

# Ezekiel 38-39 • Gog & Magog

## Introduction

It is generally best to begin the study of a passage of Scripture by producing an overall outline in order to determine both the structure and the greater message. In this case, while there are many details and subtexts providing valuable teaching points, these chapters are organized into a series of seven oracles each beginning with a variation of, “This is what the Lord God says”:

1. (38:1-9) God will bring Gog and his allies against Israel.
2. (38:10-13) Gog’s evil thoughts and intentions will lead him to invade Israel.
3. (38:14-16) Gog will advance against Israel from the north.
4. (38:17-23) God will display his awesome judgment against Gog when he so acts.
5. (39:1-16) It will take seven years to plunder and seven months to bury Gog’s fallen army.
6. (39:17-24) The birds of the air and beasts of the field will be invited to a great feast at which Gog is the meal.
7. (39:25-29) Through this deliverance God will conclude the salvation and restoration of Israel as foreseen in Ezekiel 33-37.

One other main theme maintained in this study is that this is not a prophetic call to repentance, but a prophetic call to God’s judgment in wrath. And as the prophetic portions of God’s Word are often more about a repeating historical pattern culminating in a final, ultimate fulfillment, Ezekiel’s Gog and Magog is most likely a forerunner teaching us about the ultimate one to come in Revelation.

<sup>1</sup>And the word of the LORD came to me saying, <sup>2</sup>“Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him <sup>3</sup>and say, “Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. <sup>4</sup>I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company *with* buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords; <sup>5</sup>Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet; <sup>6</sup>Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah *from* the remote parts of the north with all its troops—many peoples with you.

## Read 38:1-6

**Q: What might be confusing about the mention here of Gog and Magog?**

A: They are also mentioned in Revelation.

*When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.*

— Revelation 20:7-9

**Q: How do we know for sure that Ezekiel and Revelation are speaking of two different events?**

1. Ezekiel limits involvement to a list of 10; Revelation speaks of Gog and Magog as leading “the nations which are in the four corners of the earth”.
2. Ezekiel places the timing of this event to be when Israel has been “brought out from the nations, and they are living securely” (Eze. 38:8); Revelation’s instance takes place, “When the thousand years are completed”—that is, at the end of the Millennial Reign.
3. In Ezekiel it is by the action of God that these nations are drawn out and judged; in Revelation it is Satan who gathers and leads them into judgment.

**Q: In the overall End Times timeline, when will this first instance in Ezekiel take place?**

A: There is no universal agreement and it is one of the most debated issues in Bible prophecy. Opinions generally break down into two main camps, one placing it before the entirety of the final week of years, the other most often assigning it to the first half of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week, and many of those to the red horseman of Revelation 6 3-4. Just to be fair, a smaller third group synchronize it with the end of the 70<sup>th</sup> Week extending into the Millennial Reign. This will be discussed further in this study because the 7 years mentioned in Ezekiel is at the root of the controversy.

**Q: Who/what are “Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal”?**

1. “Gog” has as its root meaning the roof of a house to imply everything falls under it, or the surface of an altar, to imply it serves everything else up for sacrifice, but can also mean “mountain”, a common biblical description for a mighty kingdom or ruler.
2. “Magog” means “expansion” or “covering”.
3. “Rosh” means “head” or “chief”.
4. “Meshach” means “agile”
5. “Tubal” means “flowing forth”

Together this would seem to describe Gog as a leader of a coalition of modern-day Russia, Turkey and Iran around whom an even greater group coalesces into a combined enemy attacking Israel primarily from the geographical north. The ethnic relationship of these particular people groups is that they are not Semitic and yet descendants of Noah’s son Japheth.

**Q: Who rounds out this coalition?**

1. “Persia”, or the Persian Empire, encompassed the northern part of the Middle East from India southward and in modern-day terms is seen as Iran and those Arab nations with it who are aligned against Israel.
2. “Ethiopia” or “Cush” are those of East Africa ruling the southern areas of the Nile and the descendants of Noah’s son Ham.
3. “Put” or “Libya” are the nations of North Africa and also descendants of Ham.
4. “Gomer” is identified with nations around the Black Sea and descends from Japheth.
5. “Beth-torgarmah” is identified with nations in the vicinity of modern-day Armenia and is also a descendant of Japheth.

This basically mirrors the modern-day geo-political inventory of the enemies drawn together against Israel which have coalesced around Russia, Turkey and Iran. Altogether these ten descendants of Ham and Japheth aid greatly in tracing them from their geo-political resumes in antiquity to their present-day equivalents. Note, however, that the ethnically Arab nations of the Middle East are absent, and are themselves often at odds with Russia, Iran and Turkey.

**Q: What other biblical parallels do we have of a coalition of ten?**

A: The final kingdom of Antichrist is described as ten kings or kingdoms in the form of a multi-headed beast. (Dan. 7; Rev. 13:1; 17:3-7, 13-14)

**Q: What other biblical parallels do we have of a northern enemy?**

A: Beside Assyria, Babylon, and Medo-Persia, the greatest remaining never fulfilled passage of Daniel 11:36-45 speaks of Antichrist leading a northern coalition in the End Times whose primary historical type is Antiochus Epiphanes IV in the Inter-Testamental Period fulfilling the verses leading up to 11:35.

**Application:** *The Gog and Magog of Ezekiel foreshadow both the Antichrist’s **kingdom** in the final week of years and the final Satanic-led **rebellion** at the end of the Millennial Reign.*

**Read 38:7-9**

**Q: How is this enemy coalition described?**

- (v.7) As having many “companies”. [Note: Although not exclusively, the underlying Hebrew word is often used to describe assemblies for religious purposes, intimating the Gog and Magog gathering has a greater, spiritual purpose.]
- (v.9) As coming “like a storm” and “like a cloud covering the land”.
- (v.9) As not just coming with just “troops”, but “many peoples with you”.

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<sup>7</sup>“Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them. <sup>8</sup>After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a

continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them. <sup>9</sup>You will go up, you will come like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you.”

<sup>10</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD, “It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil plan, <sup>11</sup>and you will say, ‘I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates, <sup>12</sup>to capture spoil and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places which are *now* inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired cattle and goods, who live at the center of the world.’ <sup>13</sup>Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish with all its villages will say to you, ‘Have you come to capture spoil? Have you assembled your company to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to capture great spoil?’”

<sup>14</sup>“Therefore prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, “Thus says the Lord GOD, “On that day when My people Israel are living securely, will you not know *it*? <sup>15</sup>You will come from your place out of the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great assembly and a mighty army; <sup>16</sup>and you will come up against My people Israel like a cloud to cover the land. It shall come about in the

**Q: How is Israel described in v.8 at the time this will take place?**

- “...the land that is restored from the sword...”
- “...the land...whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations...”
- As “the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste” before the people’s return but are now “living securely”.

**Q: What is the timing when this event will take place?**

A: “After many days...in the latter years...” (v.8)

**Point:** Just as there is a gap in Daniel’s 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks so that what was begun does not come to a complete fulfillment until after a gap of time, it may be that what is begun here is interrupted by the gap of the Millennial Reign before resuming to complete fulfillment in the final battle of Gog and Magog.

**Application:** In the End Times there will be a coordinated **invasion** of Israel which comes after a **return** of the people to the land.

### Read 38:10-13

**Q: How has the focus of this second oracle dramatically changed from the first?**

A: Whereas the first expresses God’s will, the second looks at the evil intentions of man.

**Q: What are the characteristics of these evil intentions? Who are they really aimed at?**

A: They all describe actions against the individual people of Israel.

- (v.11) “...I will go up against the land of unwalled villages.”
- (v.11) “I will go against those at rest, that live securely...”
- (v.12) “I will go...to capture spoil and to seize plunder...”
- (v.12) “I will go...against the waste places which are now inhabited...”
- (v.12) “I will go...against the people who are gathered from the nations...”

**Point:** As with many Old Testament prophecies, God often shows that rejection of loving Him personally is most often expressed in the failure to love one’s neighbor.

**Q: What may be important about the things verbalized by Sheba, Dedan, and Tarshish?**

A: The evil intentions first characterized as thoughts in an evil mind have become so obviously apparent that outside observers see them for what they are.

**Q: What do these three additional geo-political entities represent?**

A: Great and successful economic forces of the ancient world which are present within every historical period. That which Gog and company would seize and carry away, these three would make deals to trade and transport. [Note: They may be worried that Gog’s actions will cause personal economic loss.]

**Application:** The typical wrong motives of **greed** and **power** will animate this End Times coalition’s actions.

### Read 38:14-16

**Q: How does God view this group?**

A: He twice calls them simply “Gog”. (v.14, 16)

**Observation:** Kingdoms are synonymous with their kings; all of the group’s policies, agenda and intentions are those of Gog its leader.

**Q: What is the point of the rhetorical question in v.14?**

A: Gog will be conscious it is acting upon its evil thoughts and intentions—it is committing **willful** sin.

last days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me when I am sanctified through you before their eyes, O Gog.”

<sup>17</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD, “Are you the one of whom I spoke in former days through My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for *many* years that I would bring you against them? <sup>18</sup>It will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,” declares the Lord GOD, “that My fury will mount up in My anger. <sup>19</sup>In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare *that* on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. <sup>20</sup>The fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse and every wall will fall to the ground. <sup>21</sup>I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains,” declares the Lord GOD. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother. <sup>22</sup>With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone. <sup>23</sup>I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>1</sup>“And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, “Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal; <sup>2</sup>and I will turn you around, drive you

**Q: Why is the content of v.15-16 familiar?**

A: They recap the main points God described in the previous verses to this point.

**Q: But what is God’s greater purpose as revealed in v.16?**

- “...so that the nations will know Me...”
- “...so that...I am sanctified before their eyes...”

**Q: What does it mean for God to be “sanctified” before the eyes of the nations?**

A: To finally be seen from the spiritual perspective as separate and unique in His holiness.

**Application:** Divine **purpose** overrides human **motive**; the **judgment** of Gog will be turned into God’s **glory**.

### Read 38:17-23

**Q: This fourth oracle opens with a rhetorical question from God for Gog. What is it essentially saying?**

A: That God’s Word always comes true no matter how long the final fulfillment may linger. God begins by reminding Gog and company that they should not at all be surprised at experiencing God’s judgment because they have been warned prophetically for a very long time before the judgment has come.

**Q: When, exactly, will God take action against Gog?**

A: “...when Gog comes against the land of Israel.” (v.18)

**Q: How is this overall response from God characterized in v.18-19?**

- “My fury”
- “My anger”
- “My zeal”
- “My blazing wrath”

**Point:** This is not merely judgment, but God’s wrath.

**Q: How intense is this earthquake of God’s wrath?**

- It shakes all of nature in the land, air, and sea. (v.20) (“fish of the sea”, “birds of the heavens”, “beasts of the field”, “all the creeping things”)
- It shakes all mankind on the whole earth. (v.20)
- It shakes “the mountains”, “the steep pathways”, and “every wall”.

It mirrors in the physical realm the intensity of what is being shaken spiritually.

**Q: What multiplies the effects of this devastating worldwide earthquake?**

A: “...a sword”, “pestilence”, “blood”, and “a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone”.

**Q: How do we know for sure that these are working for a greater spiritual purpose where God is concerned?**

- “I will magnify Myself”
- “I will...sanctify Myself”
- “I will...make Myself known”
- “They will know that I am God”

**Application:** Unprecedented **physical** calamity will reflect the greater **spiritual** phenomenon of the wrath of God.

### Read 39:1-6

**Q: Why does it appear that God is repeating or at least summarizing what He has already promised to do to Gog and company?**

on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the mountains of Israel. <sup>3</sup>I will strike your bow from your left hand and dash down your arrows from your right hand. <sup>4</sup>You will fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field. <sup>5</sup>You will fall on the open field; for it is I who have spoken," declares the Lord GOD. <sup>6</sup>And I will send fire upon Magog and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety; and they will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>"My holy name I will make known in the midst of My people Israel; and I will not let My holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. <sup>8</sup>Behold, it is coming and it shall be done," declares the Lord GOD. "That is the day of which I have spoken.

<sup>9</sup>"Then those who inhabit the cities of Israel will go out and make fires with the weapons and burn *them*, both shields and bucklers, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears, and for seven years they will make fires of them. <sup>10</sup>They will not take wood from the field or gather firewood from the forests, for they will make fires with the weapons; and they will take the spoil of those who despoiled them and seize the plunder of those who plundered them," declares the Lord GOD.

- In 38:17 God says Gog is without excuse because of all He spoke concerning Gog through His prophets, and now supplements that with His own direct word to Gog.
- A principle of Scripture is that everything God says is, of course, important, but anything He states twice even more so.

**Point:** *As God is about to go into even more specific detail of the tangible effects of His wrath against Gog and company, He first summarizes that which He has revealed to this point.*

**Q: On what two features will Gog fall?**

A: "...on the mountains of Israel" (v.4) and "on the open field". (v.5) These combine into a complete picture of failure of Gog to accomplish his intentions. Military operations historically favor taking the high ground as well as exploiting avenues of easy access.

**Q: But how is Gog's destruction extended beyond just its endeavors in Israel?**

A: God's ultimate judgment of fire is sent upon Magog the geographical home of Gog, as well as his allies. God's wrath will not be limited to just those involved in the invasion, but the sources which have produced them.

**Application:** *Everyone who follows Gog will share in the **wrath** of his judgment both in their efforts to **overtake** Israel and as a **source** producing such evil behavior. The **fire** of God experienced in this life reflects the even greater **fire** of final judgment to come.*

**Read 39:7-8**

**Q: How does this contrast with what was just stated in v.6?**

A: In v.6 it is speaking of how God will be revealed to all through that which He works in Gog, whereas here it is what He is working through Israel.

**Q: What is God's primary purpose as twice stated here?**

- "**My holy name** I will make known in the midst of My people Israel..." (v.7)
- "...I will not let **My holy name** be profaned anymore". (v.7)

**Q: Is God's purpose simply to get all people, believer and non-believer alike, to believe that He is real and exists?**

A: A time will come when everyone will personally recognize that He is "holy"—that is, unable to bear sin in His presence. It is not a moral character He wants recognized, but the divine spiritual qualities which set Him apart from all others.

**Application:** *Within those who are God's people He reinforces a work of **conviction**, within those rejecting Him a work of **judgment**.*

**Read 39:9-10**

**Q: How do we know that God uses no earthly means or agency to strike down Gog?**

A: Israel finds both Gog's weapons and plunder abandoned and just lying on the ground.

**Q: What is the greater message being conveyed about it taking seven years to dispose of the weapons?**

A: It not only speaks of the complete destruction and Gog and his allies, but the enormity of God's wrath upon them.

**Q: What may be indicated by this inventory of weaponry?**

A: These are weapons employed by different parts of an ancient military. (e.g., infantry, cavalry, etc.) It speaks of a total annihilation, not just destroying some and turning the rest back.

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**Application:** Both of Gog's primary motivations, **power** and **greed**, are supernaturally handled and in turn Gog's **plunder** becomes Israel's **spoils**.

**Observation:** This seven-year period of cleaning up is one of the main sources for a sharp disagreement as to when this event will take place relative to the End Times. These seven years do not fit neatly with the final seven years and may either extend into the 70<sup>th</sup> Week or beyond it into the Millennial Reign. Both notions have problems providing a conflict-free scenario with parallel Scriptures and do not have a clear parallel in God's Word which might provide a definitive answer.

<sup>11</sup>"On that day I will give Gog a burial ground there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea, and it will block off those who would pass by. So they will bury Gog there with all his horde, and they will call it the valley of Hamon-gog. <sup>12</sup>For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land. <sup>13</sup>Even all the people of the land will bury them; and it will be to their renown on the day that I glorify Myself," declares the Lord God. <sup>14</sup>"They will set apart men who will constantly pass through the land, burying those who were passing through, even those left on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search. <sup>15</sup>As those who pass through the land pass through and anyone sees a man's bone, then he will set up a marker by it until the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamon-gog. <sup>16</sup>And even the name of the city will be Hamonah. So they will cleanse the land."

<sup>17</sup>"As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field, "Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. <sup>18</sup>You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, as though they were rams, lambs, goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. <sup>19</sup>So you will eat fat until you are glutted, and drink blood until you are drunk, from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. <sup>20</sup>You will be glutted at My table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war," declares the Lord GOD.

### Read 39:11-16

**Q: What is ironic about that which Gog intended and that which Gog ultimately achieved?**

A: Having originally intended to take to itself the land of Israel, Gog instead only gets a burial ground.

**Q: How do the names "Hamon-gog" and "Hamonah" mirror the enormity of this seven-month process?**

A: "Hamon-gog" means "the multitude of Gog" and "Hamonah" means "multitude".

**Point:** There has been much speculation and no clear consensus as to where this is located in Israel, and it is the author's opinion that because the text states these names will be assigned when these events come to pass that it is fruitless to speculate in advance.

**Q: What is the greater purpose of this involved process?**

A: To cleanse the land.

**Q: Will Israel merely bury the corpses of the invader?**

A: They will meticulously follow up with even a single fragment.

**Observation:** Coming into contact with the dead is a specific issue in the Torah, and one in which modern Judaism has greatly expanded upon in the non-biblical Talmud. In this case, God explains what the months-long procedure which will be in this particular case.

**Application:** Israel's chief role will come **after** the failed invasion with an enormous work to **cleanse** the land.

### Read 39:17-20

**Q: How does this "feast" make the previously described seven-month burial process seem even more incredible and of an even greater magnitude than we originally envisioned?**

A: That burial task is actually the corpses left over who are not consumed in this supernatural feast.

**Q: How is this feast actually described?**

A: As "My sacrifice" (v.17), "a great sacrifice" (v.17), and again as "My sacrifice". (v.19)

**Q: How is this confirmed by the list in v.18?**

A: By likening Gog to "rams, lambs, goats and bulls" which are in fact the acceptable sacrifices according to the Torah.

**Q: How does v.20 aid in understanding that we are correctly interpreting this passage's use of simile and metaphor?**

A: It plainly specifies the identity of those literary devices so that we know for sure it is speaking about the invaders.

**Application:** End Times believers will participate in the **marriage supper** of the Lamb, whereas the followers of Gog will themselves become **dinner**.

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Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."

— Revelation 19:17-18

<sup>21</sup>"And I will set My glory among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed and My hand which I have laid on them. <sup>22</sup>And the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God from that day onward. <sup>23</sup>The nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile for their iniquity because they acted treacherously against Me, and I hid My face from them; so I gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and all of them fell by the sword. <sup>24</sup>According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I dealt with them, and I hid My face from them."

<sup>25</sup>Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name. <sup>26</sup>They will forget their disgrace and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely on their own land with no one to make them afraid. <sup>27</sup>When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies, then I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations. <sup>28</sup>Then they will know that I am the LORD their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them again to their own land; and I will

## Read 39:21-24

### Q: What are the parallel purposes of God in v.21-22?

A: "...the nations will see My judgment" and "the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God from that day onward."

**Point:** As repeatedly taught throughout Scripture, the same sign works to different ends in the hearts of believers vs. non-believers. Hearts already inclined toward God are encouraged and built up by the sign, while hardened hearts will only acknowledge the working of God while continuing in rebellion.

### Q: But in this case, what additional lesson will the nations learn?

A: The greater reasons for the consequences experienced by Israel for their own rejection of God.

### Q: Why was Israel sent into exile, the punishment for their behavior?

A: "...for their iniquity because they acted treacherously against Me..." (v.23)

### Q: Why would it be important to note that it was God who gave Israel "into the hands of their adversaries"? (v.23)

A: To document that God uses earthly agency to carry out His will and that such are not acting entirely for their own purposes.

**Point:** Scripture repeatedly documents that when He does this, the nation used as the tool of His judgment is supposed to be learning the lesson of those being judged so as to not repeat the same mistakes. But because this is rarely found to be the case, they find themselves eventually judged even harsher.

### Q: What was Israel's specific spiritual condition which warranted God's treatment of them?

A: "Uncleanness and...transgressions". (v.24)

**Application:** Everyone, both the nations and Israel, come to understand God's standards by which all are held accountable.

## Read 39:25-29

### Q: Why is Israel referred to as "Jacob" in v.25?

A: Before he wrestled with the angel—that is, an Old Testament Christophany when he finally had an encounter with the Lord, he was named "Jacob", and going forward renamed "Israel". The nation is called "Jacob" when they act in the character of the old life, and "Israel" when in the character of the new.

### Q: What does it mean, "I will be jealous for My holy name"? (v.25)

A: God will fulfill His unconditional promises to Israel, meaning the restoration spoken of is entirely derived from God's grace and mercy and not merited by anything Israel has done.

### Q: What is this final passage actually summarizing?

A: Ezekiel 33-37, which details Israel's final and permanent restoration.

### Q: What are the "I will/shall" statements in this passage?

- (v.25) "I will restore the fortunes of Jacob"
- (v.25) "I will...have mercy on the whole house of Israel"

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leave none of them there any longer. <sup>29</sup>I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," declares the Lord GOD.

- (v.25) "I will be jealous for My holy name"
- (v.27) "I [will] bring them back from the peoples"
- (v.27) "I [will] gather them from the lands of their enemies"
- (v.27) "I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations"
- (v.28) "I will leave none of them there any longer"
- (v.29) "I will not hide My face from them any longer"
- (v.29) "I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel"

**Point:** When we study this list, it becomes apparent that while other conflicts in Scripture have shown a temporary spiritual enlightenment that has resulted, this particular milestone is the culmination, or ultimate and final fulfillment, of all those forerunners.

**Application:** The Gog and Magog scenario provides an **earthly** event which will definitively trigger the subsequent **fulfillment** of all of God's **promises** to permanently restore Israel both **literally** and **spiritually**.

<sup>40</sup>"At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow them and pass through. <sup>41</sup>He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon. <sup>42</sup>Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. <sup>43</sup>But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels. <sup>44</sup>But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many. <sup>45</sup>He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

— Daniel 11:40-45

## Epilogue

*It is interesting to study the as yet never-before-fulfilled prophecies of the King of the North in Daniel 11:40-45, as many similarities to Ezekiel 38-39 seem to present themselves. There are many other parallel prophetic passages which seem to contribute to Ezekiel's End Times scenario. We need to prayerfully seek the proper way to ultimately allow Scripture to interpret Scripture so that we will properly recognize when this is authentically being fulfilled and the proper fit of each piece. Without a doubt we are already witnessing the early stages of Russia, Iran and Turkey coming together and preparing the way for Antichrist personally and God's greater purposes corporately.*

*But what makes the Gog and Magog scenario so interesting is the way in which it is embraced by both modern Judaism and Islam.*

*Judaism's primary objection to Jesus as the Messiah is that they insist the Messiah will fulfill every prophecy in Scripture in a single visitation. They are blinded to the concept of "one Messiah, two comings". While they recognize that the Messiah will both effect salvation and establish His kingdom, they fail to see that is exactly what Jesus accomplishes in the First and Second Coming. One of their predominant beliefs is the Messiah will accomplish both through Ezekiel's Gog and Magog milestone. They say that while giving His life for Israel alone, He will then establish His earthly kingdom. It sounds a lot like the Beast who comes back to life and is worshiped as God. In other words, their misunderstanding of Ezekiel 38-39 has instilled in them a predisposition to accept Antichrist.*

*Islam, who copies many portions of the Bible into the Quran, documents a Gog and Magog scenario by which their Messiah, called the Mahdi, will finally appear. Likewise they, too, have a built-in predisposition to accept Antichrist.*

*But as the authentic Word of God documents, this will not merely bring about the end of Antichrist, but even more importantly reveal to every heart the true purposes and working of God. It is much more important that we understand and study this than continue to lose ourselves in the conjecture of the timing of this milestone.*