

Ezekiel 38-39 War (part 2)

Goal: Piece together God's Plan

Daniel 9: seven-year peace treaty starts tribulation

Ezekiel 47:22-23 Gaza solution & Israel Borders (Lebanon + Syria) & Joel 3:2

Daniel 7: Which beast is Gog?

Mark 13: Likely ends before 2065

2 Thes. 2: When does Israel believe? Sometime after the rapture.

Who, What, When, Where, Which, How, Why of Ez. 38-39?

Who attacks (Does 'rosh' mean 'chief' or 'Россия')?

Which enemy countries do not attack? Why?

What Weapons? Swords, spears, and bows or modern ones?

What is the outcome? God is known!

When does it occur?

Israel has returned to the land.

Is it before the rapture or after, or long after?

Many think it is before the tribulation?

Does the current Israel / Hamas war connect to this war?

Where does it occur, and how do attackers get there?

Why do the attackers attack? To get easy plunder. What plunder?

Translating (same meaning) or transliterating (same sound) "Rosh"

old NASB, NKJV Prince of "Rosh" (noun, a country)

Septuagint (Brenton English translation) "Rhos" (noun, a name), prince of . . .

new NASB, old KJV, ESV, NIV, HCSB, NET "chief" (adjective) prince of . . .

<https://www.jewishvoice.org/read/article/rise-turkey-and-ezekiel-38-39>

"Many people are familiar with Ezekiel 38-39. They know this prophecy speaks of a military invasion of Israel led by a figure known as "Gog of the land of Magog." Unfortunately however, many prophecy teachers today erroneously connect Gog to Russia. Part of the reason for this is because in both the New American Standard and New King James versions of the Bible, "Gog" is not only said to come from "the land of Magog," but is also further described as "the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal" (Ez. 38:2). Because the word "Rosh" sounds similar to Russia, and because "Meshech and Tubal" sound similar to the Russian cities Moscow and Tobolsk, it has often been assumed in conservative prophecy circles that Gog must be a Russian.

"In reality however, most scholars now recognize that Ezekiel 38:2 actually describes Gog as the "chief prince of Meshech and Tubal," not the "prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal." In other words, the Hebrew term rosh, which means, "head, chief, or foremost," is modifying Gog's title as a prince (nasi). It is not the name of a particular place, which in turn, rules out any possible association between Gog and Russia. The idea that Gog is actually the "chief (rosh) prince (nasi) of Meshech and Tubal" is found in the ESV, NIV, HCSB, TLV (Tree of Life Version) and JPS (Jewish Publication Society) translations of the Bible.

Now that the association between Gog and Russia has mostly fallen out of favor among scholars, there is near unanimous agreement in scholarly Bible commentaries and Bible atlases that in Ezekiel's day, Magog, Meshech and Tubal were all located in what is now modern Turkey."

Why Turkey and not Russia?

Majority of translations make 'rosh' = chief

'Rosh' sounding like Russia is not a sufficient reason.

Magog is a land of coastlands (Ez. 39:6)

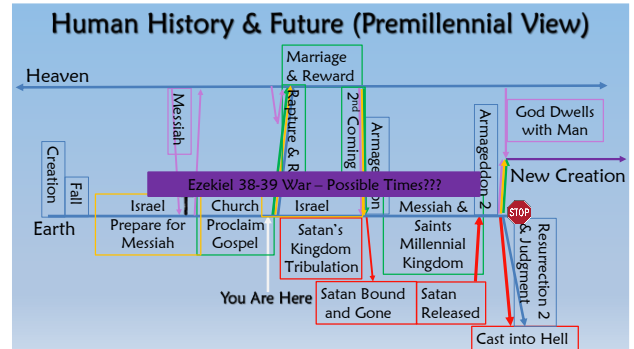
Erdogan wants to unite Muslim countries (against Israel)

Togarmah is the remote north (Ez. 38:6)

Russia is the lone bear of Daniel 7. Magog has 4 heads or 10 horns.

The attackers seem to be a united Muslim force.

Ezekiel 38:1-6 (NET) The Lord's message came to me: "Son of man, turn toward Gog (Leader), of the land of Magog (Türkiye), the chief (Rosh) prince of Meshech and Tubal (regions in Türkiye). Prophecy against him and say: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look, I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and bring you out with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all of them fully armed, a great company with shields of different types, all of them armed with swords. Persia (Iran), Ethiopia (Sudan), and Put (North Africa) are with them, all of them with shields and helmets. They are



joined by Gomer (Türkiye area?, Stan area?) with all its troops, and by Beth Togarmah (Türkiye, Armenia area) from the remote parts of the north with all its troops—many peoples are with you.

Ezekiel 38:7-12 (NET) “Be ready and stay ready, you and all your companies assembled around you, and be a guard for them. After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come to a land restored from the ravages of war, from many peoples gathered on the mountains of Israel that had long been in ruins. Its people were brought out from the peoples, and all of them will be living securely. You will advance; you will come like a storm. You will be like a cloud covering the earth, you, all your troops, and the many other peoples with you. “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil plan. You will say, “I will invade a land of unwalled towns; I will advance against those living quietly in security—all of them living without walls and barred gates—to loot and plunder, to attack the inhabited ruins and the people gathered from the nations, who are acquiring cattle and goods, who live at the center of the earth.”

Ezekiel 38:13-16 (NET) Sheba and Dedan (Saudi Arabia) and the traders of Tarshish (Likely Britain) with all its young warriors (?) will say to you, “Have you come to loot? Have you assembled your armies to plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to haul away a great amount of spoils?”

“Therefore, prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: On that day when my people Israel are living securely, you will take notice and come from your place, from the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a vast army. You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud covering the earth. In future days I will bring you against my land so that the nations may acknowledge me, when before their eyes I magnify myself through you, O Gog.

Ezekiel 38:17-23 “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Are you the one of whom I spoke in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days that I would bring you against them? On that day, when Gog invades the land of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord, my rage will mount up in my anger. In my zeal, in the fire of my fury, I declare that on that day there will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. The fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the wild beasts, all the things that creep on the ground, and all people who live on the face of the earth will shake at my presence. The mountains will topple, the cliffs will fall, and every wall will fall to the ground. I will call for a sword to attack Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign Lord; every man’s sword will be against his brother. I will judge him with plague and bloodshed. I will rain down on him, his troops, and the many peoples who are with him a torrential downpour, hailstones, fire, and brimstone. I will exalt and magnify myself; I will reveal myself before many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord.’

Ezekiel 39:1-8 (NET) “As for you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal! I will turn you around and drag you along; I will lead you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the mountains of Israel. I will knock your bow out of your left hand and make your arrows fall from your right hand. You will fall dead on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the people who are with you. I give you as food to every kind of bird and every wild beast. You will fall dead in the open field; for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will send fire on Magog and those who live securely in the coastlands (what country has coastlands?); then they will know that I am the Lord. “I will make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; I will not let my holy name be profaned anymore. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, the Holy One of Israel. Realize that it is coming and it will be done, declares the Sovereign Lord. It is the day I have spoken about.

Ezekiel 39:9-16 (NET) “Then those who live in the cities of Israel will go out and use the weapons for kindling—the shields, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears—they will burn them for seven years. They will not need to take wood from the field or cut down trees from the forests because they will make fires with the weapons. They will take the loot from those who looted them and seize the plunder of those who plundered them, declares the Sovereign Lord.

“On that day I will assign Gog a grave in Israel. It will be the valley of those who travel east of the sea; it will block the way of the travelers. There they will bury Gog and all his horde; they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog. For seven months Israel will bury them, in order to cleanse the land. All the people of the land will bury them, and it will be a memorial for them on the day I magnify myself, declares the Sovereign Lord. They will designate men to scout continually through the land, burying those who remain on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. They will search for seven full months. When the scouts survey the land and see a human bone, they will place a sign by it, until those assigned to burial duty have buried it in the valley of Hamon Gog. (A city by the name of Hamonah will also be there.) They will cleanse the land.’

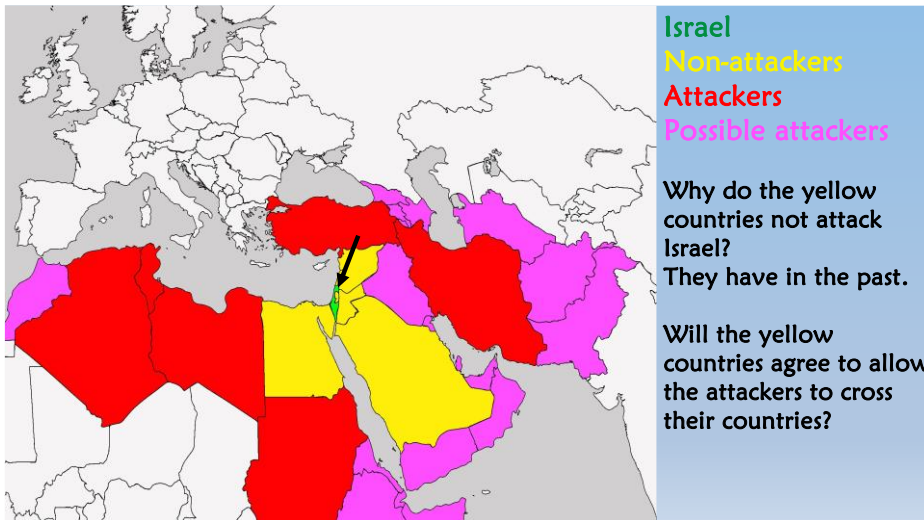
Ezekiel 39:17-24 (NET) “As for you, son of man, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: Tell every kind of bird and every wild beast: ‘Assemble and come! Gather from all around to my slaughter that I am going to make for you, a great slaughter on the mountains of Israel! You will eat flesh and drink blood. You will eat the flesh of warriors and drink the blood of the princes of the earth—the rams, lambs, goats, and bulls, all of them fattened animals of Bashan. You will eat fat until you are full and drink blood until you are drunk at my slaughter that I have made for you. You will fill up at my table with horses and charioteers, with warriors and all the soldiers,’ declares the Sovereign Lord. “I will display my majesty among the nations. All the nations will witness the judgment I have executed and the power I have exhibited among them. Then the house of Israel will know that I am the Lord their God, from that day forward. The nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile due to their iniquity, for they were unfaithful to me. So I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies; all of them died by the sword. According to their uncleanness and rebellion I have dealt with them, and I hid my face from them.

Ezekiel 39:25-29 (NET) “Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob, and I will have mercy on the entire house of Israel. I will be zealous for my holy name. They will bear their shame for all their unfaithful acts against me, when they live securely on their land with no one to make them afraid. When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will magnify myself among them in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord their God because I sent them into exile among the nations and then gathered them into their own land. I will not leave any of them in exile any longer. I will no longer hide my face from them, when I pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord.”

When does All Israel believe? Is the Ezekiel battle the time all Israel believes? I think so. Five times in the text the Lord says this battle will make all nations know he is the Lord, and specifically Israel will know this from this time and forward.

Is this battle before the rapture? No. Is this war before the millennium? Yes.

If this war is before the tribulation (a possibility), then this is likely the war that encourages the world to sign a 7-year peace treaty with Israel, thus beginning the tribulation.



The attackers come to plunder. Will Israel become wealthy? Some point to Israel’s gas and oil as a potential source of riches.

A major oil discovery has been made in Israel. However, it is in the Golan Heights that Israel took from Syria in the six-day war. This land is still contested and close to the Syrian war zones, so little development had been done.

Israel has made some major gas discoveries off its coast. However, efforts to build a gas line to export this gas to Europe have failed.

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/reality-check-israels-natural-gas-plans>

January 27, 2022 “Earlier this month, the United States withdrew its support for the EastMed Pipeline, a proposed \$6 billion seabed route that would have linked natural gas discoveries off Israel . . . to facilities in mainland Greece and even Italy. . .

Another problem has been Turkey’s stance on the southern boundary of its exclusive economic zone, which would extend beyond the pipeline’s route and therefore give Ankara grounds to raise objections. . .

The U.S. decision is a killing blow to the project. And the fact that it coincides with the Ukraine crisis will likely sound the death knell for Israel's dreams of becoming an alternative to Russia as a significant gas supplier to Europe. . . President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's longstanding coolness toward Israel will likely curb any near-term prospects of Turkey buying its spare gas. The two governments do not yet trust each other. . ."

It does not seem that oil and gas are the source of wealth. The phrase where the plunder is first described is, "cattle and goods". This almost sounds like food. Cattle, fruit, vegetables. Is this a hint of what is considered valuable at the time of the war? Food???

Are the weapons – swords, spears, and bows while riding horses? There are three options:

1. Hebrew words have broader meanings than English words.
Horses = leapers, Spear = hurled, Bow = bend, Arrow = pierce
These words could describe modern warfare.
2. If this battle happens in the millennium, weapons are eliminated.
Ancient weapons would be the only choice to make quickly.
Will horses be used in the Millennium? Christ's army comes riding them (us).
Can the nations get to Jerusalem regularly if we ride horses?
3. Modern conveniences could be wiped out. Only ancient weapons are possible
God could send a major solar flare (perhaps at the rapture).
Humans could produce huge EMP pulses with atomic blasts.
Either of these could eliminate computers – no electricity, no cars, no money

There are three hints in the text.

Ezekiel 39:3 "I will knock your bow out of your left hand and make your arrows fall from your right hand."

Ezekiel 39:9-10a "Then those who live in the cities of Israel will go out and use the weapons for kindling - the shields, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears - they will burn them for seven years. They will not need to take wood from the field or cut down trees from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons."

Ezekiel 39:17-29 "As for you, son of man, this is what the sovereign LORD says: Tell every kind of bird and every wild beast: 'Assemble and come! Gather from all around to my slaughter which I am going to make for you, a great slaughter on the mountains of Israel! You will eat flesh and drink blood. You will eat the flesh of warriors and drink the blood of the princes of the earth - the rams, lambs, goats, and bulls, all of them fattened animals of Bashan. You will eat fat until you are full, and drink blood until you are drunk, at my slaughter which I have made for you. You will fill up at my table with horses and charioteers, with warriors and all the soldiers,' declares the sovereign LORD."

If the weapons are ancient ones, then the whole world must have undergone a huge change. This also could connect to the plunder being cattle and food.

A large solar flare could wipe out 99% of modern conveniences in a day.

A flare the size of the Carrington Effect of 1859 when telegraphs were about the only electric product might do that. However, a flare the size of the Miyake event of 774 was likely twelve times as big.

The majority of commentators and Bible expositors today think that Ezekiel's war will be waged using modern weapons. I strongly lean toward the minority view that the weapons will be ancient ones.

If the horses are really horses that birds can eat, then there will need to be a significant increase in their number before this war begins. If so, the cause of this loss of modern conveniences could be soon.

God's word is true, but it only hints at this loss of technology. (speculation)

What do we know?

Israel will be attacked in a time of peace. Türkiye is the leader.

God will miraculously orchestrate some interesting events to make this war fit the Biblical prophecy.

God will level Israel and Türkiye with an earthquake, but will deliver Israel.

After this event Israel will believe and the world will know God.

We don't know when this will occur, but Mark 13 places it relatively soon.

Ezekiel 39:8 "Realize that it is coming and it will be done, declares the Sovereign Lord. It is the day I have spoken about."

It sounds like a past prophecy can tell us more. Where is it?