to the invasion of the Holy Land by Russia and its allies. The Gomer mentioned in those chapters was interpreted as Germany and the young lions as Britain. The fall of the Berlin wall and the entry of eastern European states into the European Union has disproven this long held theory.

Upon reading the old Worldwide Church of God literature on the subject in 1973 and talking with their ministers I gradually changed my understanding to see that the evangelical view

was incorrect. This article seeks to provide further proof for the old Worldwide Church of God position on this fascinating subject.

Appendices at the end of this article provide additional information and pointers toward further research and contemplation:

Appendix One is a table comparing various verses in Ezekiel 38 & 39 to other Scriptures.

Following is Appendix Two which provides salient comments on Ezekiel chapters 38 & 39; the following appendix shows there are some parallels in terms of structure between Ezekiel and Revelation; the fourth is the entire 1971 article by Herbert W Armstrong proving that Ezekiel 38 & 39 refers to the period post the return of Christ and not pre-Millennial or post-Millennial.

What Commentaries reveal

Commentaries, of course, have various views, such as those listed above. Evangelicals generally take a position that the prophecy refers to an attack upon the Jewish people prior to the return of Christ, during the Tribulation.

The more considered commentaries, more logical and conservative in their outlook, take a position more-or-less similar to that of the old WCG. Here are quotes from some of them:

1. *New Bible Commentary*:

“These two chapters are unique in OT prophecy in **that they describe an uprising of foreign powers against the people of God after the commencement of the Messianic kingdom**. The prophecy has already predicted the coming blessedness of Israel (33-37); he now portrays the nation as long settled in their land and transformed into a prosperous community (38:8, 11, 12, 14), a condition which, according to his earlier teaching, involves their prior repentance, regeneration and political revival (33-37).

Whereas he had said that Israel’s restoration would come ‘soon’ (36:8), he says that Gog will be mustered ‘after many days ... in the latter years’ (38:8). The motive underlying the prophecy is the necessity of earlier prophecies concerning the destruction of hostile Gentile powers being fulfilled (38:17; 39:8) and for the nations of the world to learn the power, holiness and sole deity of Yahweh (see 39:7).

The author of the book of Revelation has both used these chapters to vivify his description of Armageddon prior to the millennium (Rev. 19:17, 18), and adapted their essential idea so as to make it a final rebellion of the godless of humanity at the end of the millennium, before the new creation (20:7-9).

In comparing the two writings it should be remembered that Ezekiel knew nothing of a new creation nor of a new Israel which was to inherit the kingdom; if John was to incorporate the prophecy he had of necessity to change its form. In conformity with his usage of OT prophecy generally, he has not hesitated to do so” (*New Bible Commentary*, “38:1-39:29 Prophecy against Gog”, pp. 681-82) (emphasis mine).

2. J. Barton Payne in his famous *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy* agrees with this position (p. 367). He also states that the Bible is 27% predictive, including types. But he does not include many of the types and ‘hidden’ prophetic messages. So, at least 33% of the Bible is prophecy. Payne lists Ezekiel as the most predictive book in the Bible with 821 verses devoted to the subject.

3. *Halley’s Bible Handbook*:

“... A glance at the map makes it plain that he has in mind that part of the world known as Russia ... In these two chapters Ezekiel predicts Another Scythian invasion, on a far more stupendous scale, confederate with peoples from the East

(38:5), into the Holy Land, against Restored Israel, “in the latter years” (38:8), **apparently during the Messianic Age**; and that with the help of God, they will be so overwhelmingly defeated that their weapons will supply fuel for 7 years (39:9), and it will take 7 months to bury their dead” (39:14).

“In the book of Revelation the same words, Gog and Magog, are used as representing all nations in Satan’s final furious attack on the people of God (Revelation 20:7-10)” (pp. 333-34) (emphasis mine).

3. *New Bible Dictionary*:

“The linkage with peoples at the extremities of the then known world (Ezk, xxxviii. 5,6; cf Rev. xx.8) suggests that we are to regard them as eschatological figures rather than as a historically identifiable king, etc. This is the interpretation in Rev. xx. 8 and rabbinic literature.

Since we need not interpret Ezk. xxxviii, xxxix as earlier in time than Ezk. xl-xlviii, and rabbinic tradition places Gog after the days of the Messiah, we need see no contradiction between Ezekiel and Revelation, **provided we understand the millennium in the sense the Rabbis gave ‘the days of the Messiah’**” (*New Bible Dictionary*, “Gog and Magog” pp. 480-81).

In principle, this *Dictionary* sees a rebellion against God sometime after the return of the Messiah if they interpret rabbinic literature correctly – it sees Ezekiel and Revelation as referring to the same event in that context.

4. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*:

“Perhaps Ezekiel had in mind something of the eschatology of Zec. 14, in which the nations that represented “the ends of the earth” would rise against Jerusalem ... In Ezekiel **the invasion of Gog occurs during the messianic age**, while in Revelation it occurs just at the close of the millennium. In Ezekiel Gog and Magog are gathered by Yahweh for their destruction; in Revelation they are gathered by Satan. In both cases the number is vast, the destruction, by supernatural means, is complete and final” (vol 2, pp. 519-20) (emphasis mine).

5. Bullinger’s *Companion Bible* states:

“... Israel will have then already been “gathered” ... It must therefore precede the Millennium; and on that account must be distinguished from Rev. 20:8, 10 ... after the “gathering” **but before the final “Restoration”**, and therefore before the Millennium” (pp. 1161, 1163).

Bullinger can see that it refers to a period after Israel returns from captivity, although prior to the Millennium. One can therefore, given the above commentaries and the sequence of events in Ezekiel, take one of the following points of view:

1. the invasion occurs some years after the return of Christ and the official commencement of the Millennium. This could be at least 3 ½ - 7 years after the return of Christ.

- the invasion of these peoples occurs after the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord, after the second Exodus and the gathering of Israel to the Holy Land, and after a period of settlement and peace for Israel and probably other nations. Israel would have repented, had the Holy Spirit granted to her (Ezek 37:15-28) and have come into a Covenant relationship with God. This may be a few years prior to the official commencement of the Millennium when the entire world is brought under Christ and enjoys peace and prosperity. Just as there are some days, spaced between the Feast of Trumpets and Feast of Tabernacles, there may be some years between the return of Christ, putting away of Satan and the official commencement of the Millennium. I am not saying that this is the case, but may be the case. I just don't know if such a scenario is possible.

Finally, given that so much of scripture is dual that these chapters, whilst referring to a time near the beginning of the Millennium, may also prefigure or type the Gog and Magog of Rev 20:7-9 which rises up in rebellion after the end of the Millennium.

However, Ezekiel 38 and 39 cannot be identical to that which arises at the end of the Millennium for the following reasons:

Comparison of Ezekiel 38 & 39 with Revelation 20:7-9	
Ezekiel 38 & 39:	Revelation 20:7-9:
As we have seen, according to the story flow of Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39 occur near the beginning of the Millennium	Gog and Magog in Rev 20:7-9 occurs shortly after the end of the Millennium, which is explicitly stated
Based on their lusts, God (not Satan) will draw them into battle and defeat (Ezek 38:4; 39:2)	Satan deceives peoples after the Millennium (Rev 20:3)
According to 39:23-29, the captivity of Israel is still a recent event	The captivity of Israel occurred over 1,000 years earlier
Gog seems to be regarded as a ruler	Here Gog is a nation or symbolic of nations
Literal nations descended from Noah's sons	Apparently 'Gog and Magog' is symbolic of peoples ¹ and rebels that may have been assigned to the former lands occupied by Gog and Magog and now attempt to wreak their revenge on God's people
Armies descend primarily from the north and south (Gog is of the land of Magog). NB Gog & Magog are seen supported by African armies; while the Beast is seen invading North Africa in Dan 11.	Armies are from all "four quarters" of the earth
These armies are defeated in the land of Israel and their weapons are burned for 7 years	They are burned up with fire from heaven immediately

¹ Unlike Ezekiel 38 & 39, Revelation 20:8-9 "... the chiasmic parallel suggests that "Gog and Magog" should be seen as a metaphor and synonym of these kings and armies, rather than as specific nations." (Ed Christian, "A Chiasm of Seven Chiasms: The Structure of the Millennial Vision, Rev 19:1-21:8", *Andrews University Studies Seminary*, 1999, vol 37, no 2, p. 220)

Why will the forces of Ezekiel 38 & 39 Invade the Holy Land?

These must be the remnants of the forces of the Second Woe (Rev 9:13-21) which God would have used to conquer and punish the countries of the Beast power. Perhaps after the first seven years or so of Israelites being settled back in the Holy Land, after Israel has swooped upon certain gentiles, many of these peoples will rise up in rebellion, claiming discrimination, racism and so on as justifying this invasion.

Just as God gives us enough time to repent or show our true colours; just as He allowed Lucifer plenty of time to foment rebellion; so He will allow these forces to develop. The picture we get that these peoples are led by the forces that invaded the nations comprising the Beast power in Europe. As such, they no doubt comprise the remnants of the 200 million army pictured in Rev 9:16.



Locations of the descendants of Japheth today

The bitterness and jealousy will well-up into a lust for war. They shall see the great blessings and wealth of Israel returned to them and want it for themselves (see Rev 18:11-13; Hag 2:7-9; Is 23:17-18; Ex 12:35-36; Jos 6:18-19).

“Wrath is cruel, and anger is overwhelming; but who is able to stand before envy?”
(Prov 27:4)

Ezekiel reveals the following:

“So says the Lord Jehovah: And it shall be in that day that things shall come into your heart, and you shall devise an evil plan.

And you shall say, I will go up to the land of open spaces. I will go to those at ease [cp Lam 1:3], who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and there are no bars nor gates to them,

in order to take a spoil, and to steal a prize; to turn your hand on the inhabited waste places, and on the people gathered out of the nations, who have gotten cattle and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.” (Ezek 38:10-12)

Notice: this rebellion is against the Israelites who have returned from captivity and who now have gathered much wealth. They also are dwelling in peace, which is hardly a description of the world.

And why does this war occur?:

“And I will set My glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see My judgments which I have done, and My hand that I have laid on them.

So the house of Israel shall know that I *am* Jehovah their God from that day and forward. **[there will be no more doubting Thomas’s]**

And the nations shall know that the house of Israel was exiled **[ie prior to this Gog and Magog invasion]** for their iniquity **[therefore the nations must now also not sin]**. Because they sinned against Me, therefore I hid My face from them and gave them into the hand of their enemies. So they all fell by the sword.” **[it follows on therefore that these gentile nations will now be called to repent and allow God to rule over them through Israel]** (Ezek 39:21-23)

One by one the nations are being conquered and brought into submission commencing with Israel during the Great Tribulation; the coming Beast power and Babylon during the Day of The Lord and now His government will extend to various Japhethite and Hamite nations. The Messiah has returned and this is now His world and the last of the gentile nations must be brought into submission.

“And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, *that have no rain*; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. {that have no: Heb. upon whom there is not}

This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.” (Zech 14:16-19)

There may be parallel passages in Zechariah. Chapter 12 has a Trumpets theme and is read in synagogues on the Day of Trumpets; chapter 13 has an Atonement theme and read on the Day of Atonement; while chapter 14 is read during the Feast of Tabernacles.² It is also of interest to note that Ezek 38-39 is read in many synagogues during the Feast of Tabernacles, not prior to it.

In fact, according to Jewish understanding, Psalm 2 refers to Gog and Magog:

“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? {rage: or, tumultuously assemble} {imagine: Heb. meditate}

² For instance: “According to the Prophet Zacharia, the nations who survive the final “War of Gog and Magog” will come to Jerusalem every year “to prostrate themselves to the King, Hashem...and to celebrate the Succot festival.” (Zecharia 14:16)”

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*,
Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.
He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.
Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.
{vex: or, trouble}
Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. {set: Heb. anointed} {upon...: Heb. upon Zion, the hill of my holiness}
I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee. {the decree: or, for a decree}" (Ps 2:1-7)

It seems that the above Psalm, like so many of them, is also a prophecy. In fact, these appear to be nations that come against the Messiah after His return, not at His return. In the *Gemara* (the second part of the *Talmud*) we read:

"... when the war of Gog and Magog will break out they will be asked, "Why have you come?" They will answer, "[To fight] against God and His anointed," as it says, "Why do nations assemble, and regimes talk in vain ... to conspire against God and His anointed" (Psalms 2:1)."³

Similarly, each Sabbath, a selection of the *Prophets* is read in the synagogue services after the *Torah* lessons. This reading is known as the *Haftarah*. On the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), Ezekiel 38 & 39 is read (first day of Tabernacles *Haftarah*).

It is interesting that this reading is on the **first** day – representing the first years of the Feast of Tabernacles. Not all is peaceful during the initial part of the Millennium.

Note the following: the Jewish community considers the following issues during Tabernacles (Sukkot):

- The Kingdom of David as a type
- God's tests upon the nations during Sukkot
- Divine visitation
- The war with Gog and Magog (readings on First day of Sukkot)
- A special feast will be held for the righteous people of God – a special event during Tabernacles (perhaps typological of Matt 22:1-13; and Rev 19:9)

Jewish understanding for the timing of Ezekiel 38 & 39 parallels Christian diversity, ranging over several viewpoints:

- It refers to armies that attack the holy land prior to the Messiah
- It refers to a time shortly after the Messiah's arrival
- It is typological of evil doers in opposition to God

³ According to the daily Jewish readings site, <http://www.chabad.org/dailystudy/tehillim.asp?tDate=10/30/2006&Lang=>, Psalms 46 and 47 refers to the period immediately after the Gog & Magog rebellion: "Following the battle of Gog and Magog (in the Messianic era), war will be no more. God will grant us salvation, and we will merit to go up to the Holy Temple for the festivals, Amen."

In any event, it seems possible that Zechariah chapter 14:1-11 refers to the first few years of the Millennium and it specifically states that Jerusalem (symbolic of all Israel) will be safely inhabited (cp Ezek 38:11,14). Then we are told:

“And this shall be the plague with which Jehovah will strike all the peoples who have fought against Jerusalem **[both before and after the return of Christ]**. Their flesh shall rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes shall rot in their sockets. And their tongue shall rot in their mouth.

And it shall be in that day a great panic of Jehovah shall be among them And they shall each one lay hold of his neighbor, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbor.

And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the nations all around shall be gathered, gold, and silver, and clothing in great abundance. **[cp Eze 39:10]**

And so shall be the plague of the horse, the mule, the camel, and the ass, and of all the beasts which shall be in these tents, like this plague.

1And it shall be, everyone who is left of all the nations which came up against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, Jehovah of Hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that *have no rain*; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. **[cp Is 19:4-5]**

This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holy to Jehovah of Hosts. And all those who sacrifice shall come and take of them, and boil in them. And in that day there shall no longer be a trader **[ie Canaanite – either spiritual or physical]** in the house of Jehovah of Hosts.” (Zech 14:12-21)

Compare the above with Ezekiel:

“And I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains, says the Lord Jehovah. *Each* man's sword shall be against his brother. **[cp Hag 2:22]**

And I will judge him with a plague and with blood. And I will rain on him, and on his bands, and on the many peoples with him, an overflowing shower, and great hailstones, fire and brimstone.

So I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself. And I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I *am* Jehovah.” **[and they know God by loving Him and obeying Him eg by observing the Feast of Tabernacles]** (Ezek 38:21-23)

What of those nations that, prior to the liberation of Israel by Christ, would have enslaved Israel, but by now have repented and even assisted in the transporting of Israelitish slaves to the Holy Land?:

“Sheba and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all their young lions [Assyria or Germany – See the proof in Nah 2:8-12; Hos 5:13-14; Jer 2:14-15, 18; 4:7; 50:17; Zech 11:3; Joel 1:6], shall say to you, Have you come to take a spoil? Have you gathered your company to steal a prize, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?” (Ezek 38:13)

Here we are told that Gog and Magog etc’s intent is to take from Israel what she has gathered from other nations. The nations speaking up and warning them are Sheba (Schwabians), Dedan (Prussians), Tarshish (Spain and Japan) and the young lions (Assyria). These are nations which had formerly comprised the Beast power and allies. But now they are repentant and warn the enemies of Israel not to attack Israel, God’s wife! Why? Because they would be very well aware of the consequences of such action!

Zech 14 may also be paralleled to Isaiah 19. There is an issue with Egypt (or what is left of it): keep the Feast of Tabernacles (and the other laws of course), or bear the consequences. Starting with Israel, then Egypt, Assyria etc, God commences a global theocracy nation-by-nation:

“The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.

And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, *and* kingdom against kingdom.

And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.” (Is 19:1-3)

The above indicates that this occurs after the return of the Messiah. Compare with Zech 14:13.

“And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts.

And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up.” (Is 19:4-5)

This may be cross-referenced to Zech 14:18. Isaiah continues:

“And they shall turn the rivers far away; *and* the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and flags shall wither.

The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no *more*.

The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish.

Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded.

And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices *and* ponds for fish.” (Is 19:6-10)

Perhaps so perplexed at what is going on, they turn to evil guides for answers:

“Surely the princes of Zoan *are* fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I *am* the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings?

Where *are* they? where *are* thy wise *men*? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the LORD of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt.

The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, *even they that are* the stay of the tribes thereof.

The LORD hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken *man* staggereth in his vomit.

Neither shall there be *any* work for Egypt, which the head or tail, branch or rush, may do.

In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which he shaketh over it.” (Is 19:11-16)

Now Egypt learns to fear Judah which God uses to punish them:

“And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it.” [see **Zech 14:14 where Judah are portrayed as fighters**] (Is 19:17)

Then we have Egypt’s repentance:

“In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the LORD of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction.

In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD.

And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.” (Is 19:18-20)

These oppressors are probably those referred to in verses 11-13.

“And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform *it*.

And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal *it*: and they shall return *even* to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them.

In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.

In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, *even* a blessing in the midst of the land:

Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed *be* Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.” (Is 19:21-25)

And so we have an alliance: Israel – the chief of all the nations; Egypt, chief of the Hamites and Assyria the chief of the Shemites. It seems that another will now join them – a nation descended from Japheth to become chief of the Japhethites under the overall leadership of Israel – this appears to be the world order that Christ will initiate. In other words the Messiah's dealing with the hordes of Ezekiel 38 & 39 follow next in the sequence of prophesied events. The chief of these nations may be Meschech (given the prominence it has compared to other Japhetic nations).

Gradually nation after nation will submit to God through Israel's conquests and leadership. Woe to them if they do not submit!

But only Egypt of the African nations is mentioned in Isaiah 19. While in Ezekiel 38 & 39 Egypt is not mentioned – this indicates that the prophecy in Isaiah 19 precedes that of Ezekiel where other African nations adjacent to Egypt are mentioned. Why? Because if Egypt was not repentant, it would have been part of these hordes along with their Hamitic brethren (Cush and Phut) – many of which dwell in adjacent lands.

Typology Contained within the Book of Joshua

Surprising as it may sound, further proof for the true timing of Ezekiel 38 & 39 is found in the book of Joshua.

This is how I figured it out as I have related to many for some years so I might as well mention it here: I was reading old Worldwide Church of God articles on Ezekiel around 1973/1974 and trying to work out how these chapters could refer to a period some years after the Messiah's return to this earth rather than prior. To me the clincher was two-fold:

1. the story flow of the book of Ezekiel;
2. the typology of Joshua as explained below

The Exodus of Israel from Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea, Wilderness wanderings, crossing of the Jordan and conquest of Canaan by Joshua are typological, as I am sure we have all heard. The typology follows two broad avenues:

1. spiritual Israelites go through the same basic travel through life of rescue from Satan, baptism, life of trial, baptism of the resurrection, entry into the spiritual Promised Land (Kingdom of God), finding rest;
2. physical Israelites in these last days will be rescued and set free from Babylon (Rev 18:4) as they were from ancient Egypt via the outpouring of plagues, Then go through a wilderness wondering where they will be cleansed and the Holy Spirit granted to them. They will enter the Promised Land of Israel led by Jesus Christ and His saints (Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua) and dwell there in peace (rest);
3. the land is conquered and the Temple is re-established.

But what happens next? Here are the pertinent scriptures:

1. Israel passes through the Jordan and enters the Holy Land (Joshua 3-4) typing the Millennial age;
2. Further enemies are encountered after the entry into the Holy Land (Joshua 5-6). Keil explains:

“... Jericho ... the destruction of this town, the key to Canaan, was intended by God to become **a type** of the final destruction at the last day of the power of this world ... [Christ] destroys one worldly power after another, and thus **maintains and extends His kingdom** upon the earth” (*Commentary of the Book of Joshua*, pp. 50-52) (emphasis mine).

3. Further hostile powers are encountered (Joshua 7–11). A northern alliance of enemies comes against Israel which Joshua destroys:

“And Jehovah troubled them before Israel, and killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goes up to Beth-horon, and struck them to Azekah, and to Makkedah.

And it happened, as they fled from before Israel, and *were* in the descent of

Bethhoron, Jehovah cast **down great stones from the heavens** on them to Azekah, and they died. The many who died from hailstones were more than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.” **[compare this with Ezek 38:22]** (Jos 10:10)

“And it happened when Jabin **[name means The Intelligent (one)]**, king of Hazor, had heard, he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph,

and to the kings on the north of the mountains, and on the plains south of Chinneroth, and in the valley, and in the borders of Dor on the west, *and to the Canaanite on the east and on the west, and the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Jebusite in the mountains, and to the Hivite under Hermon, in the land of Mizpeh.*

And they went out, they and all their armies with them, many people, even as the sand on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots.

And when all these kings had met together, they came and pitched together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel.” (Jos 11:1-5)

“And these *are* the kings of the land, whom the sons of Israel struck and whose land they possessed on the other side Jordan toward **the rising of the sun**, from the river Arnon to mount Hermon, and all the plain on the east: **[cp with Judges 7:12]**

Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon *and* ruled from Aroer, which is on the bank of the river Arnon, and from the middle of the river, and from half Gilead, even to the river Jabbok, the border of the sons of Ammon;

and from the plain to the sea of Chinneroth on the east, and to the sea of the plain, the Salt Sea on the east, the way to Beth-jeshimoth, and from the south, under The Slopes of Pisgah.

And they struck the coast of **Og king of Bashan, of the rest of the giants [great ones]**, who lived at Ashtaroth and at Edrei,

and reigned in mount Hermon and in Salcah, and in all Bashan, to the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and half Gilead, the border of Sihon king of Heshbon.” (Joshua 12:1-5)

Og is a related word to Gog. Ezekiel places him on an equal footing with Magog, yet he is not mentioned as being a descendant of Japheth in the Table of Nations nor anywhere else in scripture. Little reference is made to this or similar names. In history there is a king Gyges of Lydia, called *Gugu* by the Assyrians (*New Bible Dictionary*, p. 480) who was ruler of a Cimmerian people (*Peoples of Old Testament Times*, p. 165). Also, the Arabs referred to the 'Yajuj and Majuj' as living in North-east Asia beyond the Tatars and Slavonians. Gog may also be the Yao of ancient Chinese history.

Amalek, the most infamous of the sons of Edom, also migrated into Turkestan naming a city there “Amalek” after themselves according to Paul Herrmann’s *Sieben vorbei und Acht Verweht* (p 451). Amalek was borne from a union between Eliphaz and Timna, a Horite (Gen 36:12, 22). The Egyptians called the Amalekites “Amu”. In Turkestan the River Amu was probably named after them (the Oxus of the ancient Greeks); Amu is a Persian name. But that is not all. The Edomites inhabited Mount Seir anciently, as has already been mentioned. In Turkestan the Syr Dary river may be named after them as the meaning is “the river of Seir”! There can be no doubt about it, a branch of the Amalekites dwell to this day in Central Asia, Turkestan to be exact. Here then is the end-time Gog! We should expect a strong leader to emerge from this region in the future years and decades. Gog is not Russia and the

Western peoples of the former Soviet Union as many speculate, but the peoples of central Asia, seeking independence from Russia.

We should perhaps note that the Assyrian texts refer to the King of Lydia (in western Turkey) as Gugu and there was also a mention of Gugians in the area of Mitanni. However, whether there is any connection to the Amalekites cannot be ascertained at this point in time although it could be pointed out that the kings of Amalek were sometimes named Agag (Num 24:7; 1Sam 15:8). Josephus also sees Agag as a synonym for Amalek. We know from the scriptures that one evil man Haman, tried to exterminate the Judahites in Persia. In the book of Esther Haman was called an Agagite (3:1,10; 8:3,5; 9:24); Josephus, in fact explicitly calls Haman an Amalekite: "Now there was one Haman, the son of Amedatha, by birth an Amalekite, that used to go in to the king". All this positively indicates that many of the Edomites were migrating slowly toward Central Asia even at this time. The *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* reveals that Haman's home was in an area adjacent to Media known as Agazi in the *Annals of Sargon*: a name possibly associated with or derived from Agag or Gog.

Another son of Edom, Reuel, unlike his grandsons Amalek and Teman, is very difficult to trace specifically. As Reuel's mother was Bashemath, the Ishmaelites, he may be among the Arabs, Ruwaleh specifically. Conversely, Jehush, Jaalam and Korah were borne by Aholibamah who was daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon, the Hivite, one of Esau's wives. They might well be among the Turkic tribes of Central Asia along with Amalek as a result. Korah may have given his name to the Karakum Desert, Karakul Lake, Karatau mountains, the Kirghiz and Khorasan in Turkestan. One division of the Kirghiz is known as the Kara.

The name of Hivite may have lived on in the city of Khiva of Central Asia, which was the capital of the province of Khiva of the Turks.

The Edomites were also known as Idumaeans, probably due to some intermarriage between Edomites and Dumah, the descendant of Ishmael. In Turkey we find the areas of Duman, Duman Dagh mountain and Dumanli Dagh mountains. And in India the town of Dumagudiem and Duma mountains.

What does *Gog* mean?

"Gog - it is a long o both in the Hebrew and in the Greek - is made from the old-world-root 'GG', which in the early languages implied something 'g-i-g-antic'. Russia has this long time been the colossus of the north'.

A potentate of bible history and prophecy was 'Agog'. That name, or rather, its title, comes from the same root. He was (in his own estimation), a, Aleph, + GG = No. 1 - GREAT ! The Agagites, we are told in *Young's Analytical Concordance*, were an 'Amalekite tribe' and Agog, was 'a poetic name of Amalek, derived from a particular dynasty ...'.

Of course, it is always on the cards that some great military dictator [in Russian Central Asia] may arise - he would be the personal Gog". (*The Russian Chapters of*

Ezekiel, pp. 9-10).

It seems reasonable to assert that these northern armies are typological of the future armies described in Ezekiel. They invade after the commencement of the new age of Israel under Joshua, typological of the Messianic Kingdom, which is set up under Jesus Christ (= Joshua the Anointed One), after which Gog and Magog invade.

4. After they are defeated, we are told:

“And Joshua took the whole land, according to all that Jehovah commanded Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And **the land rested from war**” [typological of the Messianic age after Gog & Magog are defeated – no more wars until the end of the Millennium] (Jos 11:23)

From the above brief summary of Joshua’s typology, there can be no doubt that Ezekiel 38 & 39 are typed by foes primarily to the north of Israel a few years **after** Israel enters the Holy Land and not pre- or post- Millennial.

Evidently these are people that were yet to be reached and converted. It makes clear sense that upon the Messiah’s return, he will gather his people Israel which would have been scattered to the four corners and bring them to the Near East. Somewhere close to the Holy Land (probably Sinai), He will plead with them and purge out the rebels from among them.

Then He will lead the Priests, Levites, Judah and Israel into the Promised Land where a New Covenant will be forged. Then the training of Israel to become world servant leaders will commence.

Treasures from all over the world will pour into the Holy Land swelling the wealth of Israel. Yet nations not reached by God through Israel will rise up in jealous indignation. It will do them no good as Ezekiel 38 and 39 demonstrate. The ‘rest will be history’ as they say.

As with so much Scripture, these chapters of Ezekiel may be typological of later events, viz:

Relevant chapter in Ezekiel and its Typology for the post-Millennial period		
Joshua	Ezekiel	Revelation
Chs 3-4 -Crossing over the Jordan into the Holy Land	Ch 36-37 – Israel restored and relocated to the Holy Land (Second Exodus)	Ch 21:10-15 – First Resurrection
Chs 4-6, 11-12 – Seven Canaanite tribes defeated over seven years	Chs 38 & 39 – armies invade the Holy land after the Messiah returns and defeated	Ch 20:7-9 – post Millennial armies defeated
Ch 11- Land at peace	Ch 39:21-29 –peace reigns	Ch 21:10-15 – Second Resurrection -peace reigns & Third resurrection
Ch 18 - tabernacle relocated to Shiloh. David later plans to build a Temple in Jerusalem which was fulfilled by Solomon.	Chs 40-48 – Millennial temple & tribal allotments/inheritance (ch 48)	Chs 21-22 – the New Jerusalem & inheritance of Israel (21:12)

Relevant chapter in Ezekiel and its Typology for the post-Millennial period		
Tribal allotments/inheritance (chs 18-19, 21). Seven years of settlement		

Note: no typology is perfect or complete – they merely inform us of other or future events and demonstrate some similarities. By studying a given portion of Scripture as typology, we gain a greater insight into their counter-part prophecy.

Concerning chapter 37 of Ezekiel, Herbert Armstrong confirmed its duality:

"In chapter 37, the first part pictures the "valley of dry bones." This represents (Verse 11), the whole House of Israel — including Judah. **It has a dual significance.** It pictures the re-birth and resurrection of Israel as a nation, from captivity, dispersion and slavery. It pictures, too, the literal bodily resurrection of the individual who has long since died, after which the knowledge of the Truth — spiritual knowledge — shall be revealed, and he shall be converted, and Gods Spirit shall enter within, and he shall be saved." ("Will Russia Attack America?" *Plain Truth*, July 1956, p. 6) [emphasis mine]

Many or most commentators would agree with Mr Armstrong. For example, John Taylor states under the sub-title "The spiritual re-birth of the nation (37:1-28):

"The bones represent the Israelites in exile. They have been there for ten years now, and what glimmerings of hope they had when first they arrived have now been altogether extinguished. Their hope was lost: as bones, they were very dry" (*Ezekiel, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*, p. 228)

Many other commentaries similarly explain that chapter.

Hosea also uses resurrection as typological of a restoration of the nations in 6:2 and 13:14.

Finally, an addition to this typology should be mentioned here: a Near Eastern king, Cushan-Rishathaim, was used by God to punish Israel (Judges 3).

"The historical and textual evidence also suggests that the Indo-Aryan ethnic group that founded and ruled Mitanni called themselves originally by a name that sounded something like "Rish" or "Ras." This name is reflected in Judges 3:7-11 where Cushan is said to have been from an ethnic group called the "Rishathaim." (Clyde Billington , "Othniel, Cushan-Rishathaim, and the Date of the Exodus", *Artifax*, Summer 2017, p. 19)

The Mitanni are descendants of Midian and prophetically, nothing much is said about Midian. Perhaps the peoples in the book of Judges where they are allies of the Amalekites (Gog), are a type the future eastern hordes (Judges 7:12). Through Habbakuk, God says that the Midianites (the Mitanni) will tremble at Him when He begins to intervene in world affairs (Habbakuk 3:7-8). They are also referred to in Jeremiah 25:25. Their kin, the Medes are prophesied to come against end-time Babylon in Jeremiah 51:28, undoubtedly as part of the

prophesied eastern forces. The Medes descend from Medan and dwell alongside the Ukrainians (Madai) today.

Further information on Ezekiel – Revelation parallels may be found in Appendix Three. (NB the above chart was devised prior to coming across the information contained within this appendix).

Concluding Remarks

Given all the evidence presented in this paper, I am forced to accept that the armies of Ezekiel 38 & 39 represent a threat to Israel **after** the return of the Messiah, and not beforehand.

Now, if Gog and Magog et al, are not the forces during the Great Tribulation which comes against Israel, then who composes the end-time Beast power? Separate papers and booklets are available on this topic at www.friendsofsabbath.org and various Church of God websites.



Gog & Magog, Royal Arcade, Melbourne

Appendix One: Parallel or Similar Scriptures

There are various prophecies (not all about the same event) which use either similar wording or are parallel events. I list them below to illustrate that the Bible uses similar terminology for different events:

Ezekiel 38 & 39	Other Scriptures	Comment
38:4	Zech 14:12-21; Hag 2:22	The parallel scripture in Zech represents a time after Christ's return
38:6	Jer 50:41-42; 51:27-28; Dan 11:44; Rev 16:12	From this, we see that these hordes are the remnants of the 200 million strong armies
38:11	Ezek 36:35-36; Zech 2:4-5; 14:11	The land is at rest (cp Lam 1:3), which is not the case in the end times
38:13	Is 60:3-14	These appear to be the repented nations who formerly composed the Beast Power or who were part
38:20	Rev 16:18, 20	The earthquake in Rev is against Babylon. The one in Ezek is against the northern armies
38:21	Zech 14:12-15	Parallel events seem to be described here
38:22	Rev 16:8, 21; Ps 140:10-11; Jos 10:11	Similar type of plagues poured upon Babylon and the Beast power, will be poured later upon these armies
39:16-21	Is 18:6	Similar wording and concepts in Is do not necessarily refer to the same event, but could do
39:17	Rev 19:17-21	The 'feast' for the animals referred to in Rev is for the Beast armies, but a similar fate awaits the northern armies which are not part of Babylon

Appendix Two: Ezekiel Chapters 38 & 39 with comments

Note the parts highlighted, showing that its application refers to a period after the return of Christ.

- Eze 38:1 And the Word of Jehovah came to me, saying,
- 2 Son of man, set your face against Gog [**Central Asia**], the land of Magog [**China**], the chief ruler of Rosh [**Byelorussians**], Meshech [**Great Russians around Moscow**], and Tubal [**Great Russians around Tobolosk**], and prophesy against him.
 - 3 And say, So says the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the chief ruler of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.
 - 4 And I will turn you back [**this indicates that the remnants of the 200 million horde of Rev 9:16 return to the holy land for battle – this time God Himself will bring them back, not Satan, to humble them and force repentance**], and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed most perfectly, a great assembly *with* buckler and shield, all of them swordsmen;
 - 5 Persia [**modern Persia or peoples near Byelorussia**], Ethiopia [**Cush in East African and India**], and Libya [**Phut – the Africans and northern Indians**] with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet; [**no mention of Egypt here as it would have previously repented and come under the authority of the Messiah**]
 - 6 Gomer [**Southeast Asia**] and all his bands; the house of Togarmah [**Caucasus and also in Siberia**] *from* the recesses of the north, and all his bands; *and* many peoples with you.
 - 7 Be prepared; yea, prepare for yourself, you and all your assembly that are assembled to you, and be a guard to them.
 - 8 After many days you will be visited. In the latter years **you shall come into the land turned back from the sword**, gathered out of many peoples, on the mountains of Israel, **which have always been waste**. (But he has been brought out of the peoples, and they shall dwell securely, all of them.)
 - 9 And you shall go up, coming like a storm. You shall be like a cloud to cover the land, you and all your bands, and many peoples with you.
 - 10 So says the Lord Jehovah: And it shall be in that day that things shall come into your heart, and you shall devise an evil plan.
 - 11 And you shall say, I will go up to the land of open spaces. **I will go to those at ease, who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and there are no bars nor gates to them, [this must be a time after the Second Exodus]**
 - 12 in order to take a spoil, and to steal a prize; **to turn your hand on the inhabited waste places, and on the people gathered out of the nations, who have gotten cattle and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.**
 - 13 Sheba [**Schwabian Germans**] and Dedan [**Prussians**], and the merchants of Tarshish [**Japanese and/or Spanish**], with all their young lions [**Assyrians (Nah 2:8-12; Is. 5:29; Hos 5:13-14; Jer 2:14-15, 18; 4:7; 50:17; Zech 11:3; Joel 1:6) and perhaps other former nations and allies of the US of Europe**], shall say to you, Have you come to take a spoil? Have you gathered your company to steal a prize, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? [**ie “don’t you know what happened to us when we attacked Israel in the Tribulation?”**]
 - 14 So, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, So says the Lord Jehovah: In that day when My people of Israel dwells securely, shall you not know *it*?
 - 15 And you shall come from your place out of the recesses of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army.
 - 16 And you shall come up on My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It shall be in the last days, and I will bring you against **My land [Holy Land, not North America and Britain]**, so that the nations may know

Me when I shall be sanctified in you, O Gog, before their eyes.

- 17 So says the Lord Jehovah: *Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days, by the hand of My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days and years that I would bring you against them? [these prophecies appear to be lost]*
- 18 And it shall be on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel, says the Lord Jehovah, My fury shall come up in My face.
- 19 For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great quaking in the land of Israel,
- 20 so that the fish of the sea, and the birds of the heavens, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men on the face of the earth, shall quake at My presence. And the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. **[a giant earthquake]**
- 21 And I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains, says the Lord Jehovah. *Each man's sword shall be against his brother.*
- 22 And I will judge him with a plague and with blood. And I will rain on him, and on his bands, and on the many peoples with him, an overflowing shower, and great hailstones, fire and brimstone. **[cp Jos 10:11]**
- 23 So I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself. And I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I *am* Jehovah.

Eze 39:1 Therefore, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, So says the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the chief ruler of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.

- 2 And I will turn you back, and lead you on. And I will bring you up from the recesses of the north, and I will bring you on the mountains of Israel.
- 3 And I will strike your bow out of your left hand, and will cause your arrows to fall out of your right hand.
- 4 You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your bands, and the people with you. I will give you for food to the birds of prey of every kind, and to the beasts of the field.
- 5 You shall fall on the face of the field, for I have spoken, says the Lord Jehovah.
- 6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and on the secure inhabitants of the coasts. And they shall know that I *am* Jehovah. **[volcanoes or meteorites?]**
- 7 And I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel. And I will not *let them* profane My holy name any more. And the nations shall know that I *am* Jehovah, the Holy One in Israel.
- 8 Behold, it is coming, and it will be done, says the Lord Jehovah. *This is* the day of which I have spoken.
- 9 And the inhabitants of the cities of Israel shall go out and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the javelins, and the spears. And they shall burn them with fire **seven years [the Biblical number of completeness]**,
- 10 so that they shall take no wood out of the field, nor cut down *any* out of the forests for they shall burn the weapons for fire **[these weapons will provide fuel]**. And they shall plunder those who plundered them, and rob those who robbed them, says the Lord Jehovah.
- 11 And it will be in that day I will give to Gog a place there, a grave in Israel, the valley of those who pass by, east of the sea. And it shall stop the *noses* of those who pass by. And there they shall bury Gog and all his multitude. And *they* shall call *it*, The Valley of the Multitude of Gog.
- 12 And the house of Israel shall bury them, to cleanse the land, seven months.
- 13 And all the people of the land shall bury. And it shall be a name to them, the day when I am glorified, says the Lord Jehovah.
- 14 And men shall separate those who continually pass through the land, burying those who passed through, who remain on the face of the earth, to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they shall search.
- 15 And *as* they pass, those who pass through the land, and *any* man sees a bone, then he shall build a post beside it, until the buriers have buried it in The Valley of the Multitude of Gog.
- 16 And also the name of the city *is* The Multitude. And they shall cleanse the land.
- 17 And you, son of man, So says the Lord Jehovah. Speak to the bird of every wing, and to every beast of the

field: Gather yourselves and come; gather yourselves from all around to My sacrifice that I sacrifice for you, a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, so that you may eat flesh and drink blood.

- 18 You shall eat the flesh of the mighty and drink the blood of the rulers of the earth, of rams, lambs, goats, and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan.
- 19 And you shall eat fat until you are full, and drink blood until you are drunk, of My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.
- 20 And you shall be filled at My table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, all the men of war, says the Lord Jehovah.
- 21 And I will set My glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see My judgments which I have done, and My hand that I have laid on them.
- 22 So the house of Israel shall know that I *am* Jehovah their God from that day and forward.
- 23 And the nations shall know that the house of Israel was exiled for their iniquity. Because they sinned against Me, therefore I hid My face from them and gave them into the hand of their enemies. So they all fell by the sword.
- 24 According to their uncleanness and according to their sins I have done to them, and have hidden My face from them.

[possibly from about here onward, we have an inset section]

- 25 Therefore so says the Lord Jehovah: And I will return the captivity of Jacob, and will have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for My holy name;
- 26 *after* they have borne their shame and all their sins by which they have sinned against Me, when they dwell securely in their land and no one terrifies;
- 27 when I have brought them again from the peoples, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;
- 28 then they shall know that I *am* Jehovah their God **who exiled them among the nations**. But I have gathered them to their own land, and have not left any of them there.
- 29 Nor will I hide My face from them any more, for I have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel, says the Lord Jehovah.

Appendix Three: Ezekiel – Revelation Parallels

The book of Revelation has some parallels with Ezekiel – not because the two books concern the exact same events – but because there are similarities in events that occur that have similar consequences, parallels and as forerunners or types.

Ian Boxall brings this out:

“The influence of the Book of Ezekiel on the last book of the Christian Bible is indisputable. It can be detected most obviously in the many allusions to and echoes of the Old Testament writing, permeating virtually every chapter of Revelation. Isolating these allusions with precision is not always straightforward, given John’s stubborn refusal to actually quote Old Testament texts, and his tendency to evoke a range of texts from across the prophetic corpus in the same passage. Nevertheless, few would deny Ezekiel’s role as at least one dominant source for the seer of Patmos. The 4th edition of the UBS Greek New Testament, for example, lists no less than 84 allusions and verbal parallels to Ezekiel in the Apocalypse, spread across every chapter except 12-13. More recent scholarship, however, has not been content with exploring verbal connections between the two works. A number of scholars, notably Albert Vanhoye [1962], Jeffrey Marshall Vogelgesang [1981], Michael Goulder [1981], and Jean-Pierre Ruiz [1989], have argued that this influence even extends to the structural level, and (though disagreeing to the extent of this phenomena) that Revelation follows Ezekiel’s order.” (“Exile, Prophet, Visionary: Ezekiel’s Influence on the Book of Revelation” in *The Book of Ezekiel and its Influence*, p.147)

Here is Boxall’s chart (“The Revelation of Saint John”, *Black’s New Testament Commentaries*, p.255):

Revelation 1	Ezekiel 1
Revelation 4	Ezekiel 1
Revelation 5	Ezekiel 2
Revelation 6	Ezekiel 5-7
Revelation 7:1-2	Ezekiel 7:2-3
Revelation 7-8	Ezekiel 9-10
<i>Revelation 10</i>	<i>Ezekiel 2-3</i>
Revelation 10-13	Ezekiel 11-14 (echoes)
<i>Revelation 11:1-2</i>	<i>Ezekiel 40</i>
Revelation 13:11-18	Ezekiel 14
Revelation 17	Ezekiel 16, 23
Revelation 18	Ezekiel 26-28
Revelation 19:11-21	Ezekiel 29, 32 (39)
Revelation 20:1-3	Ezekiel 29, 32
Revelation 20:4-6	Ezekiel 37
Revelation 20:7-10	Ezekiel 38:1-39:20
Revelation 20:11-15	Ezekiel 39:21-29
Revelation 21-22	Ezekiel 40-48

Appendix Four: Will Russia Attack America?

[This article was written by Herbert W Armstrong for the July 1956 edition of the *Plain Truth* and updated in 1971.]

Many who claim to be authorities on prophecy assure people a war involving Russia and America and England is prophesied in Ezekiel 38.

The United States, Great Britain, and the democracies of northwestern Europe are actually modern ISRAEL — descended from the so-called lost Ten Tribes. Therefore, they conclude, the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 foretells a military invasion of the North American continent from Russia.

But this is not what the prophecy says.

What Ezekiel 38 does foretell is truly astounding. Let's understand it.

The Time-Sequence of the Prophecy

Ezekiel's message is for our day — prophetic warning for America and Britain, now!

To understand the time, the place, and all the facts of the prophecy of Ezekiel 38, we need to begin at the 1st chapter of Ezekiel's prophecy and read the book clear through.

When we do this, we find a TIME-SEQUENCE flowing thru the Book.

Let us skim thru it very briefly.

Notice, in the very first verse, Ezekiel was among the Jewish captives who had been taken in the captivity of Judah to the River Chebar. It was in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity that this prophecy began coming to Ezekiel thru visions.

It is a PROPHECY. Ezekiel was being shown things far into the FUTURE.

Notice, the prophecy was inspired and written after JUDAH'S captivity — more than 130 years after the House of ISRAEL had been taken captive to Assyria. The advance — guard of the House of Israel already had begun to arrive in the British Isles before Ezekiel's vision and writing.

Yet, Ezekiel is a prophet to the HOUSE OF ISRAEL. His prophecy applies to the far future — not to the captivity of Israel which had occurred more than 130 years before he wrote. Remember that!

Notice, Ezek. 2:3, and 3:1, 4-7, Ezekiel's message, a PROPHECY for the FUTURE, is for the HOUSE OF ISRAEL, not the House of Judah.

In chapter 3, beginning verse 17, Ezekiel is set a watchman to WARN the House of Israel.

Message to Israel, Not Judah

Notice! Beginning chapter 3: After the prophet "eats the roll" — that is, receives the prophetic warning message — he is to "go speak unto the HOUSE OF ISRAEL" — not to the Jews among whom he dwelt.

Remember he is already among the captives of JUDAH. But the Eternal says to him: "Go, get thee unto the House of ISRAEL" (Verse 4).

Surely we do not need to pause here to explain to readers of The PLAIN TRUTH that the twelve tribes of Israel had long before this divided into two nations — the ten Tribes being the House of ISRAEL, while Judah and Benjamin composed the House of JUDAH, who, only, were nicknamed "Jews." For the benefit of those readers who do not understand this vital distinction — a veritable "key" without which the prophecies cannot be opened to understanding — another edition of the special booklet "The United States in Prophecy" will shortly be published, and upon special request a copy will be sent free.

The Jewish people of today are descended from the House of JUDAH. But the white, English-speaking people of the United States and Great Britain are the leading "birthright" tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, heads of the ten-tribed HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

Ezekiel's Message is for our day — and it is, therefore, a message for America and Britain, NOW!

Notice chapter 4. The prophet is to place before him a tile, and trace upon it the city of Jerusalem, and lay siege against it. The sins pictured are those of Jerusalem, capital Of JUDAH. But "this" (verse 3) "shall be Jig. to the HOUSE of ISRAEL." Then follows the well-known key to the "day for a year" method of reckoning prophecy.

Continue chapter 5. "For," comes the warning Message from the Eternal, "thereof SHALL a fire come forth into all the HOUSE OF ISRAEL" (Verse 4). Notice, this is to portray vividly a warning of some FUTURE destruction upon the House of ISRAEL! Not upon Judah, already conquered by Nebuchadnezzar and in the midst of his sieges against Jerusalem. But upon ISRAEL — the ten-tribed nation who had gone into its first and original captivity one hundred thirty long years before! The warning is not of the captivity already so far back in history. It says "thereof SHALL a fire COME" upon Israel! It is a prophecy relating to a FUTURE destruction and captivity.

No such destruction and captivity has ever yet come to the House of Israel since this was written! Therefore it is still in the future — IN OUR TIME! It is a warning to Britain and America — NOW!

A Captivity of Israel Yet Future!

Notice more of this grim warning:

"A third part of thee (America-Britain) shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds" (in captivity being removed from our own land and scattered over the world) (verse 12).

Coming to chapter 6, the local scene of the vision shifts to the mountainous land of Palestine — but the MESSAGE is for AMERICA AND BRITAIN, today!

Will we heed it? God help us to wake up!

Listen! "Behold I, even I," says the Eternal God (Verse 3), "will bring a sword (invasion) upon you, and I will destroy your high places... and I will lay the dead carcasses of the children of ISRAEL before

their idols; and I will scatter your bones round about your altars. In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste (atomic-bombing) ... and ye shall know that I am the Eternal" (Verses 5-7).

Just a small remnant shall escape and be spared (Verse 8). These are described in Luke 21:36.

Continue: "Thus saith the Eternal God;... Alas for all the evil abominations of (not Judah, but) the HOUSE OF ISRAEL! for they SHALL" (not did, in the captivity 130 years before Ezekiel wrote, but SHALL) "fall by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence" (Verse 11).

The TIME Is FUTURE!

This is not a popular message. You probably have never heard it before. The preachers and teachers of prophecy almost unanimously will rise up to deny this warning Message — to apply it to a different time or people. But the warning is from the Eternal God, and it is sure! The reader will do well to heed:

Notice the TIME! It's important.

"All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be as weak as water" (Chapter 7 verse 17). "Howl ye; for the DAY OF THE LORD is at hand;... therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: and they shall be afraid" (Isa. 13:6-7). Plainly, the TIME is the "Day of the Lord" — yet in the immediate future!

Continue: "They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the WRATH OF THE LORD" (Ezek. 7:19). Now compare that with Zeph. 1:14-18: "The great day of the Lord is near... That day is a DAY OF WRATH ... And I (the Eternal) will bring distress upon men... Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's Wrath." Both are speaking of the same time... a time shortly ahead of us now, in this present generation!

"Wherefore," continues verse 24 (Ezek. 7), "I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses: and I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease... DESTRUCTION cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none... then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest" (Verses 25-26).

Yes, when this comes, our people finally will cry out for a true prophet or minister of the Eternal God — but it will be too late! For then shall have come the time spoken by the prophet Amos, when there shall be a FAMINE of HEARING THE WORDS OF THE ETERNAL — (Amos 8:11) — an END of true Gospel preaching! Already the people and their paid ministers have turned their eyes and ears from God's law!

Notice chapter 11 of Ezekiel's prophecy. It is a Message addressed to the House of ISRAEL — verse 5. "I will bring the sword upon you, saith the Eternal God. And I will bring you out of the midst thereof and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and will execute judgments among you. Ye shall fall by the sword" (Verses 8-10). WHEN? It is future from the time Ezekiel wrote, and it has not yet happened since then! GOD SAYS IT WILL HAPPEN! He means it.

Chapter 12, verse 11: "They SHALL remove, and go into captivity." It is yet future — and it is the House of ISRAEL! Not Judah.

When? "And they shall know I am the Eternal, when I shall scatter them among the nations, and

disperse them in the countries" (Verse 15). The expression "They shall know that I am the Eternal" is used repeatedly thru the Book of Ezekiel — always referring to the time of the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST, and Israel's final restoration back to the land of Palestine. Many prophecies show Israel is to be scattered in this latter-day captivity when Christ comes to RESTORE them back to that land.

People Won't Believe It!

Always the true prophets and ministers of God have stood almost alone, and opposed by the overwhelming majority in Israel. That is Israel's history of old. It is true today.

The 13th chapter shows the declarations of the popular ministry of this day in Israel — in America and Britain.

"Son of man, phophesy against the prophets of Israel... Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! O Israel thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the HOUSE OF ISRAEL to stand in the battle in the DAY OF THE LORD" (Verses 2-5). It is speaking of the soon-coming "Day of the Lord" — not some ancient event! ... "They have seduced my people, saying Peace; and there was no peace" (Verse 10).

Certainly the popular ministry of today is saying to the people that we shall never be defeated in war, became, say those who understand our national identity, we are the chosen people of Israel! But we were not chosen for special favors. We were chosen for a service and righteous life we have failed to perform! Every time Israel of old disobeyed God, departed from His laws and ways, and went into the pagan customs (as we have done today, actually deceiving ourselves by calling those customs "Christian!") they were invaded and conquered. Has God changed?

Ezekiel catalogs our sins — our customs and ways which seem right in our eyes but which are contrary to Gods laws and an abomination in HIS sight. Some of them he mentions in the 8th chapter.

In chapter 22: "Thou hast despised mine holy things, and profaned my sabbaths," says the Eternal (Verse 8). "Thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbors by extortion, and hath forgotten me, saith the Eternal... And I will (not did, but will) scatter thee among the heathen, and disperse thee in the countries, and will consume thy filthiness out of thee" (Verses 12, 15).

"Her priests" (prophetically speaking of modern Israel) "have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shown difference between the unclean and the clean (Lev. 11), and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them" (Verse 26). Our people today can't see where these things make any difference! But Ezekiel says the preachers have deceived the people, and led them astray. They have condoned all these things, until the people have lost God's pure TRUTH!

At this point Ezekiel digresses thru eight chapters, 25 thru 32, to prophesy against a number of foreign Gentile nations who have come in direct contact with Israel. In chapter 33, the prophet returns to pleading with the House of Israel. "Turn ye, turn ye," God pleads, "from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O House of Israel?" Here, too, Ezekiel is again set a watchman to WARN Israel — AMERICA AND BRITAIN TODAY! — at the time when this prophesied foreign sword is coming! Ezekiel wrote the Message — but it remains for us to whom God has revealed it today actually to shout and proclaim it to the people. God help us to be faithful in this solemn and grave commission!

In the 34th chapter, God tells him to prophesy against the ministers of our land. They have fed themselves, and not the flocks. They have preached what people wanted to hear (II Tim. 4:3-4) in order to get their salaries.

The Coming of Christ!

And now the Eternal inspires the prophet to come to the solution!

"Thus saith the Eternal God: Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock... Behold I, even I, will both search my sheep and seek them out... and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day (the DAY OF THE LORD — yet future). And I will... gather them from the countries, and bring them to their own land (Palestine), and feed them (spiritual food) upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country" (Verses 10-14).

Christ Himself — for He is the Eternal — shall come and rescue our people, not only from the coming captivity and dispersion, but from the false Babylonish teachings which have been palmed off to our people cloaked as "Christianity." He will then set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people Israel (Isa. 11:11). The spiritual blindness shall then be removed, and all Israel shall be saved! (See Romans 11:25-26.) The KINGDOM OF GOD shall be established. Men shall be tired of their own ways, and seek God's ways — and His law shall go forth of Zion (Micah 4:2-3). And the nations shall find PEACE!

The 35th chapter reveals the end of the Turkish nation, to occur at this time, because of their treachery against Great Britain — all yet to be fulfilled. This ties up with the prophecy of Obadiah.

In the 36th chapter, the Eternal addresses Palestine: "Prophecy unto the mountains of Israel... Thus saith the Eternal God to the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, to the desolate wastes, and to the cities that are forsaken... But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come... And I will multiply men upon you, all the HOUSE OF ISRAEL even ALL of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded: and I will multiply upon you man and beast" (Verses 1, 4, 8, 10-11).

Yes, the House of Israel is pictured returning to Palestine, not from a condition of wealth and prosperity from Britain and America — not in the position of a people victorious in a great world war — but as a slave and captive people, scattered thru the nations of the world! ALL prophecies picturing this rescue and re-gathering of Israel at Christ's coming give us the wile prophetic picture! Why be blinded to the truth?

Both Houses United in Palestine

In chapter 37, the first part pictures the "valley of dry bones." This represents (Verse 11), the whole House of Israel — including Judah. It has a dual significance. It pictures the re-birth and resurrection of Israel as a nation, from captivity, dispersion and slavery. It pictures, too, the literal bodily resurrection of the individual who has long since died, after which the knowledge of the Truth — spiritual knowledge — shall be revealed, and he shall be converted, and Gods Spirit shall enter within, and he shall be saved.

Beginning the 15th verse, the illustration of the two sticks shows the two Houses, or nations, Israel and Judah, being once more united, under Christ at His second coming, in the land of Israel.

"...Thus saith the Eternal God; Behold I will take the children of Israel" (from the British Isles, and America — from a position of wealth and affluence recent victors in the world war? No, but) from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: and I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be King over them all: they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions... And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt... they, and their children, and their children's children former.... Moreover, I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an EVERLASTING COVENANT" (The NEW Covenant). (Verses 21-26).

And Now Comes Gog!

Notice, now, the story-flow — the time-sequence! The prophet has carried us thru the sins of Israel, the coming invasion and captivity and dispersion, the Coming of Christ as DELIVERER to RESTORE the fortunes of Israel. We have come to the time when both Israel and Judah shall be re-united into one nation, rescued from captivity and dispersion, and re-gathered again in PALESTINE, once again made prosperous, having learned our lesson, now living God's way, under His laws, enjoying His richest blessings, both material and spiritual!

And now we come to chapter 38! And this chapter finds Israel restored in Palestine — "the land that is brought back from the sword," (Verse 8). We find Israel now at rest, dwelling SAFELY, yet totally UNPREPARED for war — having "neither bars nor gates" (Verse 11); in the desolate places of Palestine, now inhabited, (verse 12) — yes, inhabited (same verse) by the people that are once again restored to great material prosperity — "which have gotten cattle, and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land."

Notice it!

This prophecy does not picture the British Isles and America! It pictures the land of PALESTINE. It pictures our people having been taken there from a dispersion and captivity and slavery, gathered out of the nations where we had been scattered, now once again rich and increased with goods!

Notice it! The TIME of this prophecy is AFTER — not before, but AFTER the Second coming of Christ — AFTER the Great Deliverer has come and rescued our people and restored us to Palestine — AFTER Israel and Judah are re-united! Certainly the "latter years" (verse 8).

The PLACE of this battle is not Britain or America — it is PALESTINE!

"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 (once a perpetual waste — Moffatt translation)" (Verse 8). The "mountains of Israel" is an expression used all thru the Book of Ezekiel, and always refers to the literal mountainous land of Palestine.

Our people shall have regained so much wealth that Gog and allies — Russia and numerous Gentile allies — shall come to "take a spoil" (Verse 13), "to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a GREAT spoil."

Christ's Reign Contested!

But this very fact — that this invasion will not come until after the Second Coming of Christ — will seem preposterous to many, at first thought.

That is because we have been accustomed merely to ASSUME things that are not true. We have blindly ASSUMED that when Christ comes, there will be no opposition. Every person and power on earth, we have thought, will simply submit meekly and instantly to Him and His power. But that is not true!

The Gentile nations who have schemed to conquer and rule the world — they shall not submit until forced to. The European fascists shall be subdued and conquered at "Armageddon." But Russia, and the populous Oriental nations who know not God or Christ, shall still have to be brought to submission!

"Gog" Is Russia

There is general agreement among all students of prophecy, that "Gog" in the land of "Magog" is RUSSIA. "Meshech" is Moscow. "Tubal" is Tobolsk. The margin says "Prince of Rosh" which is Russia.

Notice the allies who come with Russia in this future battle. You will find "Gomer," "Togarmah," "Magog," "Meshech," "Tubal," identified in Genesis 10 as the sons of JAPHETH, father of the yellow races. Ethiopia and Libya (or Phut) are descended from Ham. Any Bible map will show that the descendants of Japheth migrated north and northeast into the territories occupied today by Russia, and the Oriental races.

Therefore, this prophecy of Ezekiel 38 shows that it is RUSSIA, not Japan, who shall finally succeed in marshalling all the yellow races into a gigantic invasion upon OUR people.

Russia is a Communist nation. Communism is atheism — it fights God! When God rules the world, thru Christ — with His chosen people restored to great wealth in Palestine, the very CENTER of the land surface of the earth (verse 13, Moffatt translation), Russia shall finally rise up with the most overwhelming armies ever assembled by man!

The mighty air-force of Russia in that day will make those of the last war look puny. "Thou shalt ascend," the Eternal says of Russia, "and come like a storm (in the air), thou shalt be like a cloud TO COVER THE LAND" (Verse 9). There shall be so many planes then that they will hide the sun off the ground below, like a huge dark shadow!

The END of World Conquest

This will be the final effort of rebellious, God — resisting man to conquer the world in the lust for power and material wealth.

Our people Israel shall not be armed or prepared. "When my people Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? asks the Eternal. "And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts (Russia is due north of Palestine), thou, and many people (allies) with thee... a mighty army: 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 (note the purpose), when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes" (Verses 14-16).

But our people shall not have to fight in that battle. We shall have learned by then that God fights our battles for us!

"And it shall come to pass at that time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel (Palestine), saith the Eternal God, that MY FURY shall come up in my face" (Verse 18). "So that... all the men that are upon the face of the earth shall shake at MY PRESENCE" (Verse 20). It is AFTER Christ's coming!

"I will summon an utter panic against him (Gog), says the Lord the Eternal, till every man in his host shall draw the sword against his fellow: I will punish him with pestilence and bloodshed, I will rain on him and his hordes and all the nations in his train an overpowering flood, with hailstones, fire, and brimstone. I will let ALL THE NATIONS See MY MIGHT AND DREAD DIVINITY — to teach them that I am the Eternal!" (Verses 21-23, Moffatt).

Notice, these heathen nations do not see and recognize the dread DIVINITY, the MIGHT, and POWER of the Eternal Christ, even after He has returned. He has to TEACH them that HE is the ETERNAL!

The 39th chapter shows in more detail the RESULT of this great battle, in which Christ, with supernatural power, causes five-sixths of these heathen armies to be slain in this battle.

Notice, again, the time: "Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole House of Israel (Israel and Judah), and will be jealous for my holy name;... when I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their ENEMIES' LANDS, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; then shall they KNOW that I AM THE ETERNAL!" (Ch. 39:25-28).

Notice again! At Christ's Second Coming, He shall gather Israel — our British and American people — out of our enemies' lands, not out of our own land of wealth and power, North America and the British Isles!

But by then, we shall be thoroughly chastened. We shall have learned our lesson. We shall live by GOD'S rules, and obey His law. "For I have poured out MY SPIRIT upon the House of Israel, saith the Eternal God" (Verse 29).

And then, beginning chapter 40, the remainder of the Book of Ezekiel reveals the ideal THEOCRACY — God's NEW ORDER of divine government upon earth — the permanent forms and institutions which shall express the ideal relation between God and man!

In the meantime, our job is to WARN America and Britain of what lies ahead! To shout the warning to come out of BABYLON (Rev. 18:4) — that those who heed may find God now — may come under His divine protection (Psalm 91), and by a true Spirit — filled life — obedient to GOD'S WAYS and laws, be prepared to become a ruler or a teacher in Christ's soon-coming glorious Kingdom!

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When do the Armies of Ezekiel 38 and 39 Invade Israel? A Study

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