

Gog & Magog

What- Enemies will gather against Israel and be supernaturally defeated by God.

Where- They will gather against Israel,

Why- Ezekiel 38:12 — “to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.

How- Teamwork

WHO

-Gog = the Leader

-Rosh & Magog = areas within Russia & former USSR.

-Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, & Togarmah = Turkey & Eastern Europe

- Persia = Iran (changed 1935)

-Cush = Ancient Ethiopia = Sudan

-Put = Libya

THE WORLD AS KNOWN TO THE HEBREWS ACCORDING TO THE MOSAIC ACCOUNT.





"Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are by the Greeks called Scythians." Josephus, Antiquities, Book 1 Chapter 6.

ROSH OR CHIEF?

**William Gesenius- His Hebrew grammar and his Hebrew and Chaldee (i.e., Aramaic) dictionary taught generations of scholars, and have been kept alive into the 21st century in various editions and translations. Gesenius also laid the basis for Semitic epigraphy (the study of ancient inscriptions), collecting and deciphering the Phoenician inscriptions known in his time. (Encyclopedia Britannica)

"Rosh, a proper noun. A northern Scythian race which Ezekiel 38:2–3 and 39:1 link with the Tibareni [Tubal] and Moschi [Meshech] as dwelling near the Black Sea. [The Hebrew for these verses from Ezekiel reads] as follows: nest' rošmešek wetuḇal in other words "prince of the Rosi, Moschi, and Tibereni." Thus, the Septuagint, Symmachus, and Theodosius (cf. Socrates Scholasticus, History of the Church, Bk. 7, ch. 43) correctly [translate this Hebrew phrase into Greek as] "prince of Ros, Mosoch, and Thobel." The Targum Pesch, Aquila, and the Latin Vulgate incorrectly translate "Rosh" as an adjective [and have the reading] "chief prince of Meshech and Tubal."

Jerome chose to translate Ros as Chief because Josephus made no mention of them. To which Gesenius replies-

"But [Jerome], the most learned man of [all] the learned men of the Church, erred. For the people called Ros [in Greek], Russ [in Arabic], and Rus [in Latin] are frequently mentioned by Byzantine and Oriental writers as inhabiting the area of the Crimea.

Georgius Monachus, a 10th century A.D. writer, describes the Rhos as “a inhabit the northern Crimea. Zonaras (ibid.) [writes]: “The Rhos are a Scythian people among the peoples of the Crimea,”

Where did Rosh come from?

Genesis 10:2 — The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

Tiras- Arkadia, drops the T, you end up with Ras. That name, or it's variations, show up countless times in ancient sources.

ten times in Sargon's inscriptions, once in Assurbanipal's cylinder, once in Sennacherib's annals, and five times in Ugaritic tablets.

Greek- Tiras, sounds like Tauros (Greek for Bull), of which the plural would be Taroi.

Herodotus, the Father of History, placed the Tauroi people in a wide area that now includes parts of the Ukraine, the Crimea, southern Russia, the Caucasus mountains, and the northern coasts of the Black and Caspian Seas.

WHEN?

Verses 8, 11, & 16 are key

Preterist/Historic Interpretations-
Esther (Gary DeMar)

Ezekiel

- 1- Israel is invaded (38:16)
- 2- Primary invader is Magog (38:2)
- 3- Bodies buried according to Torah to cleanse the Promised Land (39:12)
- 4- Enemies die supernaturally from rain, earthquake, and fire from heaven. (38:19-22)

Esther

- 1- Jews attacked throughout 127 Persian provinces (9:30)
- 2- Attackers are people from within their provinces. Also- The Scythians (Magog) defeat the Persians and Persia never entered their territory.
- 3- No need to cleanse a land that isn't the Promised Land.
- 4- Israelites defend themselves and are aided by the Persian government. (9:2-5)

Others- Antiochus IV, Crusades, Etc

Before the Rapture (Left Behind [LaHaye, Jenkins], Joel Rosenberg)

Strengths

-If the War was before the Rapture, it could spark revival before the Rapture. And that just sounds nice.

Weaknesses

- It surely seems the next prophetic event in the timeline is the Rapture. If Ez38 precedes it, it definitely take away from the surprise.
- Also, Ezekiel 38 speaks of being IN the Latter days. (Maybe being nit picky)

After Rapture, Immediately Before Tribulation (Thomas Ice & Arnold Fructenbaum)

Strengths

- Gives time to burn weapons as fuel.
- Post Rapture chaos seems conducive to an attack. Israel without allies.
- With the defeat of the Muslims, it opens the door for a peacekeeper to step in and rebuild the temple.

Weaknesses (for BOTH PreTrib Views)

- Is Israel in a time of peace? (Debatable)
- What up with the bows and arrows? Horses?

Response to weapons- Worth noting God is telling Ezekiel what to write, it isn't what Ezekiel sees. What good would it be for God to tell Ezekiel that they're coming with guns & tanks? That said, later fulfillments may not have this problem.

Early/Middle of the Tribulation (John Walvoord & Dwight Pentecost)

Strengths

- Israel at Peace
- Peace treaty may explain why Arab nations aren't involved.

Weaknesses

- Don't have 7 years to burn weapons
- If not early enough, not enough time to bury bodies (after the Abomination of Desolation)
- Worth chewing on, why would God save Israel only to let the Antichrist defeat them soon after..
- Still probably a bow & arrow problem. Maybe... stay tuned.

Armageddon (Charles Feinberg)

Strengths

- Both fit the bill of a "Last Days" massive battle.
- Both describe animals eating the dead (Ez 39:4,17-20; Rev 19:17-18)
- Ez 39:22 says that the result will be the people acknowledging God. Both true here too.
- By this point in the Tribulation, there may be no advanced weaponry left. Matches Ezekiel account.
- Perhaps the burning of weapons coincides with beating swords into plowshares?

Weaknesses

- Magog invasion is specific nations, Armageddon is the whole world.
- Battle of Armageddon is in a valley, Magog gathers on the mountains (38:8)
- Magog gathers against Israel, Armageddon gathers against the King and His army.
- Magog destroyed by rain, hail, fire, etc. Armageddon by the sword of His mouth.
- There are still nations around protesting the Magog invasion. (38:13)
- Israel at peace.... NO

At the end of the Millennium (Henry Halley)

Strengths

- Revelation 20:8 specifically mentions Gog & Magog
- Much imagery the same (numerous enemies from every side)
- Israel is definitely at peace
- Probably could only muster up swords, bows, Primitive weapons, etc.

-FIRE!

Weaknesses

-Ezekiel Chronology Off- ch36-37 = restoration of Israel, 38-39 = Magog, 40-48 = building of Millennial Temple

-The fire in Rev 20 devours/consumes the enemy (katesthiō, "to consume by eating up"), thus no bodies to bury.

-Magog invasion results in all believing in God (39:22), but by this point, they already do.

-No reason/time to bury bodies or burn weapons since the eternal state is immediately following the Revelation 20 battle.