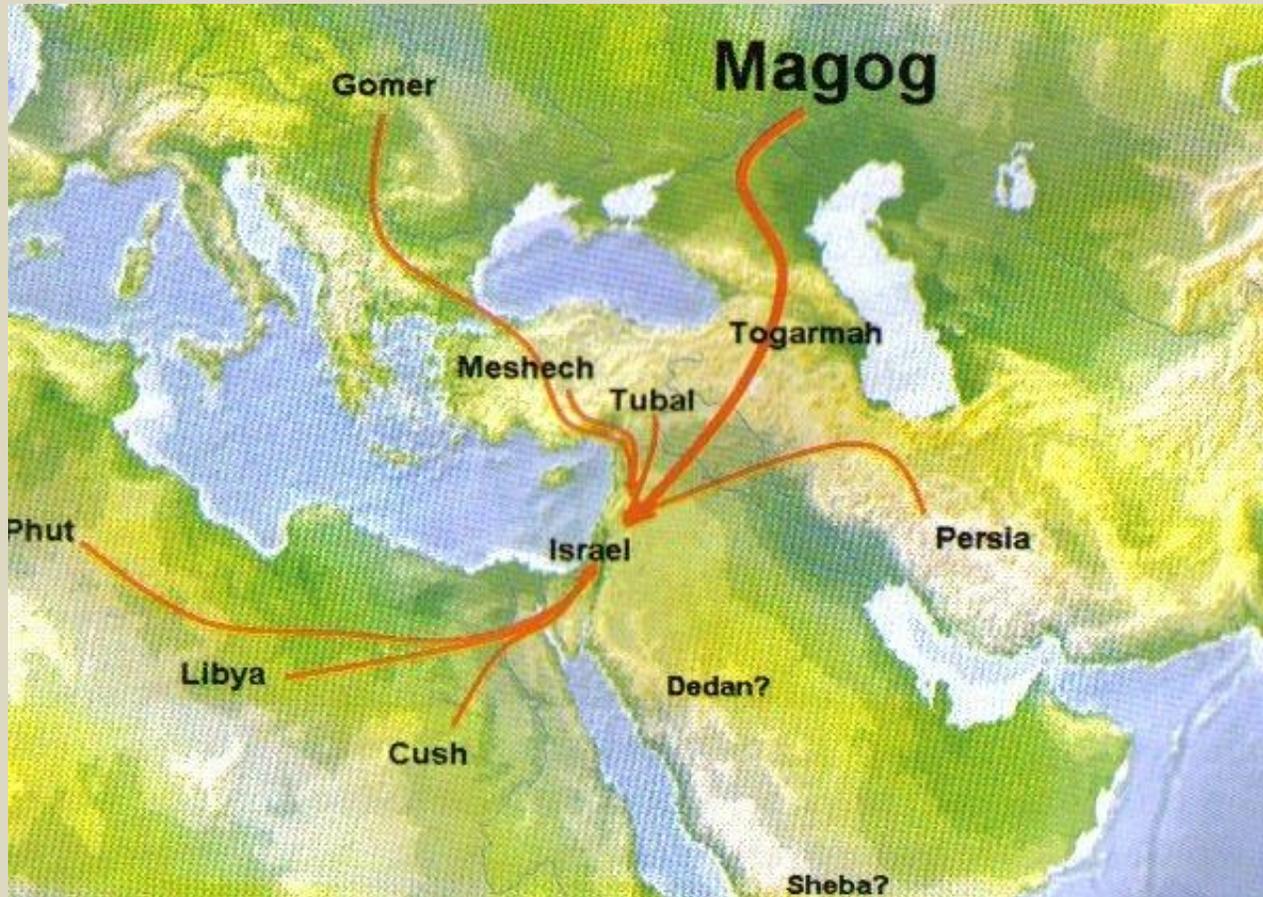


Behold, It Is Coming *The Northern Alliance Invasion of Israel*

(Ezekiel 38:1-39)

Behold, it is coming and it will be done, says the Lord God; that is the day of which I have spoken (Ezekiel 39:8).



The invading forces coming from the north against Israel are getting ready to fulfill God's plan. Who are these invading forces? The answer is found in verses 1-3,5-7 of chapter 38: "And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Son of man, set your face against Gog of the land of Magog, the **prince of Rosh**, of **Meshech** and of **Tubal** and prophecy against him... Persia, Cush and Put or Libya with them, all of them with shield and helmet, Gomer and all his hordes, the house of **Togarmah** in the uttermost parts of the north and all his hordes – many people are with you. You [Gog] be prepared; yes, prepare yourself, you and all your

companies that are assembled about you, and you be a guard and a commander for them.”

Gog is the leader of Magog, prince of Rosh, Meshach and Tubal. Gog is not a name, but a title for a ruler as pharaoh, czar and Kaiser. The identification of Magog, Rosh, Meshach and Tubal were tribes of the ancient world belonging to modern-day Russia. They were situated between the Black and Caspian Seas, being today southern Russia. Russia will be the chief leader in this invasion. She is part of a confederacy, which will involve Persia or present day **Iran, Cush or Ethiopia, Put or Somalia, Gomer** or present-day **Germany and Togarmah or Armenia**. Summarizing, this confederacy consists of Iran, Ethiopia, Somalia, Germany and Armenia with Russia as the leader.

Israel is the object of this invasion. Specifically it will take place in its mountains. This invasion will be massive. It is described as a storm cloud that covers the entire Land. What is Russia's purpose for her invasion of Israel? She will say, “I will go up against an open country; I will fall upon those who are at rest, who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, to take spoil and prey, to turn your hand upon the desolate places now inhabited and assail the people gathered out of the nations, who have obtained livestock and goods, who dwell at the center of the earth [Israel]” (Ezekiel 38: 11-13). What does Israel have that Russia wants to take? The passage does not tell us, but some speculate the reason to be the Dead Sea, which is rich in minerals, containing 45 billion tons of sodium, chlorine, sulfur, potassium, calcium, magnesium and bromide; others say that it is for the reason of its oil, others say the reason for Russia to have a foothold in the Middle East. Although neighboring countries of Israel wish to have her destroyed, this invasion is beyond human reason, although the spoils and prey are mentioned. These are just excuses to incite Russia to accomplish God's purpose and plans. He says, “And you (Russia) shall come up against My people Israel like a cloud to cover the land. In the latter days I will bring you against My land, that the **nations may know, understand and realize Me when My holiness shall be vindicated through you, O Gog before their eyes...** But in that day when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, says the Lord God, My wrath shall come up into My nostrils... I will call the sword against (Gog) throughout all My mountains says the Lord God, every man's sword shall be against his brother and with pestilence and with bloodshed will I enter into judgment with (Gog), and I will rain upon him and upon his hordes and upon

the many peoples that are with him torrents of rain and great hailstones, fire and brimstone. Thus will I demonstrate My greatness and My holiness, and I will be recognized, understood and known in the eyes of many nations; yes they shall know that I am the Lord” (Ezekiel 38: 16,18,21-23).

God’s plan for this invasion is that the nations might recognize His holiness when He takes His position against Gog to destroy her and her allies. God’s wrath will “come up into His nostrils” and He will act in a manner that the entire world will be in awe of Him and know that He and only He is the Sovereign Lord of the universe and demands obedience and fear of Him. When Gog touches the “apples of God’s eyes”, His anger is aroused and the invading army will be destroyed. They will be destroyed by several causes: earthquake (vv.19-20); civil war among the invading soldiers (v.21); pestilence, blood, flood, hailstones, fire and brimstone (vv.22). This will all take place in the mountains of Israel. “You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes, and the peoples that are with you (says the word of God; I will give you unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beast of the field to be devoured; you shall fall upon the open field; for I have spoken it, says the Lord Jehovah” (39: 1-5).

The measure of time that will take to dismantle and rid of all the Gog’s military equipment will be seven years. Their weapons will be used for fire (39: 9-10). In Ezekiel 39: 11-16 we have the description of the burial of the dead bodies which will take seven month for it to be finished: “In that day, I will give to Gog a place for burial there in Israel, the valley of those who pass through on the east side in front of the [Dead Sea] Sea [the highway between Syria, Petra and Egypt], and it will delay and stop those who pass through, and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude, and they shall call it the Valley of Hamon-gog [multitude of gog]; for seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, that they may cleanse the land” (39: 11-13). When will it take place? This is the curious question of many of us. It may happen at any time now, because the nation of **Israel is a state**; the **waste places of centuries past are inhabited** now; **Israel is dwelling secured in open villages**. These are the conditions of the time Israel will be invaded. We conclude that this invasion can take place at any time now, even before the tribulation. Israel should be the pivot point of focus when it has to do with prophecy, and not current events, although it is the fulfillment of what has been predicted in the Word of God. Israel has the right to the land God brought her to and gave it to her. But because of her rebellion against Him, He

dispersed her all over the world, for a time, with the promise to bring her back to it. For a while He has turned His back toward her, but with compassion He will once again gather her to Himself; she will be His people and He will be her God after much refining and judgment Israel will return to Him.

The Gog and her allies' invasion will be an act of God to bring Israel to Him. She has been back in her land but still in unbelief in preparation for the judgment to come. God is the One Who is doing the moving of all things to bring about the end. Russia's invasion is another birth pang leading the world to the one world order government and the great tribulation. The nation of Israel is center of God's wrath and all those Gentiles who have rejected Him. But this invasion will open Israel's eyes to her God and the understanding that He is the Lord her God from that day forward (39:22). At that time the Lord will reverse Israel's captivity; He will have mercy upon the house of Israel and will be jealous for His holy name. He will no more hide His face from her when He has poured out His Spirit upon her (vv. 25,29).

The Gog invasion is possibly the next event we will see before the rapture and tribulation. Russia is raising her head in leadership above several nations today. It could be that she is preparing herself for a major role in God's calendar. Let's keep watching and praying for our soon promised redemption to be fulfilled, while we rid of all that keeps us in fear and worry, to reach out to the hope in the promises of our heavenly Father!

Reference: The Footsteps of the Messiah by Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum