

## ISRAEL'S UPCOMING WARS AND THE PLAYERS OF THE EVENTS

I've been a student of prophecy for a long time. As a matter of fact, it was an interest in Biblical prophecy that led me down the path of Salvation through Yeshua.

One of the prophecies that has always amazed me is Ezekiel, chapter's 37-39. It cannot be disputed that chapter 37 talks about the reformation of Israel as a nation. A valley of dry bones comes back to life, acquiring ligaments, muscles, skin and then life. I missed this one by a scant 11 years, but I've been privy to watch the taking of Yerushalayim back in 1967 and a few major Aliyah's back to the land. Now, I prepare to see the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38 and 39. But I have to ask, does something come before that?

*And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee. Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Ezekiel 38:1-8*

Now, there is some ambiguity as to who Gog and Magog are. Some say that is it Russia, but if that is true then why do most maps and other resources show that those two places are in Turkey and the Caucasus areas. In many versions, chapter 38:15 reads, "far north," but a study of the Hebrew shows that the words merely say north, or the north parts:

And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee.... Ezekiel 38:15

I mean, if we really want to get extravagant with the wording and think that it says “far north,” we could also say that if Yahweh sees Yerushalayim as the focal, or center part of the world (which He does anyway) then we could say that the “far north” would extend far past Russia and would cross over into the far western reaches of North America, and thus, the United States could be considered Gog. Gog means “prince,” and Magog means “land of Gog,” so Yahweh is addressing a person or nation (descendants of ancient forefathers) that would be more in line with the peoples of Turkey and the Caucasian region, such as Azerbaijan. It is quite clear that the Ezekiel invasion is going to be a Islamic led invasion of Israel. This does not rule out Russia, but current events have proven that Russia is no longer the godfather of the Islamic world.

In the past fifteen years we have seen a concerted effort by the western powers to rid the Islamic world of strong dictators. The overthrow of Qaddafi, the elimination of Saddam Hussein and other such people have left the Islamic world ripe for the taking for Muslim Extremism. The leaders mentioned above, along with the Shah of Iran kept the Middle East in more of a benign state; their overthrow having left a vacuum that needed to be filled, and it was by the extremists. A couple of years ago, there were elections in Turkey; the people electing a pro-Islamic leader who has been slowly leading that country toward a religious nation rather than the secular Turkey that stabilized Asia Minor for many years. Turkey is a key player in the Ezekiel War, seeing that so many of the peoples mentioned in that account come from the area of Turkey, or around that area.

There are many peoples who will attack Israel during this war; they are:

- Persia – Iran, along with Iraq and Afghanistan
- Cush – Sudan and Somalia (Possibly Ethiopia)
- Put – Libya and the nations of North Africa (Possibly not Egypt).
- Gomer – Located in Turkey
- Beth Togarmah – Located in Turkey and Armenia
- Mesech – Located in Turkey and Caucasus.
- Tubal – Located in Turkey and Caucasus.

I had always wondered why Babylon was never mentioned in this fray of players. Seeing the current events happening in Southwest Asia now brings things to light more clearly. It is well known to most Americans that the current president, Barack Obama is a Muslim infiltrator, a sort of Islamic Manchurian Candidate. He has given money and arms to the Muslim Brotherhood, an

organization that has taken over many nations in that part of the world. Last year the Muslim Brotherhood was overthrown in Egypt and they're also being given a run for their money in Syria. Interesting, neither Egypt or Syria (or Assyria) are mentioned in the Ezekiel Attack. Ethiopia is mentioned in the passage, but one must realize that in the day that the prophecy was given, Ethiopia was a much larger area that encompassed much of what is now Sudan and Somalia. Both of these nations are run by radical Islamist's governments but Ethiopia proper is not.

Back in the early part of the new century a coalition of nations deposed Saddam Hussein and killed many Islamic militants in Iraq. In recent weeks, the militants have made a play for Iraq and it looks like they might win it back because Barack Obama is ignoring the treaty the US made with Iraq for protection. When Iraq falls, it will come under the influence of Iran (Persia) and will probably be absorbed by Persia to become a part of Iran. It is quite possible that the same thing will happen to Afghanistan, seeing the coolness that Obama has exhibited toward the current leadership of that nation. It is also mentioned in the text that "many others" will join with these nations. I think that it would be safe to say that other Islamic nations, such as Indonesia, several nations in Africa, the peoples who live in the "stans" in what used to be the Soviet Union, and possibly even the peoples of Albania and Kosovo, and other peoples who have hated Jews will be involved in the attack. Sadly, it is possible that the United States could be involved against Israel.

Notice too, that the ancient peoples that live in what is now Jordan and Syria are not mentioned in Ezekiel's prophecy. The Iranian coalition would need a way to get to Israel to attack him. Faced with the combined nations of Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the peoples of the northern parts, Turkey and most of North Africa (and Yahweh knows who else) would probably cause Syria and/or Jordan to give rites of passage to attack Israel without putting up much of a fuss.

We need to look at something else that doesn't seem right and also something that makes this war fit better in a later scenario rather than a sooner one. There is another war that will occur; something called the Psalm 83 War. You see, the problem with the Ezekiel war being first is that right in the beginning it the text says that the people of Israel will be living in safety and securely. That is not the state of affairs in our current time. The Islamic Militants have taken over most of North Africa, Iran, Iraq, soon Afghanistan and they have a large foothold in Pakistan. Persia is threatening Israel with annihilation and they are directing the militants in all of the nation's surrounding Israel. The west, including the USA are turning a deaf ear to Israel's

warnings that Iran will be a nuclear power in a very short time. Israel has to do something. So, who is mentioned in Psalm 83 that we can consider? Let's look:

- Edom, Moab and Ammon – These are all in Jordan
- Gebel and Tyre – Located in Lebanon (Hezbollah)
- Ishmaelites – The Arabs, like Saudi Arabia
- Hagarenes and Amalek – Hagarenes lived in an area that is now Kuwait and Arab Emirates
- Assur – Syria
- Philistines – Palestinians (Specifically Gaza, but also dispersed throughout Judea and Samaria). Hamas

Notice that none of the players in the Psalm 83 War are mentioned in the Ezekiel 38/39 War.

*Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: the tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah. Psalm 83:1-8*

Look at something very interesting. All of the players that come against Israel are descents of either Lot, Ishmael or Esau. All of these nations are directly related to Israel, but they have all been at odds with Israel since they have existed. Abraham separated himself from Lot; Ishmael was sent away by Abraham who favored Isaac and Esau always had a hatred for Jacob. The descendants of Lot, Ishmael and Esau would favor the nation of Israel when it was convenient for them, but when an enemy came, they ALWAYS sided with Israel's enemies. Note that the Philistines are mentioned. We know that the name "Palestine" came from the Romans who called the area of Israel "Palestina" as an affront to Jews after the two Jewish revolts. The original Philistines, the ones that existed at the time of King David, uprooted themselves and history is unclear where they went when they left; some have speculated that they fathered the German people, but that remains to be seen. It might just be coincidence that the Ashkenazi people (ancient Germans) appeared right about the time that the Philistines disappeared from the Middle East. The current Palestinians are just Arabs, most whom

immigrated there after Jews started to come back to the land and made the land fruitful again. Since they are Arabs, they fall into the classification of Semites, of which all in the list of the Psalm 83 war consist.

Notice too, that the text in Psalm 83 is a direct quote, and that the purpose of these Arab peoples is to erase Israel from being a people that anyone would ever remember again; something which the current Arabs all cite, almost word for word of the Psalm's prophecy.

It seems to me, that someday soon, Israel is going to take some action that will provoke the Arab Militants. It could be that the Arabs will just lose patience and attack, but it also makes sense that the worry about Iran getting a nuclear bomb capability will cause Israel to act on its own to take out Iran's nuclear capability. It is also possible that at this time Israel will take out Iran's military capability. This would enrage the PLO, Hezbollah and Hamas, causing them to attack Israel. Israel would take them out and advance on all of the nations mentioned and take over the lands. If Israel took out the Palestinians, Jordan, the Sinai (where many terrorists live), Lebanon and Syria, then these lands would become part of Israel Proper, or annexations of Israel, and it could be why they are not mentioned in the Ezekiel 38/39 Prophecy.

There is one thing however that makes me believe clearly, that it is going to be a provoked attack against Israel that will bring about the Psalm 83 War. Let's look at the rest of the Psalm and see why:

*Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth. Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb: yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna: who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession. O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind. As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire; so persecute them with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm. Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O Lord. Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: that men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth. Psalm 83:9-18*

What convinces me that it will be an unprovoked attack against Israel is this. Each and every time Israel has been attacked unprovoked, they have won the war they were fighting. The psalm, from verses nine through eighteen are all pleas for help; all petitions for intervention by

Yahweh against overwhelming odds. Every time that Israel has asked Yahweh for help and they've trusted Yahweh for that help, they have been delivered from their enemies. This is especially true when they (or anyone for that matter) is humble and contrite in spirit. In the petition above they're not asking for Yahweh's help in overcoming, say, in war; they are asking for direct intervention by Yahweh, for Him to administer justice and bring around a righteous resolution.

For these reasons, I believe the Psalm 83 war will precede the Ezekiel 38/39 War. We have to remember that Yahweh operates outside of time and space and that His timing is not our timing. It could very well be that the Psalm 83 war fits between Ezekiel 37 and 38. Yahweh has promised many times to pay back the Arabs and other relatives of Israel for the way that they have chided Israel and elated in their misery. It is common knowledge that "judgment begins in the house of the Lord." Could that go much deeper than we ever imagined. Could Abraham and his descendants be part of the House of The Lord? Could the Covenant that Yahweh promised to Abraham and to his descendants also include ALL of the seed of Abraham? Could the judgment of all of the Arab peoples be the way that Yahweh "starts with the House of The Lord?" It could make sense, seeing that the promise to Abraham's seed flows not only through the physical seed of Abraham, Yitzhak and Yaacov, but through all of those who put their trust in Morgain Avraham (the Shield of Abraham), Yeshua Yahweh. Maybe, when all of the Seed of Abraham is dealt with then Yahweh can then deal with the Goyim; the nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38/39 and the rest of humanity. Something to ponder, for sure.