

**ISRAEL, “WE ARE AT WAR!”**  
**EZEKIEL 37-39**

With all that has been going on over the last 24 hours or so in Israel, I felt the Lord telling me that I need to put our I Timothy study on hold this morning and deal with this issue. We will pick-up our study in I Timothy next week, Lord willing.

My heart sank yesterday when I heard what happened in Israel.

As you know, yesterday, Hamas terrorists invaded the southern part of Israel. Hamas surprised the nation of Israel by launching more than 3,500 rockets that hit military targets, some 50 of them, and many cities in the southern part of Israel, by Gaza.

There was a fence that separated Gaza from Israel because of fear that something like this might happen. It was there to keep the terrorists from Gaza, Hamas, out of Israel.

As the Israeli military was stunned these Hamas terrorists broke through the fence and terrorized 22 locations in Israel as far as 15 miles from the Gaza boarder. In some places they gunned down civilians and soldiers as Israel’s military scrambled to muster a response.

In response to these terrorist attack, Israel’s Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu spoke to the nation, told them to stay indoors and he made this comment – ***“We are at war!”***

One report put the attack like this,

The attack was the most significant assault on Israel in decades, with Palestinian militants entering the country by motorbikes, parachutes and boats. Perhaps dozens of Israelis have been kidnapped.

Israel and Palestinian militants are at war after stunning and deadly surprise attacks by Hamas that coincided with a major Jewish holiday and the 50th anniversary of the start of the 1973 Yom Kippur war. It was one of the most significant attacks on Israel in decades, with militants infiltrating 22 towns and army bases by land, air and sea, on motorbikes and by parachutes and motorboats.

More than 200 Israelis and more than 200 Palestinians have been killed, and thousands more on both sides injured. And perhaps dozens of Israelis have been kidnapped, setting off a panicked scramble among Israelis to track down their loved ones.

In Saturday afternoon remarks from the White House, President Joe Biden condemned the attacks, which involved dozens of gunmen and thousands of rockets. Biden pledged that U.S. support would not waver as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised a crushing response.

“We are at war, and we will win it,” Netanyahu said. The Hamas attack was “not an ‘operation,’ not a ‘round,’ but a ‘war.’”

The attack appears to have caught Israel off-guard on Simchat Torah, an important Jewish holiday filled with dancing and partying. It has also revived memories of the 1973 war, in which Israel’s enemies launched a surprise attack on Yom Kippur.

Netanyahu spoke about the war in a video address from the headquarters of the Israel Defense Forces in Tel Aviv as the country’s air force began striking targets in Gaza, a Palestinian territory on the Mediterranean Sea.

Hamas, or the Islamic Resistance Movement, is a militant group that is also one of the two main Palestinian political parties. Its political arm governs more than 2 million Palestinians in Gaza.

Hamas, whose main power base is located in Gaza, has been designated a terrorist organization by dozens of countries, including the U.S., because it is committed to the destruction of Israel. It has used suicide bombings and rocket attacks against Israeli civilians as part of that aim.

It was founded by a Palestinian activist connected to the Muslim Brotherhood, a transnational Islamist organization with ties to Egypt. Iran provides Hamas with financial, material and logistical support and it also cooperates with Hezbollah, another Iran-backed, U.S.-designated terrorist group, based in Lebanon.

- <https://bit.ly/3rMHa6k>

How can this happen?

What about the Iron Dome defense that was able to destroy many of the rockets that Hamas sent into Israel before? Why didn't it work this time?

Because Hamas had help in getting through the Israel's Iron Dome!

Not from Iran, which is funding this operation, but from another country that has the ability to do this, they have the technology to work around the Iron Dome.

Who is that country?

Hear me out on this. I don't know for sure, but the only other country that has this technology would be Russia and that makes things very interesting as you read through Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39!

Not only that, but reports are also coming out for Palestinians to rise up in Jerusalem and fight, riot, do whatever it takes to destroy Jerusalem and take it back!

And the Taliban, in Afghanistan, wants to join in this battle and destroy Israel and take back Jerusalem. They only need the okay from the nations that they would have to travel through to get to Israel and they will be on their way!

In Lebanon, Hezbollah terrorists are threatening of attacking Israel. They see this as an opportunity when Israel is busy fighting Hamas in the southern part of Israel to attack them from the north!

That is interesting to me because there in Lebanon is Damascus! And in Isaiah 17:1 we are told, **“The burden against Damascus. ‘Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, And it will be a ruinous heap.’”**

Damascus, one of the oldest cities in the world, has never become a “ruinous heap.” And yet, the Lord says that is going to happen.

Can it be that, with the aid of Iran, they launch some major rocket into Israel and Israel fights back with destroying Damascus? It can be and as things heat up, it looks like it is a possibility!

Once again, is this the beginning of the war of Ezekiel 38 and 39? I don’t know, but the nations are beginning to line up and keep in mind that Russia is a major player in this war. Time will tell but things are heating up!

Keep in mind that for Ezekiel 38 and 39 to happen, Ezekiel 37 has to happen. What I mean by that is that Israel has to become a nation again, and it did happen! They are back in the land, and they are prospering and the nations that surround Israel want that land back!

America was the first country to officially recognize the new State of Israel – eleven minutes after it was declared. U.S. President Harry Truman signed the letter of recognition – despite the objections by The United States Secretary of State George Marshall and the entire State Department.

Immediately after the declaration an all-out war broke out between the Jews and Arabs. Seven Arab armies attacked the new Jewish State – but were not united both militarily and politically. For example, the Arab League was established in order to counter The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem’s ambition to secure domination of Arab Palestine. At the same time, King Abdullah of Jordan wanted to merge Palestine with his kingdom. Eventually, the Arab forces began to lose the war.

As the war was raging the Jewish leadership begged the local Palestinian Arabs not to abandon their homes but the Arab leadership forbade the Arabs to return or live in areas under Jewish rule. [These are the so-called refugees and have now been called “Palestinians” but they came from the Arab nations around Israel and many lived in the land of Israel. They are used for propaganda today.]

Unfortunately, in one form or another, the war and battles that began in 1948 have continue to this day.

- <https://bit.ly/45uSYs0>

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.”***

What is left now is Ezekiel 38 and 39!

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

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.

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 which was written 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, 39:2) 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

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 and possible the oil and gas that has been discovered in Israel!

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.

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? Or if Israel destroyed Damascus! 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!

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!

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!

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.

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!

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.

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!

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

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

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 will 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

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 and they are making peace deals with Israel.

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

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

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.

EZEKIEL 39VERSES 1-5

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!

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!

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 professionals come in to bury them. And we will see that as we read on.

#### VERSES 6-8

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

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

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 effects.

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

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

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

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 Ezekeil speaks of.

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!

Keep your eyes on the Middle East, watch what is happening in this war with Hamas and who else will join them. 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.”***

These are very sad days as we see what has happened in Israel and to the Jewish people. Keep in mind that many Jewish men, women, children and soldiers have been captured and brought into Gaza. And our prayers go out to them for these Hamas terrorists are brutal people and what they will do with them, I can't even imagine.

Israel will not be destroyed, not because I said so, but God has told us and we need to stay focused on the work that God has called us to do, bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world and we are to be praying for the peace of Jerusalem!

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.”***

