

- I) V1 INTRO: Now gather yourself in troops O daughter of troops He has laid siege against us
- II) WHEN LAST TOGETHER: We looked at Micah's prophecy concerning *future judgments*
a) FIRST: He gave a picture of *near judgment* when he prophesied Babylonian captivity (V10)
- III) KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR: Of Babylon invaded Israel on three occasions (605, 597, 586 BC)
a) With each successive wave of invasions Judah was more and more devastated
1) 2 Chron 36:17-20 The LORD brought the king of Babylon against them. The Babylonians killed Judah's young men, even chasing after them into the Temple. They had no pity on the people, killing both young and old, men and women, healthy and sick. God handed them all over to Nebuchadnezzar. The king also took home to Babylon all the utensils, large and small, used in the Temple of God, and the treasures from both the LORD's Temple and the royal palace. He also took with him all the royal princes. Then his army set fire to the Temple of God, broke down the walls of Jerusalem, burned all the palaces, and completely destroyed everything of value. The few who survived were taken away to Babylon, and they became servants to the king and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power.
- IV) V10 HE MADE IT CLEAR: That they would be in captivity, but would be released from captivity
a) 2 Chron 36:22-23 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying, Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who *is* among you of all His people? May the LORD his God *be* with him, and let him go up!
- V) V11-13 REFER TO: The final war that will occur, and the help that will come from the Lord
a) Though many nations will unite and come against Israel, God will be their help in that day
1) Zech 12:2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness *to all* the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.
- VI) EZEKIEL: Gave a prophetic glimpse concerning this (592-570 BC)
a) Ezek 38:2-8 Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of ROSH, MESECH, and TUBAL, and prophesy against him, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company *with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. PERSIA, ETHIOPIA, and LIBYA are with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet; GOMER and all its troops; the house of TOGARMAH *from* the far north and all its troops--many people *are* with you. Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them. After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now *all of them dwell safely*
b) V13 Includes SHEBA and DEDAN (Saudi Arabia)
- VII) INTERESTINGLY: The coalition invading Israel intends to both destroy and plunder the nation
a) V12 This is a people gathered from all the nations (worldwide): it has to take place in latter times

- 1) It occurs when they are living in a time of security, with no fear of *deportation*
- VIII) THIS IS WHY: It is going to take place sometime *during the Tribulation*
- a) Israel will have signed a peace treaty, and will be living securely at that time
- I) FACT: Dan 9:27 He (antichrist) shall confirm a covenant with many for one week (7 years)
- a) During this time of security, the invasion occurs
- II) THEIR MOTIVATION IS JIHAD: Coupled with their desire to possess Israel
- a) They want the land, and all that it has: they want its silver, gold, livestock, and goods
 - 1) They want to wipe them off the face of the earth, and to take all that they have
 - 2) WHY: Because Muslims believe that any land once occupied by Muslims is permanently theirs: this would include great portions of Europe all the way to France
- III) THE FACT IS: This is accepted by almost every Islamic nation in the Middle East
- a) They believe that they are only regaining what in fact actually belongs to them
- IV) EZEKIEL: Gave a list of nations that would line up against Israel in those days
- a) GOG: Gog (title, high one) of the land of Magog: Central Asia (Scythia), so. part of ancient Russia
 - 1) Gen 10:2: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan: possibly No. Afghanistan
- V) ROSH: Rosh can be translated as chief, or some consider it to refer to Russia
- a) Some believe it is Russia because vv. 6 and 15 refer to the *far north*, which could be Russia
 - b) MESECH: Meshech and Tubal also were sons of Noah's son Japheth
 - 1) Today, they would be in modern Turkey, So. Russia, and northern Iran
- VI) PERSIA: It was called Persia until 1935, changed its name to Iran
- a) in 1979 it became the Islamic Republic of Iran
 - 1) Obviously, Iran is an archenemy of Israel and the West, and actively works to cause other Arab nations to no longer cooperate with the US, Israel, or any of our allies
- VII) THEN THERE IS: (Cush) Ethiopia, (Put) Libya, Gomer, and Togarmah
- a) Ethiopia was the land just south of Egypt, on the Nile: This is Sudan, home of Nat'l Islamic Front
 - 1) They were strong supporters of Osama bin Laden, where he lived from '91-'96
- VIII) PUT: Is modern Libya and openly refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist
- a) Gomer originally was in ancient southern Russia and is modern Turkey in the area called Armenia
 - b) Togarmah is modern Turkey
- IX) IMPORTANT: What we have here is a coalition of enemies of Israel that have *one thing in common*
- a) They are all nations that have a Muslim majority

- X) **KEY:** Four of the nations mentioned are now in modern Turkey: Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, Togarmah
- a) **QUOTE:** This makes a pretty strong argument for Turkey being a part of the invasion of Israel. Current circumstances in that country also lend this view some credibility. Since the break-up of the Soviet Union, Turkey has been gaining inroads into Central Asia (Magog). It is also linked to Central Asia both ethnically and linguistically, and has a growing number of political parties that support opposition to Israel, the establishment of a Turkish Islamic Republic, and the worldwide rule of Islam.
- XI) **FOR MANY YEARS:** People wondered how Russia might be able to participate in such a coalition
- a) The former USSR was led by atheistic communism: how could these nations ally with Russia
- I) **INTERESTINGLY:** Islam is currently the second most widely professed religion in the Russian Federation. According to recent estimates: while there are 6 million *genuine* followers of Islam in Russia, there are more than 20 million *officially* self-identified Muslims.
- II) **EZEK 38:3:** Behold *I am against you* O God the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal
- a) **POINT:** This coalition's invasion against Israel is regarded as an attack on God Himself
- III) **KEY:** This will make the conflict between them and God, and God is going to defend Israel
- a) The huge odds against Israel will be nullified because God is on their side
- 1) Ps 56:11 In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?
- IV) **MICAH 4:13 ARISE:** And thresh O daughter of Zion for I will make your horn iron
- a) In that day, help will not come from man but from God
- 1) Ezek 38:4-7 I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company *with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet; Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah *from* the far north and all its troops--many people *are* with you. Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them.
- 2) Like an animal that has been caught, the invaders will not be successful in their plans
- V) **KEY:** God actually allows them to enter Israel so that He can visit them with judgment
- a) They come in fully confident and prepared to conquer Israel: *But they will be defeated*
- VI) **V1 NOW:** Gather yourself in troops O daughter of troops He has laid siege against us
- a) Bible commentators believe that Micah is at this point returning to the near future: Babylon
- 1) The siege would then be referring to Nebuchadnezzar's invasions of Israel
- VII) **KEY:** Smiting the judge would be a reference to King Zedekiah, who was taken captive
- a) 2 Ki 25:7 They killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon.

- VIII) V2 BUT YOU: Bethlehem Ephrathah though you are little among the thousands of Judah yet out of you
a) IN SPITE: Of what happened to Judah, and the kings of Judah God still has a plan
- IX) ISRAEL: Actually had two cities called Bethlehem
a) One was mentioned in Josh 19:10-15, and was NW of Nazareth, in the north
b) This is why Micah refers to Bethlehem Ephrathah (fruitful), located outside of Jerusalem
- X) IN SPITE: Of the judgment and exile, God would still provide the Messiah through David's line
a) 700 years before the fact, God stated that He would provide a deliverer who would be Savior
1) Though the odds would be against an heir of David being born in Bethlehem, God said He would
- XI) THERE WOULD BE: Descendants living in Nazareth that would be compelled to go to Bethlehem
a) Caesar Augustus would decree a census, and Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem
1) They arrived in the city at the right moment, and Messiah was born
2) Gal 4:4-5 When *the right time came*, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.
God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.
- I) THIS IS THE PROPHECY: That directed the magi to Bethlehem to worship the one born King
a) From what might seem insignificant comes the One who is most significant
- II) KEY: From *House of Bread* comes the *Bread of Life*
a) Jn 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world
- III) JESUS IS: The Bread of Life
a) He is the only source of spiritual nourishment: He is the only way we can have life
- IV) HE IS SAYING: When you come to Me you never hunger or thirst again: *I will fully satisfy you*
a) Jn 17:3 This is eternal life, that they may *know You*, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
b) Col 2:9-10 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are *complete in Him*, who is the head of all principality and power.
- V) V2 YET: *Out of you* shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel
a) Come forth to Me gives us the understanding that Messiah was to fulfill God's plan
1) Jn 6:48 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me
2) Heb 10:7 I said, 'Behold, I have come-- In the volume of the book it is written of Me-- To do Your will, O God.'
- VI) V2 WHOSE GOINGS FORTH: Have been from of old from everlasting

a) *His incarnation* speaks of His humanity: He took upon Himself human flesh *when He was born*

1) Jn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and *the Word was God*

2) Jn 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

3) Col 2:9 For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body

VII) THIS: Speaks of His divinity

a) Is 7:14 Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel

b) Is 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a *Son is given*; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

VIII) A SON IS GIVEN: Gives us the insight into His divinity

a) The Child is born (humanity) but the Son is *given* because He is from eternity

1) Ps 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even *from everlasting to everlasting*, You are God.

IX) FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING: Is an interesting phrase

a) It is literally from the vanishing point in the past to the vanishing point in the future

1) He is God, always with no beginning, and no end

2) QUOTE: Just as far back as you can go in your thinking, He is God. He came out of eternity. He is the eternal Son of God

X) JESUS HIMSELF MADE THIS CLEAR

a) Jn 16:28 I *came forth* from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.

I) ON ONE OCCASION: Jesus was having a dispute with some Pharisees

a) Jn 8:56-59 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad." Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, *I AM*." Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

II) IN ISRAEL: There were certain crimes that were punished by death

a) Idolatry, false prophecy, Sabbath breaking, rape, adultery, murder, bestiality

1) Also, blasphemy

III) MICAH: Is revealing that though He was born in Bethlehem His goings forth are from everlasting

a) He is God, who in the beginning created the heavens and the earth

b) Jn 1:3 speaking of Jesus said All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made

c) Col 1:16 For by Him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they are thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by Him, and for Him

- IV) **THIS ALL:** Refers to His pre-incarnation but we also see His Incarnation: His humanity
- V) **IN THE INCARNATION:** We now have our Savior *present with us*
 - a) God took upon Himself human flesh, and took our place as our Savior, dying for us
 - 1) Mk 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.
 - 2) 1 Ti 2:6 (Jesus) gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time
- VI) **THIS IS:** The One we look to today for our help in our time of need