

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## EZEKIEL 38-39

The most perilous job in journalism is that of the war correspondent. This is the reporter who dodges bullets, and braves the front lines of combat armed only with a pad and pen. The war reporter travels to the battlefield to detail the progress and welfare of the troops.

God also has His war correspondents. On occasion Hebrew prophets donned military fatigues, and braved the ravages of war to report to us on the outcome.

But what's most amazing about God's war writers is they were often dispatched to the future to cover battles that hadn't yet taken place. Imagine, being a war correspondent, and your editor tells you you're being sent to cover a battle that won't take place for 2600 years. This was Ezekiel's assignment in chapters 38-39.

Ezekiel was sent in a vision to cover a battle that to this day has yet to occur - according to verse 8 it won't take place until *"the latter years"* - verse 16 reads *"the latter days"* - both are euphemisms for the end of time.

These events unfold after the Jews are regathered to the mountains of Israel - but before they return to the Lord, and Jesus returns to re-establish God's kingdom.

Recall in Chapter 36 we studied God's New Covenant. In Chapter 37 Ezekiel recounts his vision of dry bones.

The Jews will be regathered to their ancient home.

In Chapters 40-48 we'll study the Millennial Temple and the boundaries of Israel after Jesus returns and reigns over the Earth. But between the regathering of the Jews and the re-establishment of God's kingdom a clash of northern nations will occur in the mountains of Israel.

Russia and her allies fight, not only Israel (as a matter of fact, Israel is the least of Russia's worries) - for Russia's invasion picks a fight with God. Russia and her coalition will be destroyed and the result will be the spiritual regeneration promised by the New Covenant.

Ezekiel 38-39 is NOT the Battle of Armageddon.

It's NOT the battle in Revelation 20 that occurs at the end of Jesus' 1000 year reign. Though that battle goes by the same name, it's characteristics are far different.

This is another battle that occurs in *"the latter days."*

When exactly, we don't know, but this battle will help set the stage for the events of the Great Tribulation.

Chapter 38 begins with Ezekiel listing the players in this future battle... First, **the bad guys** - then, **the good guys** - then, **the extras** - and then finally, **the hero!**

Verse 1, *"Now 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, Meshech, 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.' Ezekiel begins with the leader of this coming invasion - a 'Gog' from 'Magog.'"*

*"Gog"* is probably a title, more so than a proper name.

In Genesis 10 we have a genealogy known as “[The Table Of Nations](#).” The chapter tracks the formation of the nations following the global flood of Noah’s day.

It lists Noah, his three sons, and seventy descendants who settled the post-flood world. In fact, every ethnic group on planet Earth can be traced back to Genesis 10.

It’s interesting, as history rolls on names of people and places often change, but not the tribal names of their ancestors. That’s why Ezekiel uses ancestral labels to identify the players in the future events he prophesies.

For example, “*Magog*” referred to a people who settled north of the Caucasus mountains - *which has always been the natural border between the Middle East and Russia*. They were also known in antiquity as [Scythians](#).

Scythians were ancestors of modern day Russians.

Josephus, the first century Jewish historian, also referred to the Scythians as Magog. As did the Chinese. In fact, the Arabs called the wall of China “[the wall of Magog](#)” since it was built to keep Russia out of China.

*Meshech* and *Tubal* were names given to the people north of the Black Sea, and are linked linguistically to two Russian cities [Moscow](#) and [Tobolsk](#) in Siberia.

“*Meshech*” was the name for European Russians, while “*Tubal*” was the name for the Asiatic Russians.

“*Rosh*” is not included in Genesis 10, but is mentioned in the Quran and refers to a people who dwelt among the Scythians. It’s probably a root for the word “[Russia](#).”

It's interesting, Russia is the only non-muslim country in coalition prophesied in Chapter 38, but that's only if the invasion happens today or in the near future.

Of Moscow's 10 million people, 25% are now muslim.

The evil of abortion and a low birth rate is shrinking the traditional Russian population. It's allowing Islam to swell its ranks. Today, muslims make up 50% of the Russian army. By 2050 Russia will have a muslim majority.

The more muslim Russia becomes the easier it'll be to assemble and lead the coalition here in Ezekiel 38.

Any doubt as to the identity of these invaders gets cleared up in verse 15, where they're identified as coming out of the *"far north."* Take a world map, find Jerusalem, and move north along the same longitudinal line and it eventually bisects with the city of Moscow.

All serious biblical scholarship agrees that the four names in verses 2-3 refer to the people of Russia.

Bible teacher Zola Levitt points out how preposterous this prophecy would've seemed at the time of Ezekiel.

He writes, "The Middle East was, in Ezekiel's time, a most advanced civilization, the world's center of scientific knowledge and refinement of culture. It had dominated the Mediterranean for a period of over 2000 years. Its magnificent architecture, religions, and military might were acknowledged and respected throughout the civilized world. But Russia, so far as anybody knew, was inhabited by roving bands of virtual cave people."

At the time of Ezekiel's writing the Russian people lived on the fringe of civilization. They were uncouth and uncultured - a nation of nomads and barbarian tribes.

No one in Ezekiel's day would've dreamed that one day they'd become major players on the world stage!

Yet, God says in verse 4, **"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."** God will set a hook in Russia's jaw.

Like a skilled fisherman who tugs his line and sets the hook, God will catch Russia and reel them into Israel.

The point is **God will pull the strings!** God, not the Russians, will stage this battle. Ultimately, Russian policy isn't made in Moscow, it comes from God in heaven!

And God will provide Russia and her allies with irresistible incentives to invade the land of Israel.

It's no secret the Russians have long coveted the land of Israel for many reasons... *its warm water ports, its strategic location, its mineral resources, its natural gas reserves* - most importantly, *its agricultural capabilities*...

Russia's economy is in shambles and it's constantly struggling to feed its people. Israel's fertile farmland would be the bread basket for the Russian motherland.

But perhaps the greater incentive for Russia to invade Israel is religious and political rather than economic.

Today, Russia is 20% muslim - the Central Asian countries that were former members in the Soviet Union are muslim - and the allies mentioned in the next few verses are all muslim and have a deep hatred for Israel.

In recent days, Russian President Vladimir Putin has sent Russian troops and jets into the Middle East to prop up the crumbling government of Syrian king Assad.

The upstart muslim caliphate known as ISIS now threatens the governments of Syria and Iraq, and the US's unwillingness to take definitive action, has opened the door for Russia to be a player again in Middle East politics. She's creeping closer to the mountains of Israel.

Notice Russia's allies in verses 5-6, "**Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet...**" Until 1935 "**Persia**" was the official name of what is today, "**Iran**." On April 1, 1979, Iran became the world's first Islamic republic. It's hard to believe that prior to the ouster of Shah Pelavi Iran was Israel's ally. Just 30 years ago the two countries were on the same side.

Not now. Today, Iran is run by radical Islamic clerics who believe the Mahdi, or muslim messiah, is on the horizon and it's their obligation to pave his way by wiping Israel and the United States off the face of the Earth.

On October 26, 2005 former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said it clearly to a group of Iranian students, "**Israel must be wiped off the map.**"

This is why Iran is the world's leading sponsor of terrorism. Iranian officials believe Allah has chosen them to bring down



the West by creating carnage and chaos all over Europe and in the US. Thus, Iran funds terrorist groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, and even Al-Qaeda.

Since the Jews have regathered to the land, their muslim and Arab neighbors have gotten angry and jealous. And even more so in light of Israel's military successes in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1982. Every time Arabs have attacked, Israel has gained territory.

This is what's given rise to the evil of terrorism. It's the war of choice for defeated people. Iran has supported terrorism, as she's tried to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran needs an Islamic bomb to level the playing field with Israel. And with President Obama's recent treaty with Iran, the US has played right into their hands.

Six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust. Today, six million Jews live in Israel, and the Iranians want to orchestrate nothing less than a second holocaust.

This is the debate going on the administration of Benjamin Netanyahu, even as we speak - *when does Israel strike?* They can't let Iran procure a nuclear bomb.

But if they attack, they can be sure Iran will retaliate - which could be the spark that starts Ezekiel 38-39.

It's no surprise that a member of this future alliance with Russia to invade Israel includes "*Pesia*" or "*Iran.*"

And along with Iran two more invading countries are mentioned... First is "*Ethiopia*" - at least, that's how it's

translated. The actual Hebrew name is “Cush,” which refers to the upper Nile region, which is today “Sudan.”

This may include Ethiopia, but the focus is on Sudan which today is a radical Islamic Sunni state closely allied with Iran and Russia - and is also strongly anti-Israel.

In the 1990s the Sudanese harbored Osama Bin Laden, and has played host to terrorist training camps.

As has “Libya” or in the Hebrew, “Put.” Today Libya is the north African area of Libya and Algeria - countries that are also allied with Russia and extremely anti-Israel.

Russian hostility toward Israel and the Jews runs deep. Mother Russia has a long record of anti-semitism.

Since the birth of the nation Israel, Russia has been the staunchest supporter of the Arab nations that have tried to destroy Israel. Russia has supplied the Arabs with billions of dollars in weapons to fight against Israel.

On several occasions Russia has been on the verge of invading herself... They came close in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War. The Syrians using Russian tanks spilled over the border into the Golan Heights. Thanks to some gallant fighting, and what is today recognized as divine intervention, the Syrians were beaten back.

Ariel Sharon also won victories in the Sinai and was about to cross the Nile into Egypt - when the Soviet premier, Leonid Brezhnev sent a message to President Nixon that unless he call off the Israelis, Russian troops would invade. We now know that Russian paratroopers were boarding planes for Cairo when Henry Kissinger hammered out a ceasefire between the Arabs and Israel.



In 1982 when the Israeli troops moved into Southern Lebanon to drive out the PLO, they found evidence of Russian involvement - stockpiles of food and weaponry - enough firepower to support a half million troops.

A potential Russian invasion was thwarted. They even found a document detailing attack plans for August 1982. The Israelis beat them to the punch by 2 months.

Plans for Russian expansion were tempered after her decade long quagmire in Afghanistan - and the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. But the Arab nations continue to be the chief market for Russian weapons - and Russian nationalism fostered by Putin has moved Russia back into the Middle East - for now, on the side of the Syrians.

Following the Arab Spring in 2011 Russian made arms deals with the Saudis and with Egypt... As Obama and the US retreat from leadership in the Middle East, Putin is attempting to fill that void with Russian influence.

In 2013 he asked for \$770 billion to fortify his military.

Long story short, **the Russians are coming!** They've never lost designs on the coveted mountains of Israel.

And they'll come with **"Gomer and all its troops."** Some have traced **"Gomer"** to the current country of **Turkey.**

As a NATO ally Turkey has been an ally of Israel - until recently. Radical Islamists are threatening to take over in Turkey, and the country is becoming anti-western.

Ezekiel also mentions, **"the house of Togarmah."**

This name is attached to the Turkish speaking people across the Caucasus - Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan. As well as the countries of Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Kyrgyztan.

And what do all these people have in common... They are almost all muslim fundamentalists and hate Israel.

Ezekiel says they'll come "from the far north and all its troops - many people are with you." Again, this is the give away. The leading invader will come from the north.

And God speaks to the invaders, verse 7, "Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them." The word "guard" can mean "supplier." How apropos, for Russia is the leading weapons supplier to these nations.

He continues, "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." This invasion will occur at a time when the Jews are regathered and Israel dwells safely.

At that time, "You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you." What better way to describe a massive invasion of Russian paratroopers. Like a "storm" - a "cloud" of troops will cover the land.

"Thus says the Lord God: "On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil

plan: You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates' - Remember, in this vision Ezekiel is paying a visit to the future. He's never seen an unwalled city. Ancient cities always had stone walls encircling them. Unwalled cities are modern designs.

Notice, they dwell "*safely*." This word isn't *shalom* or "*peace*." The Hebrew term translated "*safely*" is "*batach*." Which can carry the sense of being *cocky* or *careless*.

It could be this invasion occurs when Israel drops its guard. Today Israel has the best Air Force and ground troops in the Middle East - the Iron Dome protects it's air space from incoming missiles - Israel has the best intelligence in the world... *is all that enough to make them over-confident?* We'll see. But the day will come.

Though we're not told when this battle occurs we know the final week of Daniel 9 - the seven years of Great Tribulation - begin when Israel signs a covenant with the Antichrist. Perhaps it's this kind of peace treaty that creates a false sense of security among the Israelis.

This would place the Battle of Gog and Magog after the rapture, but at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

As we'll see, this battle is the end of Russia and it'll deal a severe blow to radical Islam. Once those forces are gone, there's nothing stopping the rise of Antichrist.

There is no doubt Israel today longs for peace. Over and over they've negotiated with doubtful partners. In the 2006 election

of the Palestinian parliament the Hamas party - *avowed terrorists* - won hands down over Fatah.

Obviously, the majority of Palestinians want the *destruction of Israel*, not *peace with Israel*. Yet the Israelis keep going back to the negotiating table trying to hammer out some kind of workable, believable peace.

As a matter of fact, there's a principle in Islam known as **Al-Taqiyya** which allows a muslim to lie to non-muslims with impunity, if it advances the cause of Islam.

Will there ever be a peace Israel can really trust? Apparently, they'll think so, but it'll backfire on the Jews.

Verse 12 declares the invaders' ambitions, "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." As it says in the RSV, "the center of the earth." Literally, Jerusalem is "the world's navel or belly-button."

In the Jewish Midrash, a commentary on the Jewish Scriptures, there is a statement, "As the navel is set in the centre of the human body, so is the land of Israel the navel of the world... situated in the centre of the world, and Jerusalem in the centre of the land of Israel, and the sanctuary in the centre of Jerusalem, and the holy place in the centre of the sanctuary, and the ark in the centre of the holy place, and the foundation stone before the holy place, because from it the world was founded."

When we go to Israel it's thrilling to stand on the Temple Mount, right on the spot where we believe the foundation stone of the Holy of Holies once stood and where the Ark once rested. According to Ezekiel 38:12 you are literally standing at the center of the universe!

In verse 13 four more characters enter the drama...

“Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?’”

“*Sheba*” and “*Dedan*” were two tribes that lived on the Arabian Peninsula.

Today, this is the country of Saudi Arabia.

Tarshish was an island in the western Mediterranean, probably Spain - possibly the British Isles. Ezekiel 27:12 identifies Tarshish as *a producer of tin*. “*Britannia*” means “*land of tin*.” Remember, when God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, he ran the opposite direction. He bought a ticket to Tarshish, the farthest west he could travel.

If Tarshish does refer to Britain that means “*their young lions*” could be her offspring - *the United States, Canada, Australia*. If that's true, this would be the only place in the Bible where the United States is mentioned.

*And notice, what these young lions do...*

In the face of the naked aggression of this Russian/Arab alliance - all they do to help Israel is to scold the invaders. Rather than take action all they do is talk.

They defend Israel with rhetoric not rifles. All they do is sponsor a UN declaration. These nations slap Russia on the wrist, but don't lift their little finger to help Israel.

*That certainly resembles Obama's support for Israel.*

Perhaps the most interesting sign when it comes to end times prophecy may just be the United States slow and subtle abandonment of Israel. Pro-Palestinian sentiment continues to grow in Europe and in America.

Obama is the first United States president who is not ideologically committed to Israel. And it's shameful the way Obama has snubbed the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, on his recent visits to the US.

With the deterioration of our Judeo-Christian values in our nation, the reason for us supporting Israel is eroding.

And if we lack a biblical basis for supporting Israel, will sheer pragmatism be enough? Given the Arab world's oil reserves, will Israel being our only democratic ally in the region stay reason enough to warrant our support?

It's sad, but I believe the chief reason God continues to bless the United States is because of His promise to bless those who bless Abraham and his descendants.

It's our support of Israel that's warranted God's blessing. But you've got to assume, if we turn our backs on God's people - then God will turn His back on us.

Verse 14, "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord God: "On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it?"



Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army.”

Those who keep to a strictly literal interpretation of this passage point out that Armenia in the Caucasus's has always been home to the Russian cossacks or calvary.

Horses are also still employed in combat in places with mountainous terrain, like Afghanistan. Though you'd think in an era of tanks and humvees a horse would be outdated, perhaps not if an army faced an oil crisis.

But the Hebrew word “*horse*” literally means “*leaper*.” Which could broaden the identification of what Ezekiel is describing to a modern Russian attack helicopter.

“You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.” Notice, God's purpose for this invasion, “*that the nations may know Me...*” God will reveal Himself - *His military might* and *His faithfulness* to His people!

This invasion sets up a David and Goliath scenario...

This is Gideon's 350 versus the Midianite thousands... Rocky versus the Russia... Hickory vs South Bend...

This invasion sets up impossible odds God intends to defy to show His *incredible might* and *amazing mercy*.

Verse 17 tells us, “Thus says the Lord God: “Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the

prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?

Apparently, this invasion is prophesied elsewhere in Scripture. *I'm just not sure where!...* There are several possibilities. Jeremiah 1:14-15 speaks of *a calamity from the north*. It could reference Ezekiel 38. There're others.

Verse 18, “And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,” says the Lord God, “that My fury will show in My face.”

God's fury - His anger - will show in His face. What vivid imagery - *God's face will turn red*. He'll be infuriated by this unprovoked invasion against His special people.

“For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: ‘Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence.

The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.’” An earthquake will originate in Israel, of such magnitude, that it's shockwaves will be felt all around the world. This earthquake will reshape the entire Jordan Rift Valley.

Verse 21, “I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,” says the Lord God. “Every man's sword will be against his brother.” Thanks to God's earthquake, the invading

troops will be confused and discombobulated. They'll turn on one another...

*“Every man’s sword will be against his brother.”*

And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.” The invasion will be stopped by the hand of God - supernatural intervention - a great earthquake.

But this sounds like a different phenomena. Perhaps the Russian coalition will launch its bombs on itself.

Ezekiel sees the sky raining hailstones, fire, brimstone (or sulfur) - it all sounds like a thermonuclear explosion.

Apparently, Iran will get her Islamic bomb, but God will turn it on the Iranians, with this coalition of Russians and muslims, who dare to wage war with His people, Israel.

God will be revered (or hallowed) in eyes of the world.

After their defeat, everyone will recognize the existence and power of the God of Israel. And as we'll see later, this is the event that will wake up the Jews.

Chapter 39, “And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north,

and bring you against the mountains of Israel.” Again God is pulling the strings.

The phrase “*lead you on*” in Hebrew can also be translated “*leave the sixth part.*” This has caused some interpreters to see in this verse a body count. Five-sixths (or 85%) of this coalition army be destroyed.

“Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand.

You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken,” says the Lord God. “And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.”

Who are the people who “*live in security in the coastlands*”? - the Hebrew phrase means “*distant lands.*”

Could it refer to a people living in the New World?

Perhaps, even in America? If we fail to stand with Israel when invaded, would God pour out the same judgment on us that He uses on Israel’s oppressors?

Verse 7, “So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel.

Surely it is coming, and it shall be done,” says the Lord God. “This is the day of which I have spoken.

“Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years.” The word “*arrow*” in Hebrew is “*khayts*.” It refers to a piercing missile... The word “*bow*” is the word “*keh-sheth*” or literally “*launcher*.” “*Bow and arrow*” are terms supplied by the King James translators. They can just as easily be translated, *missiles and rocket launchers*.

“They will not take wood from the field nor cut down any from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them,” says the Lord God.” Ezekiel says Israel will burn weapons as fuel for a period of seven years - which just happens to correspond with the duration of the Great Tribulation which in Scripture is said to last a total of seven years.

How weapons will be burned is uncertain.

But this could refer to nuclear weapons - turning weapons grade uranium into fuel for nuclear energy.

After the Cold War, this started to happen. In 1993 Russia and the US signed an arms control agreement. *HEU - the highly enriched uranium purchase agreement*.

Russia started dismantling nuclear warheads and selling the uranium to American reactors - the Savannah River Plant is one. Today, nearly 10% of all electricity in the United States comes from uranium that was on the tip of a Russian missile once aimed at an American city.

Every ten light bulbs in America is illuminated by energy that was originally designed to annihilate us. This is one of the best things that's happened in the world in the last thirty years that you've never heard about.

But Ezekiel says this will happen again after the Battle of Magog. The Islamic bomb built to wipe the Jews off the map, will instead supply Israel heat for their homes.

Verse 11, "It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog." "*Hamon Gog*" means "the multitude of Gog."

And "For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land." This sounds strange. How does burying the dead "*cleanse the land*"?

"Indeed all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified," says the Lord God. "They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search." Why does burying the dead require a special detail - that actually earns them notoriety, or renown? And why wait seven months?

"The search party will pass through the land; and when anyone sees a man's bone, he shall set up a marker by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog. The



name of the city will also be Hamonah (or multitude). Thus they shall cleanse the land.”

Notice first of all the corpses aren't buried for seven months after they're dead. That indicates special circumstances. If a soldier died from normal battle wounds he'd be buried within days for sanitary reasons.

But not the dead in this battle... And professionals, *experts in disposal*, are hired for the task. One group locates the bones. Another group actually buries them.

Apparently, these bodies require special precautions.

I believe we're reading about procedures used to dispose of bodies infected with nuclear poisoning. They were contaminated by the blast and became radioactive.

Verse 17, “And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord God, ‘Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field: “Assemble yourselves and come; gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal which I am sacrificing for you, a great sacrificial meal on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams and lambs, of goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. You shall eat fat till you are full, and drink blood till you are drunk, at My sacrificial meal which I am sacrificing for you.

You shall be filled at My table with horses and riders, with mighty men and with all the men of war,” says the Lord God.” God invites the vultures and scavengers to come and dine on corpses slain the Battle of Magog.

**“I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them.”** The stunning victory of a tiny nation, Israel, over this mighty Russian/Muslim coalition will shock the world. Today, six million Jews are staring down 422 million Arabs - *to think that Russia will join the Arabs, and Israel will still win in the end - wow!*

In a sense, the Battle of Magog will be the last jihad.

God will break the back of the muslim world, and end its hatred of Israel. Some think this victory will give the Jews the impetus to finally rebuild their holy Temple.

And there is only one explanation for their victory: **the true God is the God of Israel.** And this won't just be recognized by Gentiles, but will also be a sign to Jews.

**“So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward.”** God's intervention on behalf of Israel against this northern coalition will be the turning point in the Jew's revival and return to God.

This event forces the Jews to acknowledge God as their Savior - and ultimately, drives them to Jesus.

Up until this moment Zionism has been a nationalistic movement, not a spiritual one. Yet in the day God proves His power and comes to His people's defense, it'll soften their hearts and cause them to bow to their Savior.

Verse 23, **“The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them.**

They sinned. “I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them.”

“Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name - after they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, when they dwelt safely in their own land and no one made them afraid. When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies’ lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, then they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer.’”

Even though many Jews have returned to Israel, many more haven’t. [There are 6.1 million Jews living in Israel - but 15 million worldwide.](#)

There is still a final exodus of Jews back to their homeland, and it’s this stunning upset of Russian and the Jihadists that’ll be the impetus for their final return!

**“And I will not hide My face from them anymore...”**

What a magnificent promise. The sin and willfulness of the Jews caused God to turn His back on His people.

But the day will come when He tires of this estrangement. He’ll no longer hide His face from them.

God will initiate a fresh work among His people. “For I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,’ says the Lord God.” ...Now let’s connect some dots...

*What’s the condition for receiving God’s Spirit? Participation in the New Covenant. And what does participation in New Covenant require? Faith in Jesus!*

Thus, because of the God’s intervention in the Battle of Magog, many Jews will come to know Jesus as Lord!

Revelation tells us in the Great Tribulation there’ll be 144,000 Jewish witnesses of Jesus. *But how do they come to know Him?* It could be God’s defeat of Magog.

Let’s close tonight’s study with a fitting verse. Romans 8:31 tells us, “*If God is for us who can be against us?*”

And the reverse is also true. If God is against you it doesn’t matter who is for you - *just ask God and Magog.*

They’ll cover the mountains of Israel like a cloud, but that isn’t enough to fight against God. He will prevail. He’ll defend Israel. He’ll win the victory. He always does.

And God will win the victory for you - no matter the enemy - *just make sure that you are on His side!*