

Ezekiel 38 – Gog of Magog Versus the People of Israel

By Holly Effiom

VV1-7

To whom is God speaking in the beginning of this chapter?

Are these words of comfort?

When was the last time these words were spoken against a leader in Ezekiel? Which leader was it? Eze 29:1-3

What was the name of this leader, and from what family group did he come? Gen 10:2-5

What is meant by the words “...I will turn back...”? 2 Kings 19 (VV27-37)

Who will be those who will join in arms with Gog of Magog? Gen 10: 2-5 (Japheth), 6-20 (Ham), 21-32 (Shem)

VV8-9

What is going to happen to Gog of Magog after many days?

Where is he going to go?

What is known about this land into which he will come? Isa 11:11-16

Will the land have been developed?

What about those who will inhabit that land, how did they get there?

How will this land be related to the mountains of Israel? Is it in Israel? How do you know?

How will the people of this land live? Eze 34:22-25

What will Gog of Magog do to the people of this land? Jer 4:13

Is Egypt or Tyre associated with bringing the clouds, like a storm, upon the land of Israel? (Isa 9; 28:1-16)

How is this section of scripture associated with Eze 7:24?

LESSON: The mountain of Israel is indeed not in Israel because this section of scripture tells us that it is *near* that nation “...gathered out of many people...”, “...brought forth out of the nations...” Is the nation described here the United States of America? I believe so.

So, this Gog person of the tribe of Magog¹ (i.e., *Rosh*, what today we understand to be Russia, the *children of Rosh*) will have a band of mercenaries from out of many nations that will invade the nation that resides near the mountain of God, and sit on it like a *stormy* cloud over the land. Ezekiel 30:3 called it “...a cloudy day...”

Excerpt from the Ezekiel 30 study²:

Harkening back to Eze 27, in which we learned what was meant by “...perfect beauty...”, in that it was much more expansive and deeper than our superficial understanding beauty of today; such is the case with the term “...cloudy day...”. The section of scripture is compressing the ideas of spiritual enlightenment into the term cloudy or darkness – it is describing a time in which knowledge abounds, however, a lot of spiritual darkness will block whatever light there is – it will be a cloudy day

¹ Bible Commentary: The specific translation noted is “...prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal...” V3.

² <https://hollyelise.com/StudyNotes/Ezekiel/Ezekiel-30.pdf>

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The scripture (V8) lets us know *when* this darkness will take place. What Gog brings upon the people of the nation, near the mountain of Israel, are lies and a perverse spirit – it *darkens* the light of truth that exists there. This darkness is the rash of disinformation and straight up *lies* that are obscuring the light of democracy and freedom that exists in this nation.

Understand, this darkness is brought upon this nation at the *invitation* of its people.

VV10-13

Who will have the evil thought? Why is a *thought* being called out by this scripture?

What will that thought be?

What constitutes an “...evil thought...”? Ps 36:1-4; Mic 2:1-4; Dan 11:30

Have we read anywhere else in Ezekiel, or even the Bible, God describing a leader having an *evil* thought?

When will he have this *evil* thought? V10

How might mention of this “evil thought” be similar to a “...cloudy day...” in Eze 30:3, or “...perfect beauty...”, in Eze 27:3, according to Ps 36:4?

What is the significance of unwallled villages?

What message is conveyed by the words “...that are gathered out of the nations...”?

What message is conveyed by the words “...which have gathered cattle and good...”?

What do Sheba and Dedan, merchants of Tarshish, and all the young lions ask Gog? Who are Sheba, Dedan, and Tarshish? Gen 10:4, 7

According to Sheba and Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all the young lions, what do they say is at the heart of Gog’s idea?

LESSON: When Gog (the consummate spy-master and expert at disinformation) sees this nation that dwells safely with its “...unwallled villages...”, when he sees that they feel no fear, “...having neither bars nor gates...”, his *first* thought is *not* to make his own nation *like* this nation that dwells near the mountain of Israel. His *evil* thought is these people are *suckers* who should be as fearful as *he* is. He sets out to *make war* on these people, to make them *fearful*, and make them *give* him their wealth. No *physical* force or weapons needed at all.

How does Gog do this? He uses the people’s own arrogance and absolute belief in their own superiority against them. Genesis 11:6, informs us, through the story of the tower of Babel, that people are *powerful* when they are one – “...And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language: and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.” Everyone knows how the term “babble” came into being, God created division among the children by confusing the language at Babel.

Taking a page of understanding from this story, Gog seeks to create division among the so-called “Christian” family. All that’s needed is a *traitor*... in position of power (Dan 11:30). What leader would *possibly* do what his forefathers have *never* done, in *hating* his own people so much that he sells them into slavery, making “... them the prey...” (Dan 11:24)? Every *treacherous* person has a price, and Gog finds the one willing to be the *first* among the forefathers of the nation.

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What if I am wrong, and the land under discussion is Jerusalem? Has Jerusalem ever been “unwalled”? Has Jerusalem ever dwelt *safely* from the nations surrounding it? Ezra and Nehemiah, and other prophets recount the return to Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity – when Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylon and allowed the children of Israel to return to their land to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem, and the wall that had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 9:24-27).

Jerusalem had been walled prior to its conquest, and the wall was *rebuilt* upon their return from captivity in Babylon. Understand, the land under discussion in Eze 38 was a wasteland and uninhabited prior to the people gathered from the nations being placed there (VV8, 12). Jerusalem had been inhabited by the Canaanites (Jebusites, specifically) prior to the children of Judah inhabiting it. Josh 15:8

Admittedly, Jerusalem had existed with the mountain of Israel in its midst, in the operation of the temple, but according to Ezekiel 10 and 11, the glory of God departed the temple and Jerusalem, taking the ark of the covenant with it.

VV14-18

- Who are the “...people of Israel...” mentioned here?
- Will it be obvious to Gog that this nation is near the mountain of Israel?
- From where will Gog emerge to launch his attack upon this nation?
- Who will be with him? What is noteworthy about what they are riding?
- Who is actually bringing Gog against the people of Israel, against the land, like a *cloud* sitting over the land?
- Why would God allow this to happen?
- Should the arrival of Gog against the land be a surprise to its people?
- What will *happen* simultaneous with the advent of Gog’s appearance?

LESSON: When we studied Daniel 2 several years ago, I proposed viewing each of the body-parts and metal as a period of time, and the image, as a *whole*, a timeline for the nations... not the nations so much as *powers in the earth*.

The approximate time period of a given power is noted in the right column.

While the *quality* of the metal decreases in *value*, it’s property of relative *strength* increases, that is, until the feet.

While the metal augments the whole image’s strength, it’s vulnerability is in its feet, which provide *balance*.

Daniel 2:31-45 – Nebuchadnezzar’s Vision: Image of a Man, in excellent brightness and awesome form

← NOTE: As you descend the body, metal quality decreases →	Body Part	Metal	Function of Body Components	Interpretation
	Head	Gold	Initialize and Process thoughts and ideas: Can see, speak (thoughts & ideas), taste, hear, smell. How much decision making takes place here?	Babylon, Dan 2:37-38 Approx Date: 606-541 BC
	Breasts & Arms	Silver	Physically do the thoughts and ideas: Can Touch. How much decision making takes place here?	Kingdom inferior to Babylon, Dan 2:39a Approx Date: 541-515 BC
	Belly & Thighs	Brass	Provides intuition and power in movement; exists to serve the head. How much decision making takes place here?	Kingdom that will rule over the earth, Dan 2:39b Approx Date: -164 BC
	Legs	Iron	Provides mobility and stability; exists to serve the thighs. How much decision making takes place here?	Kingdom that will be strong like iron; and just as iron is used to break into pieces and subdue, this kingdom will break all things into pieces and bruise. Dan 2:40
	Feet	Iron & Clay	Provides improved stability; exists to uphold the whole image. How much decision making is taking place here?	This kingdom will be divided yet again into smaller kingdoms, Partially strong & partially broken. Dan 2:41-42

³ The noted dates come from the Bible commentary.

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Starting in Ezekiel 21:3, God starts letting those holding power in the earth know He is against them and their ways, *starting* with Jerusalem. After Jerusalem, her cousins, Ammon and his brother Moab, and then Edom (Shem) and the Philistines. Tyre, with his *perfect beauty*, and Zidon, his sister, were the next to be admonished. The eighth was Egypt (Cham). And then Assyria and Babylon (Japheth). Interestingly, note that both Assyria and Babylon were originally Hamitic, as they were founded by Nimrod, son of Khush (Gen 10:8), yet, in the time of the end, these nations will have *turned* Gentile.

Gentile times begin with Babylon. Note, circumcision was not part of Gentile culture – they are the *uncircumcised*. Until this point, the prior powers mentioned had some practice of circumcision in their culture.

Ezekiel 32:22-32 names the Gentile powers that will be found in the pit of hell (VV18-21): Asshur, Elam, Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, Edom, and Zidon. The eighth power, Babylon (just like Egypt), will be the absolute pinnacle of Gentile power and achievement, and it, too, will go into perdition (Rev 17:11). Notice how in these Gentile times, all the nations, or rather sons of Adam (Shem, Ham, and Japheth) have worked hard and *come together...* in the *grave!* Imagine what God saw in the tower of Babel *effort*, in which all the children of Noah, having survived the cataclysmic *flood*, come together to build a tower, to no good purpose – *vanity*.

So, in this Eze 38, God is calling out the chief prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal by name (Gog of Magog, VV2, 14). Why would God bring the scourge of Gog of Magog against His own people of Israel? We have spent the last few years reading the book of Ezekiel, rehearsing how Jerusalem, Tyre, and Egypt fell, and now, God is telling us the same judgment is coming upon the sons of Japheth, the Gentiles.

This specific section of scripture is saying that when we see the advent of Gog of Magog, know that the wrath of God is about to fall upon him, and the entire Gentile power structure.

There was a very popular series of books about the final apocalypse, that had been made into a series of movies, which seemed to propose that the “antichrist” and Gog of Magog were one and the *same individual*. And this is what the world *seemed* to accept as the definitive word of the *church* – supposedly, the expert *interpreters* of scripture.

There was no large-scale push-back on this notion from *leadership* in the church, causing the faithful to pour into the churches out of *fear*. Understand, whether the faithful realize it or not, a consistent Christian *lifestyle* builds wealth. The *leadership* in the church discovered it had control over a pool of wealthy individuals, and eventually, a powerful *voting*-block within the democracy at large, to whom to *market*.

Needless to say, the proper application of biblical prophecies became deprioritized, and therefore confused, by competing agendas emerging from the “leadership” in the church – the self-preservation of the *organization* verses meeting the needs and *preservation* of the *faithful*. Lost in all of this were the *faithful*, and the fact that the greatest way any leader can meet their need is to *be true*.

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There are *many* antichrists in these end times. The Bible describes the evolution of the *first* one (the beast from out of the earth) who steps out to say “It’s OK” to be your own god (Rev 13:11-18). Scripture tells us you will know him because the following phrases from Daniel 11 will be said of him:

“...He shall do that which the fathers have not done, nor the father’s fathers...” V24

“...He shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished...” V36

“...In his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor...” V38

The Bible describes the *first* one’s actions as frequently being called *unprecedented*. That *first* one opened the door to all the rest of the antichrists.

What does this mean for the *faithful*? It means *subjugation*, some by choice but most by *deception*, to one who has pronounced *himself* a god, supported by *leaders* in many churches. The *faithful*, not *truly* being taught to *study* the scriptures, are *confused*, being told by their *leadership* to trust in another human being who is continually *violating the basic tenants of the faith!* Where there is *confusion*, there are also *mis-steps*.

[Just writing this makes me angry.]

So, *the* antichrist and Gog of Magog may *not* be one and the same, however, the two are *unified* in trying to foist their own “greatness”, their own “godliness” upon the world, no *matter* the cost to their brothers and sisters, the *faithful*.

This section of scripture makes clear, when we see the advent of Gog of Magog, know that antichrist, he that shows others the way to rebellion, has already revealed himself, and *this* is when you will see the *wrath of God!*

VV19-23 (Jer 4:22-31)

Where is the “land of Israel” spoken in this section of scripture? How do you know?

What will the “great shaking” mean?

Who will be affected by the “great shaking”? What will they be shaking at?

What will happen to the mountains and steep places? Is it literally the mountains or people in high places? Hos 4:3; Nah 1:5-6

What will happen to the walls that men have constructed as a defense?

In V21, against whom will the following happen, “...I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains...”?

Who will be wielding the swords (Ex 32:26-27)? What is noteworthy about the sons of Levi?

What is being described in this section of scripture?

What is meant by “...I will plead against him...”? How will this look or be experienced?

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Jeremiah 4:22-26

What do we learn about the people of the time based on these words, from God's perspective?

Where have we read "...it was without form, and void..." before? Gen 1:2

Why is this phrase from the beginning of creation uttered here?

What message is being conveyed?

LESSON: [Aside: Seeing the words from the beginning of the book of Genesis repeated here were a surprise and reminded me of something that I had heard or read: That the creation story had been preceded by a great destruction. I wonder if this is the birth of that notion?]

But perhaps the more accurate message to get from this section of scripture is the thought that the regression of the people into stupidity and childishness, giving themselves over to do *evil* instead of *good*, might as well have put them back at *square one* of creation again!

VV27-31

Has God ever before thought of starting over? Ex 32:10

What does God decide to do at the thought of starting the creation work over? Jer 30:10-13; 46:27-28

What does this decision mean for the earth, the heavens?

What does it mean for the cities?

What is the question that God asks? Why? Isa 10:3

What is God going to do to these faithless among His people? Rev 17:9-18

LESSON: Perhaps, my proposal that creation wasn't an event that started and finished in the first chapters of the book of Genesis, but is rather a *process* in which the desolations – the "...great shaking..." of all domains in the earth, under the earth, on the earth, above the earth, and every man upon the face of the earth – of Babylon the great are just the next and *final* step.

LESSON: The story of Josiah's death (2 Chr 35:20-27) has been coming to mind as I study this section of Eze 38. There is no reason given for Josiah's interference with Pharaoh Necho's mission for God, but possibly, looking at the map of the area, in the constant skirmishes between Egypt and Assyria, armies would constantly be marching through, by, around the territories of Jerusalem and Samaria.

Whatever the case Josiah went out to fight with Pharaoh Necho, he was warned not to interfere, he didn't listen, was mortally wounded and died. God did not preserve Josiah, who did right in the sight of the Lord (2 Chr 34:2). And I thought of this country's president, whom I love *deeply* for his goodness and piety. He loves this country and its people, *all* of its people; not just the ones that are just *like* himself.

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In the church, it has been taught by the superstitious that no matter what, one would always be *right*, being on the side of “God’s people”, but what if that leader of “God’s people” is an *antichrist* (as noted above, P4)? Do you still stand on his side? Do you embrace him and *help* his transgression of the commandments of God? *No*.

One *might* say, “How do I know this leader is antichrist”. Can phrases from Daniel 11 be said of this leader (P4)? If the answer is yes, *he just might be an antichrist!*

I don’t mean to make light of this subject that is so very existential for so many, for these are the stakes when it comes to positions of *leadership*. People *live* or *die* based upon the positions *leaders* of nations take on issues.

God is calling for a sword against Gog of Magog, and *all* the antichrists “...throughout all my mountains...” Gog has declared war upon the people of the land that is near the *mountains of Israel!* And God is *unequivocally* demanding that all those that say they are children of God, *fight back!* In Matt 11:12, Jesus said that the “...kingdom of heaven suffereth violence; and the violent take it by force.” I believe he was speaking of this time of the end, in which Adam is a full-grown man, fully awake, and ready to come into *his* dominion that satan has tried to steal through *deception*. If Adam *wants* it, he will have to *take it by force!*

Revelation 17 is *true*, the *whore of Babylon* will be turned over to her enemies to do with her what they will, and the eighth and final iteration of Babylon, *Babylon the great*, will go into perdition, *due* to the positions taken by its leaders.