

**EZEKIEL**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Ezekiel chapter 38 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As we move into chapters 38 and 39 of Ezekiel the key is what happened prior to this chapter, what happened in Ezekiel chapter 37. In that chapter we saw the restoration or the rebirth of the nation of Israel. These dead, lifeless bones came back to life and the Lord said that He is speaking of the whole house of Israel, both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah coming together.

It is after they are back in the land that the events mentioned in these two chapters take place, this war with Russia and her Muslim allies coming down upon the nation of Israel. In 1948 they Jews returned to the land and became a nation. Now we await this war that is coming and as you look at what is taking place in the Middle East it seems to be very close.

I love what Dr. Theodor Herzl, the playwright from Austria who began the tremendous Zionist movement back into the land of Israel said, "There is a land without a people. There is a people without a land. Give the land without a people to the people without a land." And that is exactly what God has done!

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the first president of Israel, said the following as he was speaking before the Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry, "The Jewish nation is a ghost nation. Only the God of Israel has kept the Jewish people alive." You can't argue that point, for as you study this nation and her people, you can't come away without seeing this miracle of God. God has sustained them and brought them back into the land once again, bringing them back to life!

Also, David Ben-Gurion, who was the first Prime Minister and Minister of Defense in Israel, said, “Ezekiel 37 has been fulfilled, and the nation Israel is hearing the footsteps of the Messiah.”

I remember when we were in Israel several years ago, across from the Wailing Wall or the Western Wall on a building was a sign that read in Hebrew, “Prepare the Messiah is coming!” They are looking for the Messiah; they are getting ready to rebuild the Temple. And as exciting as that it, it is also very sad.

You see, there is a man coming who is riding in on a white horse, but it is not the Messiah, but the Antichrist. And for 3½ years he will usher in a time of false peace, allowing the Jews to rebuild their Temple and then He will pour out his fury upon this world and specifically the Jews.

Now when does this war of God and Magog take place? Some say that this is speaking of the Battle of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation Period and there are some very good Bible teachers that feel this way.

There are many others, including myself, that feel that as you read of the events in these two chapters they do not match with what is said about the Battle of Armageddon. Let me show you what I mean and then we will dig into this chapter and see who these players are that are coming to destroy Israel. And as you will see, there is nothing too surprising here because we see the hatred of these nations even today!

First of all when you see the nations involved here in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 you see a limited number of nations. But in the Battle of Armageddon we see that the nations of the world are gathered together. God is very specific here in Ezekiel with the nations that are involved and even the ones that are absent from this invasion against Israel!

Secondly, here in Ezekiel we see that this invasion comes from the north while in the Battle of Armageddon the invasion comes from the whole earth!

The third difference is that here in Ezekiel the purpose for the invasion is to take the spoil of the land while in the Battle of Armageddon it is to destroy all the Jews! And yes, for the Muslims they do want to destroy the Jews, but Russia is coming for the spoil!

The fourth difference is that the armies that come against the Jews here in Ezekiel are destroyed by some kind of nuclear weapon it seems while in the Battle of Armageddon these armies will be destroyed by the sword that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. Jesus Christ destroys those nations at the end of the Tribulation Period!

The fifth difference is that in Ezekiel there are nations that protest against what is happening, even though they don't have the power to stop it. But in the battle of Armageddon no nations are protesting against this invasion against Israel, they are all coming against her!

The sixth difference is that the Ezekiel war we see these armies destroyed in the mountains of Israel while in the Battle of Armageddon we see the armies destroyed from the Valley of Megiddo all the way down to Petra it seems!

The seventh difference is that as God delivers the Jews in this battle here in Ezekiel we see the Jews burn the implements of war for seven years. So that means that this battle has to take place sometime prior to the start of the Tribulation Period because after the Battle of Armageddon the Lord is going to reestablish this land and there will be no burning of these implements of war!

I think that shows that there is a big difference between these two wars, they are not speaking of the same event. Now one more thing before we begin our study this evening and just listen to what one writer had to say. Keep in mind this was written several years ago but as you listen to what he wrote and what is happening today, we are even closer! This is what he wrote,

The winds of war are blowing once again in the Middle East. Iran is developing and testing a Medium Range Ballistic Missile with Russian assistance. Iraq is defiant to weapons inspectors once again. Iran and her protégé Syria have purchased several Soviet fight-bomber aircraft in 1997. Syria has also purchased 1000 Kornet anti-tank weapons. Israel has not been idly watching their neighbors arming. Israel is currently accepting delivery of advanced American F-15I fighter-bombers. An anti-missile missile system is being deployed. Israel has received 3 new German Dolphin-class submarines to augment their navy. And Israel is now launching their own spy satellites. What is the outcome of all this military buildup? Here is the answer . . .

- [http://www.tribulation.com/prt\\_gog.htm](http://www.tribulation.com/prt_gog.htm)

With that said, let's begin reading in Ezekiel chapter 38 beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

**EZEKIEL 38****VERSES 1-2**

1. First of all we see the name “**Gog**” mentioned and it is not really a name, it is a title. The name “**Gog**” means “ruler” or “man on top.” This is the dictator of the land of Magog. Now there are some commentators who say that we can’t know the names of these places today and to try to figure them out is foolish. I will give you one example. One commentator wrote,

This prophecy against Gog and his assembled army is widely misinterpreted. Because the identity of Gog is debatable, and Gog comes out of the “north,” many people who know little about how apocalyptic prophecy is properly interpreted have tried to equate Gog with some modern “northern” nation. Since the communist Revolution in Russia in 1917, American antipathy [hostility] for the Russians has made them the prime candidate for identification with Gog, especially because of the mention of “Rosh” in 39:3, since “Rosh” sounds something like the first syllable of “Russia” (although not in Russian or Hebrew). The communicator must help his or her audience to get beyond this misinterpretation, and a good starting place is one of the basic rules of interpreting Bible prophecy: no modern nation is mentioned in the Bible. This does not, of course, mean that modern times and characteristics are not mentioned in the Bible, but simply that the history of any particular modern nation is not a subject that God has chosen to cause to be incorporated into His Word.

- Douglas Stuart, The Preacher’s Commentary, Ezekiel, p. 343

I do disagree with him and I am disappointed that he says that if we do name who these nations are we just don't know how to interpret Bible prophecy. Then why do we have these ancient names in here describing them as members of this war against Israel? If you look at what God did, he named these areas so we can understand who they are in the days we are living in. You see, city and nation names change but these names go all the way back in time and we know where they were located and thus, it is the people of those lands today!

Let me show you what I mean. You see, if the Lord used modern names or locations that would be a problem for us today. Let me start out with St. Petersburg in Russia. In 1914 the name of the city was changed from Saint Petersburg to Petrograd then in 1924 to Leningrad and in 1991, back to Saint Petersburg. That would be a problem but the Lord gives us these ancient names because we know the locations of these ancient people and I believe we have good evidence today showing who these players are in this war.

So Gog is the leader or the dictator of the land of Magog, but who is Magog? Obviously this is an important question and one I think is easy to understand as you look back in history. Magog was one of the sons of Japheth listed in Genesis chapter 10, and Japheth was one of the three sons of Noah. Now if we look at the historical records it is easy to see that Magog is referring to the ancient people known as the Scythians. Let me give you some examples of what I mean.

First of all there is Hesiod and he was "The father of Greek didactic poetry." Also, he was a contemporary with Ezekiel living in the seventh century B. C. And he identified Magog with the Scythians and Southern Russia.

Then there is Josephus who was around just after the time of Jesus and he wrote, “Magog founded Magogians, thus named after him, but who were by the Greeks called Scythians.”

There is Herodotus of Halicarnassus and Herodotus was writing around the fifth century B. C. He is known as the “Father of history.” He once again speaks of the Scythians as being the people of Magog.

Then there is the physical landmark, the Great Wall of China, which is obviously still standing today. It has been described by ancient Muslim writers as the “Ramparts of Magog.” In other words, it was designed to keep the Scythians out. And as we have seen, the Scythians are the ancestors to what you would call Russia today!

As we read on we will see the phrase “**far north**” or “**the uttermost parts of the north**” used some three times in these two chapters. (Ezekiel 38:6, 38:15, 29:2) This army will come down from the “**far north**” upon Israel! I believe this is the area known as Russia today for if you draw a line from Israel northward you will run into Moscow.

Also understand that Russia is spread out from east to west some 6,000 miles, spanning some 11 time zones! So it is hard to miss who Ezekiel is speaking of. In fact, Rabbi Chaim Valoshinere said the following in the mid-nineteenth century, “When you see the Russian army begin to move southward and enter Turkey, put on your Sabbath garments and get ready to welcome the Messiah.”

You see, he saw, as others, this war with Russia breaking out and then the Messiah will come! I believe there will be at least the seven-year period of time known as the Tribulation Period that will separate this war from the coming of the Messiah to set-up His kingdom on this earth! This war could break out a few years or so prior to the start of the Tribulation Period, we are not sure.

Now in verse 2, where it says, “**The prince of Rosh**” is probably better translated as “**The chief prince of Meshech.**” Now Meshech was the sixth son of Japheth and is associated with modern Turkey, probably eastern Turkey.

Then there is Tubal and Tubal was the fifth son of Japheth and many feel this is speaking of Tobolsk in Russia. Others feel this too is speaking of modern day Turkey. So we are not positive what area exactly Tubal is speaking of but most say it is modern day Turkey. And we will talk more about Turkey in a few minutes because several years ago it seemed like this was not possible as Turkey was pro-Israel and trying to get into the European Community! But as we will see, things have changed.

#### VERSES 3-6

1. What is interesting here is that not only will God fight against this massive army that comes against the nation of Israel but He will also draw these armies into this war. Now that does not seem fair, it does not seem right. If God draws them in how can they be accountable for their actions?

Please understand that it is man’s choice in what he does. God is only making firm what man desires to do just as He did with Pharaoh. And as you read this it is very clear that Russia is going to be drawn into a battle she doesn’t want to get into at this time. Who is going to draw them into this battle? The nations she is aligning herself with! Also we will see that Russia will be after the booty that is in Israel, the wealth and the land she can obtain. We will look at this more in a minute but first let’s look at these nations that are going to come down with Russia in this battle.



2. First of all we see Persia mentioned. Interestingly enough we see that back in 1932 Persia changed its name to Iran! And Iran is the principle leader in the rise of “Islamic Fundamentalism.” You see, this army is not made up of only Arab’s. That is not the uniting force that has drawn them together. Then what is the glue that holds this army together? They are all Muslim in faith and of course they are very anti-Israel! Iran wants to destroy the Jews, we see that over and over again from its leaders and they are in the process of developing nuclear weapons!

Who is helping them achieve nuclear weapons? Russia is working with Iran in helping them build a nuclear weapon, even though Iran is denying this. Listen to what the Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Former envoy to NATO said about any threat to Iran, ***“Iran is our close neighbor, just south of the Caucasus. Should anything happen to Iran, should Iran get drawn into any political or military hardships, this will be a direct threat to our national security.”*** Can you see what would happen if Israel attacked Iran destroying its nuclear facilities? Maybe that will be one of the hooks in the jaw of Russia that brings them into this conflict. And you have to know that the other Islamic nations would come against Israel as well!

3. Then there is Ethiopia or Cush, it is translated both ways in the Bible versions but it is speaking of the same area. This is referring to “Black Africa.” And it probably covers some two-thirds of the African continent with the other one-third being the upper portion of the continent. And again the principle faith here is Islamic Fundamentalism, they are Muslim!

4. Next is Libya or Put and this is speaking of the upper part of Africa, from the midpoint westward, reaching from Libya to Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. And again, they are Muslim!
  
5. Then there is Gomer and the people of Gomer are probably speaking of North Central Turkey although some believe it is speaking of Germany. I lean more with Turkey being spoken of here.
  
6. We also see Togarmah and these people settled in the area of modern day Turkey and Turkestan. And they too are moving towards Islamic Fundamentalism. Now this can also be speaking of the five republics that broke off from the Soviet Union when communism broke up. These five Southern states are: Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. They too are Islamic and they have nuclear weapons, and they too would like to see Israel destroyed!
  
7. Like I have said, Turkey was more pro-Israel several years ago and thus, it was hard to see them play a role in this war. But when the European Community snubbed them, they turned back to their Islamic roots and now have turned against Israel.

Here is an article from 2009, and over the years things have not gotten better but worse as Turkey turns against Israel in their beliefs and practices. We are told,

In this article, we will examine the policy changes and government statements that underline a realignment of Turkey to Islamic countries like Syria, Lebanon and Iran, and the implications both for Israel and the West.

Formally, Ankara remains committed to joining the EU, but the idea of joining has lost much of its appeal after years of rejection and additional European demands to repeatedly prove that it is worthy.

Indeed, Germany and France remain adamantly opposed to Turkey's entrance to the EU. At a recent joint television appearance in Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy made clear their opposition to Turkish EU membership.

Turkey, however, has made efforts to develop better relations with Arab states and such other countries as Russia, Syria and Iraq – and even Armenia, a traditional foe.

Consider now a poem written by Recep Erdogan which reflects his true feelings:

“The mosques are our barracks, the domes our helmets, the minarets our bayonets and the believers are our soldiers. This Holy army guards my religion. Almighty, our journey is our destiny, the end is martyrdom”.

Hardly the words of a secularist! . . .

In addition, Turkey is looking to re-establish its historical influence in the Turkic countries of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. . . .

Turkey's new foreign minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, is one such influential adviser who has outlined what he calls a "multidimensional policy" contrary to what has been practiced. . . .

Observers point out that Davutoglu's origins are from what is called Central Anatolia which encompasses most of modern Turkey, the Caucasus and Iran. He is said to be heavily influenced by Islamic thought and has no hesitation in embracing Turkey's past Ottoman Empire which included countries over which Turkey seeks to regain influence. Given his eastern education, Davutoglu believes that Turkey should not be so committed only to a western orientation.

Davutoglu readily approaches countries deemed to be bad guys in the eyes of the U.S. – Syria and Iran, and such groups as Hezbollah and Hamas which the U.S. has labeled as terrorist groups.

Turkey, a secular country ruled by an Islamic-oriented party, had long been Israel's best friend in the Muslim world. But ties have cooled sharply over Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's sharp criticism of Israel's winter war in the Gaza Strip.

News flash: Turkey bans Israel from military exercises.

The Israeli military said the Oct. 12-23 drill was delayed indefinitely "because of Turkey's decision to change the list of participating countries, thus excluding Israel."

The exercise was to have been the sixth annual maneuver of its kind. The military said it was to have included U.S., Italian and NATO forces.

Israeli defense officials said Ankara cancelled the drill after the U.S. pulled out over the Turkish decision to blackball Israel. . . .

- <http://www.islam-watch.org/home/89-other-authors/247-losing-secular-turkey-to-islamic-fundamentalism.html>

8. So I do believe it will be one of these Muslim nations that starts this war and because of alliances that have been made with Russia, they will be drawn into this battle to assist them. And understand that the first nuclear weapon launched into Israel will make that Muslim nation a hero throughout the Islamic community. During a private briefing at NATO headquarters in Brussels several years ago, Robert Hunter, the ambassador to NATO, declared, "That a nuclear confrontation in the Middle East it is not just likely, it is certain. It is just a matter of timing." How true that is and the key here is that it is all in accordance with God's timing!

9. I also see that this hook that grabs the jaw of Russia to bring them into this battle is not just Islam and the alliances that Russia has made with these Muslim nations. Also, keep in mind that 40% of the Russian Army is Muslim! But there is more.

We also see the Russian economy in shambles. And in Israel, they have struck large natural gas deposits and they know where there is natural gas there is oil. Many believe that Israel has within its borders the largest oil deposits in the world! That is another hook to bring them down, the rich oil deposits!

Not only that but the Middle East is the gateway to three continents: Africa, Asia and Europe so to control this land is very important to them and monetarily very important to them. Another hook!

Alexander the Great declared that whoever controls the Middle East will control the world. Napoleon said virtually the same thing as did Adolf Hitler. I believe the hook has been set and in just a matter of time there will be this major war in the Middle East, this war that is spoken of here in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39!

#### VERSES 7-12

1. We see this invasion taking place in the “**latter years**” and the idea is to destroy the nation of Israel. Also notice that these people, the Jews will also be brought back into the land prior to this invasion, which just makes sense.

They were brought back into the land in 1948 and thus, many feel we are living in the days that this battle can take place. Now some argue that Israel is not un-walled and that is true. There are walls up for protection from suicide bombers and other terrorists from coming into the country. It could be speaking about that.

But the city of Jerusalem is not walled in and that may also be the idea here. We are not sure. Some feel that the walls will come down when Psalm 83 takes place. And as you look at the nations involved they are not the same ones we see here in Ezekiel chapter 38 and 39.

One of the key points that are made is what Psalm 83:2-5 says, **“For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, ‘Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more.’ For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You.”**

I think that is very interesting in that these nations that surround Jerusalem want to **“cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more.”** Not only that but they have consulted with one another to destroy Israel. That is what we hear even today! So there are many today who see this as an event that has not transpired yet and it will happen before the Ezekiel 38 and 39 invasion.

But it is possible that we have seen this take place back in 1967. We are told,

On May 28, 1967, Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of the United Arab Republic, said, “We plan to open a general assault on Israel. This will be total war. Our basic aim is the destruction of Israel.” When war broke out on June 5, the United Arab Republic was joined by Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Sudan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco. The attempt of this confederacy to drive Israel into the sea was unsuccessful. In six days the war was over. Israel was the undisputed victor.

For many Bible lovers, Psalm 83 took on new meaning after the Six-Day War. And perhaps it will have further fulfillments before Israel's claim to the land is irrevocably settled by the coming of the Lord Jesus to reign as King.

- William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary, p. 675

Time will tell but I do believe that this war of Psalm 83 has taken place already. And like I have said, you can go to Jerusalem today and see that there are no walls, no gates, no bars around this city. Yes there are is not a lot of peace in that part of the world but prior to this war beginning, we can see peace break out, a false peace but peace. That is very possible and it seems to go with what Ezekiel is saying here. And God is saying that it is during this time that Russia and her allies will come sweeping down upon them like a storm.

2. Now one of the reasons for the attack; and we have talked about this already, but verse 12 tells us it is **“to take plunder and to take booty.”** If Russia has control of the Middle East she would control over 65% of the world's oil supply! Japan and Europe only have around 100 days of oil reserves. Also, Russia, together with South Africa controls the major source of 12 strategic minerals needed for advanced technologies and missile defense. Also, in the Dead Sea there is 3 trillion dollars of potash used for fertilizer and the making of weapons. And if you can control the Middle East, you will control the gateway to Africa, Asia and Europe as I have said!

Keep your eyes on the Middle East and watch the nations that are aligning themselves up with each other and see how they fit into the Ezekiel scenario!

VERSES 13-14

1. Here are a group of people who seem to be totally ineffective in trying to stop or preventing this war from taking place. Who are these people that have no power over Russia and her allies?

Sheba is probably speaking of Saudi Arabia, and they do not have too much might to do anything about this invasion, they have no influence over this army. Thus, Saudi Arabia is not involved in this battle.

Dedan is also associated with those who live in the Arabian Peninsula and are also powerless! Dedan is not involved in this battle, nor can they stop it from happening.

Now we have “**the merchants of Tarshish**” and many people today believe that this is speaking of Britain. The reality is, we are not exactly sure what this is speaking of but from the most recent archeological evidence, ancient Tarshish is pointing to Spain.

Now when we come to these “**young lions**” many say that if Tarshish is Britain, which I don't think it is, then these young lions must be referring to America! That is really stretching it and I think we like to think we are important in Bible prophecy but we really are not. These are leaders from Tarshish or the area around Tarshish. I think that is what it is speaking of.

VERSES 15-16

1. I truly believe this event, the war with Magog and her allies, is the next big event on God's prophetic time-clock and it could happen prior to the Rapture of the Church. Now if there is a delay between the Rapture of the Church and the start of the seven-year Tribulation Period then this war can take place after the Rapture of the Church. I am not going to be dogmatic on this because I am not sure. All I do know is that after this war Israel will burn the implements of this war for seven years and we will see that in chapter 39 of Ezekiel.



These people, coming from the far north, will descend upon Israel like a storm, but they will not be victorious in this battle against Israel! And listen to what one writer had to say regarding this war and who is involved in this war. He wrote, “All of the allies of Magog (Russia) are reasonably well identified and all of them are Muslim. Their intense hatred of, as well as their commitment to destroy, Israel unites them in a common cause . . . The present line-up of allies with Magog makes Ezekiel 38 and 39 appear more imminent with each issue of our daily newspaper.” (Chuck Missler) I would have to agree!

### VERSES 17-23

1. This is kind of a preview of what God is going to talk about in Ezekiel chapter 39, the destruction of Magog and her armies! But here we see Gog; the ruler of Magog come sweeping down upon Israel and God will destroy them. The majority of this army will be destroyed, 5/6 of this army will be gone and with Russia out of the picture Europe will emerge as a world power and opening the door for the Antichrist to come on the scene! The world will be in chaos after this war, after millions of people disappear in the Rapture and this man; the Antichrist will come with the answers to man’s problems. That door will now be open.

2. And as these Muslim nations unite against Israel, we see that their own scriptures, the Koran tells them to kill not only Jews but all infidels! Listen carefully to just a couple of verses to show you what I mean.

Fight and slay the pagans (infidels) wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem of war.

Koran, Sura 9:5

Believers (Muslims), take neither Jews nor Christians to be your friends: they are friends with one another. Whoever of you seeks their friendship shall become one of their number. And God does not guide (those Jewish and Christian) wrongdoers.

Koran, Sura 5:51-5:74

It is this hatred towards the Jews that brings these Muslim nations into a battle against the nation of Israel, and Russia, because of the treaty's they have signed with these Muslim nations will be drawn into this battle. Yes they want the land and they want the resources, but Russia was not ready to get into this battle, but they are drawn into it. Now, as we get to Ezekiel chapter 39 this evening, the battle has started and God is going to intervene!

### **EZEKIEL 39**

#### **VERSES 1-5**

1. Here in Ezekiel chapter 39 we see these nations coming down upon Israel to destroy the Jews and take the land. It truly does seem that God has placed the players in position and in His time He will allow this war to begin!

2. Now I realize that as some read this they laugh as it speaks of bows and arrows. Please understand that this is not what is being spoken of and in the English it comes across wrong. They are not going to be using bows and arrows to fight in this battle. You see, when the Scriptures were translated into the King James language or English back in 1611 they translated these words to fit with the technology they had back then, bows and arrows! But these Hebrew words can easily be translated "launchers" and "missiles" which can mean a variety of things today as we see a variety of different technologies that we have for war!

Not only that but when we read of “**horses**” there are many who also make fun of this but this word can be translated “leapers.” In other words, any self-propelled vehicles, like tanks and helicopters and so on! So it does fit in with the technology we have today and on into the future!

3. Also, we don't see the devastating effects of this battle against this enemy in the New King James version but is clear in the King James. There is a cataclysmic destruction that comes upon this massive army.

Verse 2 can be translated, “**And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel.**”

You see, 5/6 of this army, of these people, will be destroyed only leaving 1/6 to make it through. And thus, no longer is Russia a threat or these Muslim nations. But the European Community will rise up as a world power with no one to challenge them. And this carnage is so massive that the bodies of these soldiers are scattered all over the open field, left for the birds of the air and the wild animals to devour them before the professional's come in to bury them. And we will see that as we read on.

VERSES 6-8

1. Here we see not only the land of Magog, Russia, being hit, but also all those nations who have sided with her in this battle. Could this be speaking of nuclear weapons that are being launched? It is very possible, for the destruction is immense, only 1/6 of the people surviving! But God can use whatever He desires but whatever He does Israel will know who has done this, the **LORD!**

Does that mean they all will turn to the Lord? Absolutely not but some of them, at this point, will turn to Jesus. And we will see during the Tribulation Period 144,000 Jewish witnesses rise up and spread the Gospel and many Jews as well as Gentiles will be saved! But of this time, it will come to pass because, **“This is the day of which I have spoken.”**

VERSES 9-10

1. Notice that verse 9 speaks of these weapons of war will be gathered by Israel and they will burn them for seven years. And like I have said, that is another reason why I feel this war is prior to the Tribulation Period, it is not speaking of the Battle of Armageddon!

If this took place during the Battle of Armageddon then these seven years would extend into the Millennial Kingdom, which doesn't make sense to me. But, if this war started at the start of the Tribulation Period or prior to the start, then these weapons could be burned for the entire seven years of the Tribulation Period.

Now, when you think about it, not too many weapons are made of wood today. That has caused many to speculate this is just symbolic and not literal. The Pulpit Commentary said this, “. . . Schroder, as indicating that for Israel these warlike instruments should then so completely lose their power to terrify that they might be looked upon simply as so much firewood; and by Keil, as designer to annihilate the enemy and remove every trace of him.”

I disagree. I do take this very literally even though this does not sound like conventional weapons! David Hocking, from his April, 2000 newsletter, Hope for Today, said the following, “. . . Russians are manufacturing weapons made out of wood. It is a product developed by Dutch scientists called Lignostone. It is stronger than steel, is very elastic when heated and molded, and burns better than coal.” And I guess it does, for the weapons that have been left over from this battle will burn for seven years!

#### VERSES 11-16

1. Whatever is used to destroy these nations we see Israel hire professional people to come and bury these bodies. And the idea is that these are people that are trained to go in and take care of these bodies, maybe because of radiation affects.

What is interesting to me is that our own Department of Defense has protocol on nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare. The scripture above seems to list the SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for cleanup after a nuclear blast. In fact, these professionals don't go into the land right away and it takes them seven months to bury the dead. And after that, if anyone finds a dead body they are to put a marker up so these professionals can remove the remains.

What is this speaking of? Zechariah 14:12 may give us a clue to this. It says, “**And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.**”

What Zechariah could be describing is a neutron bomb, which is a device that Israel has developed. This bomb is designed to produce lethal neutrons but less blast and fire damage than other nuclear bombs!

David Hocking from his May, 2000 newsletter, Hope for Today wrote, “On March 23<sup>rd</sup> the Sunday Times of London carried a report that Israel plans to lay nuclear mines on the Golan Heights to prevent a Syrian attack after it withdraws. The paper identified them as ‘neutron mines’ developed in Israel and the deployment plan is called ‘David’s Sling.’ The paper also indicated that the plan was an effort to placate Israeli Hawks on the Golan issue.”

“‘The Neutron bombs differ from conventional nuclear weapons, because they emit a greater amount of radiation and cause little damage to buildings and other infrastructure.’ The newspaper also reported that the neutron artillery shells have been tested and that laser-guided rockets with neutron warheads are ‘ready for use’ (The Sunday Times of London, 3/23/200 as quoted in Jerusalem Post, March 27<sup>th</sup>).”

“... The paper also reported that Israeli scientists have perfected a tactical neutron bomb that weighs less than 100 kg, and can be carried by two soldiers. It is said to have a yield of 250 tons and could kill anyone within a radius of several hundred meters, while leaving military vehicles largely intact.”

Also, these bodies will be buried on the Golan Heights, (Bashan), in the Trans Jordan area, east of the Dead Sea.

#### VERSES 17-20

1. Here we see the severity of God’s destruction of Magog as we are told of all the bloody carnage that the land will be covered with. It will be like a great feast for these birds and wild animals to feed upon!

It is as Psalm 75:6-8 says, **“For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: he puts down one, and exalts another. For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is fully mixed, and He pours it out; surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain and drink down.”**

#### VERSES 21-24

1. Israel went into captivity not because God couldn't save them or stop it, but because of their sin, their immorality and their refusal to repent and get right with God. Prophet after prophet tried to warn them, but they refused to listen, and judgment came.

And yes the Jews are back in the land of Israel today and they have been victorious in every war they have fought in since they became a nation once again in 1948. Even though they are surrounded by 100 million enemies on three sides, the fourth side is the Mediterranean Sea, they still exist as a nation, they have not been destroyed.

Even the day after they became a nation in 1948 their enemies attacked them and tried to push them into the Sea. But Israel was victorious even though they were outnumbered and outgunned!

And as you look at all of that you can easily see the hand of God being upon them. That God is the one who brought them through all of this. God is the one who brought them back to life once again. But, sad to say, most of the nation of Israel feels that all that has happened to them is a result of their efforts, their strength, their might, their intelligence, and-so-on. They have left God completely out of the picture. But one day they will see their error and return to the Lord. They will give Him the glory that is due His name. They will humble themselves before the Lord and He will lift them up! But for most of the nation, this will not occur until the end of the Tribulation Period!

#### VERSES 25-29

1. Here we see the complete restoration of Israel. Yes, God has physically raised up His people that were as good as dead. On the heels of the Holocaust, God brought them back to life. But spiritually speaking they are dead! Most of the nation believes that you can't know God or there is no God. How sad. But here God says that He will pour out His Spirit on them. When will this occur?

Listen carefully to what the Paul says in Romans 11:25-27, **“For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.’”**



Notice that Israel has been blinded to God since they rejected Jesus but that is not something that is permanent. You see, it is until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in and that is speaking of the Rapture of the church. Once the church is gone to be with the Lord we see God pour out His Spirit upon the Jewish people and in the end, all of Israel will be saved as they come to Jesus, the only One who can ***TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS!***

Their eyes will be open when Russia and her allies are defeated but the nation as a whole will not turn to Jesus until the end of the Tribulation Period! Remember as Jesus was lamenting over Jerusalem He said, **“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’”** Matthew 23:37-39.

When will they see Jesus again? When they call upon Him and that is true for both Jews and Gentiles today! But I believe that as the Jews are hiding in Petra from the Antichrist and his forces they will call upon the Lord, they will call upon Jesus to forgive them of their sins and to be Lord of their life!

It is then that God will pour out His Spirit upon them as a whole and as we move on, the Tribulation Period is over and we will be moving into the Millennial Kingdom, which we will see in our next study.

And as Jesus begins to set up His Kingdom on this earth we are told in Matthew 24:31, **“And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”** And this will be the last time that they are re-gathered, no longer will they be scattered but they will be before their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

2. As we look at world events, keep your eyes on the Middle East. Watch how the world is turning against the Jewish people. We have seen President Obama send representatives to Israel to help sway the vote against Benjamin Netanyahu. But we have also seen that plan fall apart. It is interesting because even in Israel they know what our President tried to do.

There was a cartoon after the elections when Benjamin Netanyahu won that is very interesting. It shows President Obama in front of the television watching the victory of Benjamin Netanyahu and President Obama is saying, “I can’t believe I lost . . .” And as you listen to the reports from our news stations they are saying things that are putting down the Prime Minister and saying we are going backward in the peace talks with the Palestinians. It is amazing how the nations of the world are coming against Israel.



Also, keep your eyes on Russia and her allies as they are coming together for this ultimate battle that we have just read about.

Remember what David Ben-Gurion, who was the first Prime Minister and Minister of Defense in Israel, said, “Ezekiel 37 has been fulfilled, and the nation Israel is hearing the footsteps of the Messiah.”

As I close listen to the words once again of Rabbi Chaim Valoshinere who said the following in the mid-nineteenth century, “When you see the Russian army begin to move southward and enter Turkey, put on your Sabbath garments and get ready to welcome the Messiah.”