

## Ezekiel 38 Gog and Magog

### Background:

Josephus, a first century historian and former general during the time of the Jewish rebellion of A.D. 70, writes that the Book of Ezekiel was \_\_\_\_\_ separate books: Chapters 1-37, with 40-48 as an addendum, and chapters 38-39. This is noted because these two chapters seem out of place in the narrative. (*Antiquities*, x.5.1)

These two chapters consist of \_\_\_\_\_ oracles that are introduced by "thus says the Lord God/Sovereign Lord." (38:3-9, 10-13, 14-16, 17-23; 39:1-16, 17-24, and 25-29)

1. Yahweh will bring Gog and his allies against \_\_\_\_\_. (38:1-9) (Cf. Rev. 16:13-14; 20:7-8)
2. Gog's evil thoughts and intentions will lead him to invade Israel for their national \_\_\_\_\_. (38:10-13).
3. Gog will advance against Israel from the \_\_\_\_\_ (38:14-16)
4. God will display his awesome \_\_\_\_\_ against Gog. (38:17-23)
5. It will take \_\_\_\_\_ years to plunder and \_\_\_\_\_ months to bury Gog's fallen army. (39:1-16)
6. The birds of the air and the beasts of the field will be invited to a great \_\_\_\_\_ at which Gog is the meal (39:17-24)
7. Through this deliverance God will conclude the \_\_\_\_\_ and restoration of Israel as foreseen in 33:1-37:28. (39:25-29)

The Text: Ezekiel 38:1-2a

<sup>NIV</sup> **Ezekiel 38:1** The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshek and Tubal; (Ezek. 38:1-2 NIV)

The phrase "set your \_\_\_\_\_ against" is used only in Ezekiel and eight times (6:2; 13:17; 21:2; 25:2; 28:21; 29:2; 35:2; 38:2) (if the word "against" is translated "toward" then the amount goes up to fourteen). It is a Hebrew phrasing that means "to confront" or "to strongly oppose."

Many suggestions have been offered for the name "Gog."

1. Another name for Gugu or Gyges, a ruthless leader of the \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom (modern day Turkey)
2. Gagu, a ruler of the land of Sakhi, an area north of \_\_\_\_\_ (modern day Iran)
3. An unidentified person with a Sumerian name meaning, "\_\_\_\_\_."
4. An \_\_\_\_\_, impersonal name such as "Pharaoh."
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ term for any enemy of God's people.
6. A cryptogram for \_\_\_\_\_ or Babylon.

The text does tell us specifically that he is:

1. From/of the land of \_\_\_\_\_ (Cp. Gen. 10:2; 1<sup>st</sup> Chron. 1:5) Also known as the home of the Scythians. Cf. Col. 3:11

<sup>2</sup> The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshek and Tiras. (Gen. 10:2 NIV)

2. The chief prince of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

The following maps give us a visual location of where those places were supposedly located: Russia, the Stans, and Turkey.

Note the prophetic word given in verse 2b – 4.

“...prophesy against him <sup>3</sup> and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshek and Tubal. <sup>4</sup> I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army-- your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords.'” (Ezek. 38:2-4 NIV)

Question: Who is with him? Verses 5-6.

Answer: <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will be with them, all with shields and helmets, <sup>6</sup> also \_\_\_\_\_ with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops-- the many nations with you. (Ezek. 38:5-6 NIV)

Countries involved are: Persia = \_\_\_\_\_; Cush = \_\_\_\_\_; Put = \_\_\_\_\_; Gomer and Beth Togarmah = areas in \_\_\_\_\_.

Question: What further prophetic word does God give to Gog? Verses 7-9.

Answer: 4 parts

1. <sup>7</sup> "Get \_\_\_\_\_; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them.

2. <sup>8</sup> After many days you will be called to arms.

This is a divine \_\_\_\_\_. God is behind the conflict.

3. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were \_\_\_\_\_ from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in \_\_\_\_\_.

4. <sup>9</sup> You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a \_\_\_\_\_ covering the land. (Ezek. 38:7-9 NIV)

Question: What is the intent of the invasion? Verses 10-13

Answer: <sup>10</sup> "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme.

<sup>11</sup> You will say, 'I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people-- all of them living without walls and without gates and bars. <sup>12</sup> I will \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and turn my hand against the resettled ruins and the people gathered from the nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land.'"

<sup>13</sup> Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all her villages will say to you, "Have you come to \_\_\_\_\_? Have you gathered your hordes to \_\_\_\_\_, to carry off silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods and to seize much plunder?" (Ezek. 38:10-13 NIV)

Note: The invaders are not coming to take over the country. They are after \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Sheba = \_\_\_\_\_; Dedan = southern Saudi Arabia or \_\_\_\_\_; Tarshish = \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (a small island of the southwest coast of Italy).

Question: What further prophesy does God give to Gog? Verses 14-16

Answer: <sup>14</sup> "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: In that day, when my people Israel are living in \_\_\_\_\_, will you not take notice of it?

<sup>15</sup> You will come from your place in the far \_\_\_\_\_, you and many nations with you, all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army.

<sup>16</sup> You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, Gog, I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.'" (Ezek. 38:14-16 NIV)

Note: The invasion is a divine \_\_\_\_\_ intended to convey the reality of the one true God and His care for Israel to the nations. It is an action of divine \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. God does not use an intermediary but defends His people himself.

Question: Was this predicted before? Verse 17

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_. <sup>17</sup> "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: You are the one [or..."Are you the one..."] I spoke of in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel. At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them. (Ezek. 38:17 NIV)

Yes. Some scholars take the text as a \_\_\_\_\_ statement. The problem is that Gog is never mentioned as an agent of God's wrath in any former prophets. Gog, however, could simply represent all the invading hordes from the north who attempted to crush Israel: Assyria, Babylon, Greece, Seleucia, and Rome.

No. Some scholars see the question as a rhetorical \_\_\_\_\_ of insult. "Are you the one I spoke of?" In his arrogance, Gog answers, "yes." God answers, "No." You are not an instrument of wrath upon my own people. You are the object of my wrath. I will save Israel." Gog does not represent the kings of the past who were used to discipline/bless his people, e.g. Ashurbanipal, Nebuchadnezzar, and Cyrus.

Question: How will God defeat Gog and his armies? Verses 18-22.

Answer: 3 ways

1. An \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>18</sup> This is what will happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused, declares the Sovereign LORD.

<sup>19</sup> In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.

<sup>20</sup> The fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground. (Ezek. 38:18-20 NIV)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>21</sup> I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign LORD. Every man's sword will be against his brother. (Ezek. 38:21 NIV)

Example: <sup>20</sup> Then Saul and all his men assembled and went to the battle. They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords. (1 Sam. 14:20 NIV)

3. Other divine \_\_\_\_\_ poured out from the heavens

<sup>22</sup> I will execute judgment on him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. (Ezek. 38:22 NIV)

Reminds us of \_\_\_\_\_ and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24)...the Lord rained down burning sulfur.

Reminds us \_\_\_\_\_ fighting the Amorite kings (Josh 10:6ff)...the Lord killed more soldiers with hailstones than the Israelite soldiers.

Question: What is the repeated purpose for such judgment? Verse 23

Answer: <sup>23</sup> And so I will show my \_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_\_, and I will make myself \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.' (Ezek. 38:23 NIV)

### **October 20, 2020 global update**

[Slide 41] Question: When will the Ezekiel 38 war happen?

Answer: Most Pre-tribulation scholars believe that it will be \_\_\_\_\_ the Tribulation Period. Ezekiel 39:9 tells us that the use the weapons for fuel for seven years (whatever that means since most weapons are not made from wood).

All this to say...the stage is set for a potential Ezekiel 38 war.