

Bible study

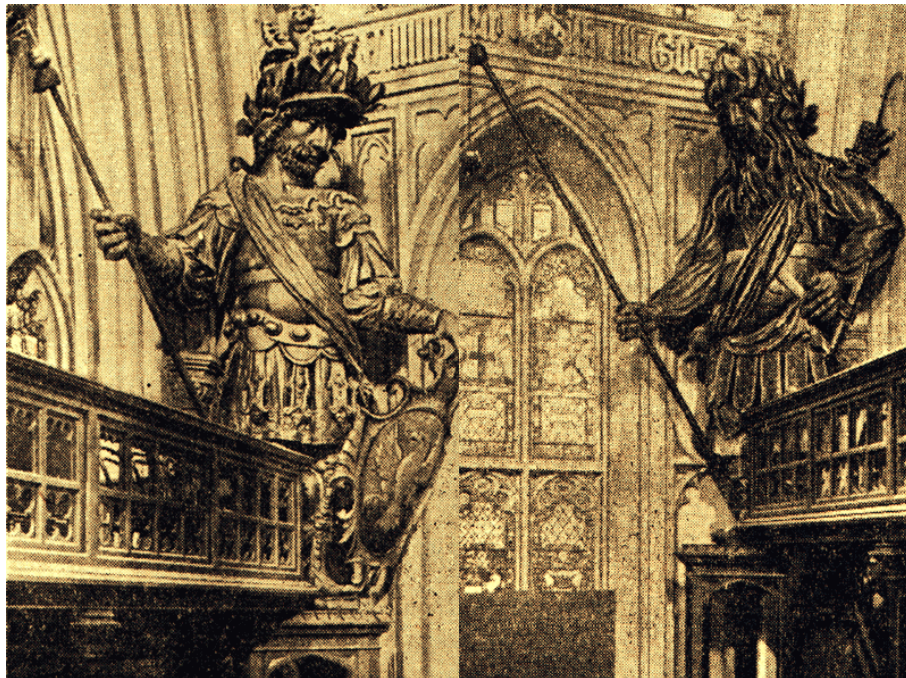
WHEN DO THE ARMIES OF EZEKIEL 38 AND 39 INVADE ISRAEL?

By C M White

Does this prophecy occur prior to the return of Christ, after His return or at the end of the Millennium?

Who are the nations to be involved in the frightening onslaught? Which nations will oppose them?

Do they constitute the Beast power or a rival power? What does the Bible actually say?



The famous Gog & Magog statues at Guildhall, London

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Various interpretations

For many years the Church of God taught that the armies of Ezek 38 & 39 come against the House of Israel after they are regathered after the return of Christ:

“These ... Asian armies are also described in Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39, where elements of those forces are prophesied to invade the Holy Land when all 12 tribes of Israel have returned ... These circumstances will be extant only after the coming of the Messiah, when surviving Eurasian forces will be supernaturally punished” (*Russia and China in Prophecy*, page 31).

The Church taught that the book of Ezekiel followed a logical procession or “a time sequence flowing through the book” (*Russia in Prophecy*, page 1) interspersed with inset chapters, somewhat like the book of Revelation. For instance:

- Chapter 33 – end-time warning
- Chapter 34 – scattering of Israel and the Church
- Chapter 35 – punishment upon Seir and Idumea
- Chapter 36 – return of Israel to the Holy Land
- Chapter 37 – Israel and Judah re-united
- Chapters 38 & 39 – invasion by the forces of Gog and Magog
- Chapters 40-48 – Millennial Temple

The sequence leads us to come to a logical conclusion, as we shall see. Below are some typical views of these chapters:

1. it occurs shortly after the return of Christ
2. it occurs prior to the Millennium, as they are the forces of the Beast
3. it occurs prior to the Millennium, as they are allies of the Beast
4. it occurs prior to the Millennium, as they are the former allies of Babylon and invade the Middle East after the fall out
5. it is entirely historical and will not occur again
6. it refers only to the events mentioned in Rev 20:7-9 after the Millennium
7. it is entirely symbolic of the forces of evil.

Given the above, the interpretation of these chapters may be confusing to some. So, let us turn to both commentaries and obviously, and most importantly, the Bible itself.



Initial location of Magog after the flood

Location of the Japhethites soon after the flood of Noah

What commentaries reveal

Commentaries, of course, have various views, such as those listed above. Evangelicals generally take a position that the prophecy refers to an attack upon the Jewish people prior to the return of Christ, during the Tribulation.

The more considered commentaries, more logical and conservative in their outlook, take a position more-or-less similar to that of the old WCG. Here are quotes from some of them:

1. *New Bible Commentary*:

“These two chapters are unique in OT prophecy in **that they describe an uprising of foreign powers against the people of God after the commencement of the Messianic kingdom.** The prophecy has already predicted the coming blessedness of Israel (33-37); he now portrays the nation as long settled in their land and transformed into a prosperous community (38:8, 11, 12, 14), a condition which, according to his earlier teaching, involves their prior repentance, regeneration and political revival (33-37).

Whereas he had said that Israel’s restoration would come ‘soon’ (36:8), he says that Gog will be mustered ‘after many days ... in the latter years’ (38:8). The motive underlying the prophecy is the necessity of earlier prophecies concerning the destruction of hostile Gentile powers being fulfilled (38:17; 39:8) and for the nations of the world to learn the power, holiness and sole deity of Yahweh (see 39:7).

The author of the book of Revelation has both used these chapters to vivify his description of Armageddon prior to the millennium (Rev. 19:17, 18), and adapted their essential idea so as to make it a final rebellion of the godless of humanity at the end of the millennium, before the new creation (20:7-9).

In comparing the two writings it should be remembered that Ezekiel knew nothing of a new creation nor of a new Israel which was to inherit the kingdom; if John was to incorporate the prophecy he had of necessity to change its form. In conformity with his usage of OT prophecy generally, he has not hesitated to do so" (*New Bible Commentary*, "38:1-39:29 Prophecy against Gog", pages 681-02) (emphasis mine).

2. J. Barton Payne in his famous *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy* agrees with this position (page 367). He also states that the Bible is 27% predictive, including types. But he does not include many of the types and 'hidden' prophetic messages. So, at least 33% of the Bible is prophecy. Payne lists Ezekiel as the most predictive book in the Bible with 821 verses devoted to the subject.

3. *Halley's Bible Handbook*:

"... A glance at the map makes it plain that he has in mind that part of the world known as Russia ... In these two chapters Ezekiel predicts Another Scythian invasion, on a far more stupendous scale, confederate with peoples from the East (38:5), into the Holy Land, against Restored Israel, "in the latter years" (38:8), **apparently during the Messianic Age**; and that with the help of God, they will be so overwhelmingly defeated that their weapons will supply fuel for 7 years (39:9), and it will take 7 months to bury their dead" (39:14).

In the book of Revelation the same words, God and Magog, are used as representing all nations in Satan's final furious attack on the people of God (Revelation 20:7-10)" (pages 333-34) (emphasis mine).

3. *New Bible Dictionary*:

"The linkage with peoples at the extremities of the then known world (Ezk, xxxviii. 5,6; cf Rev. xx.8) suggests that we are to regard them as eschatological figures rather than as a historically identifiable king, etc. This is the interpretation in Rev. xx. 8 and rabbinic literature.

Since we need not interpret Ezk. xxxviii, xxxix as earlier in time than

Ezk. xl-xlvi, and rabbinic tradition places Gog after the days of the Messiah, we need see no contradiction between Ezekiel and Revelation, **provided we understand the millennium in the sense the Rabbis gave 'the days of the Messiah'**" (*New Bible Dictionary*, "Gog and Magog" page 480-01).

In principle, this *Dictionary* sees a rebellion against God sometime after the return of the Messiah if they interpret rabbinic literature correctly – it sees Ezekiel and Revelation as referring to the same event in that context.

4. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*:

"Perhaps Ezekiel had in mind something of the eschatology of Zec. 14, in which the nations that represented "the ends of the earth" would rise against Jerusalem ... In Ezekiel **the invasion of Gog occurs during the messianic age**, while in Revelation it occurs just at the close of the millennium. In Ezekiel Gog and Magog are gathered by Yahweh for their destruction; in Revelation they are gathered by Satan. In both cases the number is vast, the destruction, by supernatural means, is complete and final" (vol 2, pages 519-20) (emphasis mine).

5. Bullinger's *Companion Bible* states:

"... Israel will have then already been "gathered" ... It must therefore precede the Millennium; and on that account must be distinguished from Rev. 20:8, 10 ... after the "gathering" **but before the final "Restoration"**, and therefore before the Millennium" (pages 1161, 1163).

Bullinger can see that it refers to a period after Israel returns from captivity, although prior to the Millennium. One can therefore, given the above commentaries and the sequence of events in Ezekiel, take one of the following points of view:

1. the invasion occurs some years after the return of Christ and the official commencement of the Millennium. This could be at least 3 ½ - 7 years after the return of Christ.
2. the invasion of these peoples occurs after the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord, after the second Exodus and the gathering of Israel to the Holy Land, and after a period of settlement and peace for Israel and probably other nations. Israel would have repented, had the Holy Spirit granted to her (Ezek 37:15-28) and have come into a Covenant relationship with God. This may be a few years prior to the official commencement of the Millennium when the

entire world is brought under Christ and enjoys peace and prosperity. Just as there are some days, spaced between the Feast of Trumpets and Feast of Tabernacles, there may be some years between the return of Christ, putting away of Satan and the official commencement of the Millennium. I am not saying that this is the case, but may be the case. I just don't know if such a scenario is possible.

Finally, given that so much of scripture is dual that these chapters, whilst referring to a time near the beginning of the Millennium, may also prefigure the Gog and Magog of Rev 20:7-9 which rises up in rebellion at the end of the Millennium.

However, Ezekiel 38 and 39 cannot be identical to that which arises at the end of the Millennium for the following reasons:

Comparison of Ezekiel 38 & 39 with Revelation 20:7-9	
Ezekiel 38 & 39:	Revelation 20:7-9:
As we have seen, according to the story flow of Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39 occur at the beginning of the Millennium	Gog and Magog in Rev 20:7-9 occurs at the end of the Millennium which is explicitly stated
According to 39:23-29, the captivity of Israel is still a recent event	The captivity of Israel occurred over 1,000 years earlier
1/6 th of the forces of Ezekiel survive (see 39:2)	None survive in Rev 20
Armies descend primarily from the north and south	Armies are from the "four quarters" of the earth
Literal nations descended from Noah's sons	Apparently 'Gog and Magog' is symbolic of rebels that may have been assigned to the former lands occupied by Gog and Magog and now attempt to wreak their revenge on God's people

Why will the forces of Ezekiel 38 & 39 invade the Holy Land?

These are the remnants of the forces of the Second Woe (Rev 9:13-21) which God would have used to conquer and punish the countries of the Beast power. Perhaps after the first seven years or so of Israelites being settled back in the Holy Land, after Israel has swooped upon certain gentiles, many of these peoples will rise up in rebellion, claiming discrimination, racism and so on as justifying this invasion.

Just as God gives us enough time to repent or show our true colours; just as He allowed Lucifer plenty of time to foment rebellion; so He will allow these forces to develop. The picture we get that these peoples are led by the forces that invaded the nations comprising the Beast power in Europe. As such, they comprise the remnants of the 200 million army pictured in Rev 9:16 (of which only 1/6th of the Gog and Magog forces will be left after Christ deals with them).



Locations of the descendants of Japheth today

The bitterness and jealousy will well-up into a lust for war. They shall see the great blessings and wealth of Israel returned to them and want it for themselves (see Rev 18:11-13; Hag 2:7-9; Is 23:17-18; Ex 12:35-36; Jos 6:18-19).

Pro 27:4 Wrath *is* cruel, and anger *is* overwhelming; but who *is* able to stand before envy?

Ezekiel reveals the following:

Eze 38:10 So says the Lord Jehovah: And it shall be in that day that things shall come into your heart, and you shall devise an evil plan.

11 And you shall say, I will go up to the land of open spaces. I will go to those at ease [**cp Lam 1:3**], who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and there are no bars nor gates to them,

12 in order to take a spoil, and to steal a prize; to turn your hand on the inhabited waste places, and on the people gathered out of the nations, who have gotten cattle and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.

Notice: this rebellion is against the Israelites who have returned from captivity and who now have gathered much wealth. They also are dwelling in peace, which is hardly a description of the world.

And why does this war occur?:

Eze 39:21 And I will set My glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see My judgments which I have done, and My hand that I have laid on them.

22 So the house of Israel shall know that I *am* Jehovah their God from that day and forward. **[there will be no more doubting Thomas's]**

23 And the nations shall know that the house of Israel was exiled **[ie prior to this Gog and Magog invasion]** for their iniquity **[therefore the nations must now also not sin]**. Because they sinned against Me, therefore I hid My face from them and gave them into the hand of their enemies. So they all fell by the sword. **[it follows on therefore that these gentile nations will now be called to repent and allow God to rule over them through Israel]**

There may be parallel passages in Zechariah. Chapter 12 has a Trumpets theme and is read in synagogues on the Day of Trumpets; chapter 13 has an Atonement theme and read on the Day of Atonement; while chapter 14 is read during the Feast of Tabernacles.¹ It is also of interest to note that Ezek 38-39 is read in many synagogues during the Feast of Tabernacles, not prior to it.

In fact, according to Jewish understanding, Psalm 2 refers to Gog and Magog:

“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? {rage: or, tumultuously assemble} {imagine: Heb. meditate}

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*,

Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. {vex: or, trouble}

Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. {set: Heb. anointed} {upon...: Heb. upon Zion, the hill of my holiness}

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee. {the decree: or, for a decree}” (Ps 2:1-7)

It seems that the above Psalm, like so many of them, is also a prophecy. In fact, these appear to be nations that come against the Messiah after His return, not at His

¹ For instance: “According to the Prophet Zacharia, the nations who survive the final “War of Gog and Magog” will come to Jerusalem every year “to prostrate themselves to the King, Hashem...and to celebrate the Succot festival.” (Zecharia 14:16)”

return. In the *Gemara* (the second part of the *Talmud*) we read:

“... when the war of Gog and Magog will break out 4 they will be asked, "Why have you come?" They will answer, "[To fight] against God and His anointed," as it says, "Why do nations assemble, and regimes talk in vain ... to conspire against God and His anointed" (Psalms 2:1).”²

Similarly, each Sabbath, a selection of the *Prophets* is read in the synagogue services after the *Torah* lessons. This reading is known as the *Haftarah*. On the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), Ezekiel 38 & 39 is read (first day of Tabernacles *Haftarah*).

It is interesting that this reading is on the **first** day – representing the first years of the Feast of Tabernacles. Not all is peaceful during the initial part of the Millennium.

Note the following: the Jewish community considers the following issues during Tabernacles (Sukkot):

- The Kingdom of David as a type
- God’s tests upon the nations during Sukkot
- Divine visitation
- The war with Gog and Magog (readings on First day of Sukkot)
- A special feast will be held for the righteous people of God – a special event during Tabernacles (perhaps typological of Matt 22:1-13; and Rev 19:9)

Jewish understanding for the timing of Ezekiel 38 & 39 parallels Christian diversity, ranging over several viewpoints:

- It refers to armies that attack the holy land prior to the Messiah
- It refers to a time shortly after the Messiah’s arrival
- It is typological of evil doers in opposition to God

In any event, it seems most likely that Zechariah chapter 14:1-11 refers to the first few years of the Millennium and it specifically states that Jerusalem (symbolic of all Israel) will be safely inhabited (cp Ezek 38:11,14). Then we are told:

Zech 14:12 And this shall be the plague with which Jehovah will strike all

² According to the daily Jewish readings site, <http://www.chabad.org/dailystudy/tehillim.asp?tDate=10/30/2006&Lang=>, Psalms 46 and 47 refers to the period immediately after the Gog & Magog rebellion: "Following the battle of Gog and Magog (in the Messianic era), war will be no more. God will grant us salvation, and we will merit to go up to the Holy Temple for the festivals, Amen."

the peoples who have fought against Jerusalem **[both before and after the return of Christ]**. Their flesh shall rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes shall rot in their sockets. And their tongue shall rot in their mouth.

13 And it shall be in that day a great panic of Jehovah shall be among them And they shall each one lay hold of his neighbor, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbor.

14 And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the nations all around shall be gathered, gold, and silver, and clothing in great abundance. **[cp Eze 39:10]**

15 And so shall be the plague of the horse, the mule, the camel, and the ass, and of all the beasts which shall be in these tents, like this plague.

16 And it shall be, everyone who is left of all the nations which came up against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, Jehovah of Hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

17 And it shall be, *that* whoso will not come up of *all* the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that *have no rain*; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. **[cp Is 19:4-5]**

19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

20 In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

21 Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holy to Jehovah of Hosts. And all those who sacrifice shall come and take of them, and boil in them. And in that day there shall no longer be a trader **[ie Canaanite – either spiritual or physical]** in the house of Jehovah of Hosts.

Compare the above with Ezekiel:

Eze 38:21 And I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains, says the Lord Jehovah. *Each* man's sword shall be against his brother. **[cp Hag 2:22]**

22 And I will judge him with a plague and with blood. And I will rain on him, and on his bands, and on the many peoples with him, an overflowing shower, and great hailstones, fire and brimstone.

23 So I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself. And I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I *am* Jehovah. **[and they know God by loving Him and obeying Him eg by observing the Feast of Tabernacles]**

What of those nations that, prior to the liberation of Israel by Christ, would have enslaved Israel, but by now have repented and even assisted in the transporting of Israelitish slaves to the Holy Land?:

Eze 38:13 Sheba and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all their young lions [**Assyria or Germany – See the proof in Nah 2:8-12; Hos 5:13-14; Jer 2:14-15, 18; 4:7; 50:17; Zech 11:3; Joel 1:6**], shall say to you, Have you come to take a spoil? Have you gathered your company to steal a prize, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

Here we are told that Gog and Magog etc's intent is to take from Israel what she has gathered from other nations. The nations speaking up and warning them are Sheba (Schwabians), Dedan (Prussians), Tarshish (Spain and Japan) and the young lions (Assyria). These are nations which had formerly comprised the Beast power and allies. But now they are repentant and warn the enemies of Israel not to attack Israel, God's wife! Why? Because they would be very well aware of the consequences of such action!

Zech 14 may also be paralleled to Isaiah 19. There is an issue with Egypt (or what is left of it): keep the Feast of Tabernacles (and the other laws of course), or bear the consequences. Starting with Israel, then Egypt, Assyria etc, God commences a global theocracy nation-by-nation:

Is 1 The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.

2 And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, *and* kingdom against kingdom.

3 And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmings, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards.

The above indicates that this occurs after the return of the Messiah. Compare with Zech 14:13.

4 And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts.

5 And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up.

This may be cross-referenced to Zech 14:18. Isaiah continues:

6 And they shall turn the rivers far away; *and* the brooks of defence shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and flags shall wither.

7 The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no *more*.

8 The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish.

9 Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks, shall be confounded.

10 And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices *and* ponds for fish.

Perhaps so perplexed at what is going on, they turn to evil guides for answers:

11 Surely the princes of Zoan *are* fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I *am* the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings?

12 Where *are* they? where *are* thy wise *men*? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the LORD of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt.

13 The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, *even they that are* the stay of the tribes thereof.

14 The LORD hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken *man* staggereth in his vomit.

15 Neither shall there be *any* work for Egypt, which the head or tail, branch or rush, may do.

16 In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which he shaketh over it.

Now Egypt learns to fear Judah which God uses to punish them:

17 And the land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself, because of the counsel of the LORD of hosts, which he hath determined against it. **[see Zech 14:14 where Judah are portrayed as fighters]**

Then we have Egypt's repentance:

18 In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of

Canaan, and swear to the LORD of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction.

19 In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD.

20 And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt: for they shall cry unto the LORD because of the oppressors, and he shall send them a saviour, and a great one, and he shall deliver them.

These oppressors are probably those referred to in verses 11-13.

21 And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform *it*.

22 And the LORD shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal *it*: and they shall return *even* to the LORD, and he shall be intreated of them, and shall heal them.

23 In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians.

24 In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, *even* a blessing in the midst of the land:

25 Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed *be* Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.

And so we have an alliance: Israel – the chief of all the nations; Egypt, chief of the Hamites and Assyria the chief of the Shemites. It seems that another will now join them – a nation descended from Japheth to become chief of the Japhethites under the overall leadership of Israel – this appears to be the world order that Christ will initiate. In other words the Messiah's dealing with the hordes of Ezekiel 38 & 39 follow next in the sequence of prophesied events. The chief of these nations may be Meschech (given the prominence it has compared to other Japhetic nations).

Gradually nation after nation will submit to God through Israel's conquests and leadership. Woe to them if they do not submit!

But only Egypt of the African nations is mentioned in Isaiah 19. While in Ezekiel 38 & 39 Egypt is not mentioned – this indicates that the prophecy in Isaiah 19 precedes that of Ezekiel where other African nations adjacent to Egypt are mentioned. Why? Because if Egypt was not repentant, it would have been part of these hordes along with their Hamitic brethren (Cush and Phut) – many of which dwell in adjacent lands.

Typology Contained within the Book of Joshua

Surprising as it may sound, further proof for the true timing of Ezekiel 38 & 39 is found in the book of Joshua.

The Exodus of Israel from Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea, Wilderness wanderings, crossing of the Jordan and conquest of Canaan by Joshua are typological, as I am sure we have all heard. The typology follows two broad thoughts:

1. spiritual Israelites go through the same basic travel through life of rescue from Satan, baptism, life of trial, baptism of the resurrection, entry into the spiritual Promised Land (Kingdom of God), finding rest.
2. physical Israelites in these last days will be rescued from Babylon, go through a wilderness wondering where they will be cleansed and the Holy Spirit granted to them. They will take and enter the Promised Land of Israel led by Jesus Christ and His saints (Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua) and dwell there in peace (rest).

But what happens next? Here are the pertinent scriptures:

1. Israel passes through the Jordan and enters the Holy Land (Jos 3-4) typing the Millennial age
2. Further enemies are encountered after the entry into the Holy Land (Jos 5-6). Keil explains:

“... Jericho ... the destruction of this town, the key to Canaan, was intended by God to become **a type** of the final destruction at the last day of the power of this world ... [Christ] destroys one worldly power after another, and thus **maintains and extends His kingdom** upon the earth” (*Commentary of the Book of Joshua*, pages 50-52) (emphasis mine).

3. Further hostile powers are encountered (Jos 7 – 11). A northern alliance of enemies comes against Israel which Joshua destroys:

Jos 10:10 And Jehovah troubled them before Israel, and killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goes up to Beth-horon, and struck them to Azekah, and to Makkedah.

11 And it happened, as they fled from before Israel, and *were* in the descent of Bethhoron, Jehovah cast **down great stones from the heavens** on them to Azekah, and they died. The many who died from

hailstones were more than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.
[compare this with Ezek 38:22]

Jos 11:1 And it happened when Jabin **[name means The Intelligent (one)]**, king of Hazor, had heard, he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph,

2 and to the kings on the north of the mountains, and on the plains south of Chinneroth, and in the valley, and in the borders of Dor on the west,

3 *and to* the Canaanite on the east and on the west, and the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, and the Jebusite in the mountains, and to the Hivite under Hermon, in the land of Mizpeh.

4 And they went out, they and all their armies with them, many people, even as the sand on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots.

5 And when all these kings had met together, they came and pitched together at the waters of Merom, to fight against Israel.

Jos 12:1 And these *are* the kings of the land, whom the sons of Israel struck and whose land they possessed on the other side Jordan toward **the rising of the sun**, from the river Arnon to mount Hermon, and all the plain on the east: **[cp with Jud 7:12]**

2 Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon *and* ruled from Aroer, which is on the bank of the river Arnon, and from the middle of the river, and from half Gilead, even to the river Jabbok, the border of the sons of Ammon;

3 and from the plain to the sea of Chinneroth on the east, and to the sea of the plain, the Salt Sea on the east, the way to Beth-jeshimoth, and from the south, under The Slopes of Pisgah.

4 And they struck the coast of **Og king of Bashan, of the rest of the giants [great ones]**, who lived at Ashtaroth and at Edrei,

5 and reigned in mount Hermon and in Salcah, and in all Bashan, to the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and half Gilead, the border of Sihon king of Heshbon.

Og is a related word to Gog. Ezekiel places him on an equal footing with Magog, yet he is not mentioned as being a descendant of Japheth in the Table of Nations nor anywhere else in scripture. Little reference is made to that or similar names. In history there is a king Gyges of Lydia, called *Gugu* by the Assyrians (*New Bible Dictionary*, page 480) who was ruler of a Cimmerian people (*Peoples of Old Testament Times*, page 165). Also the Arabs referred to the 'Yajuj and Majuj' as living in North-east Asia beyond the Tatars and Slavonians. Gog may also be the Yao of ancient Chinese history.

What does Gog actually mean?

"Gog - it is a long o both in the Hebrew and in the Greek - is made from the old-world-root 'GG', which in the early languages implied something 'g-i-g-antic'. Russia has this long time been the colossus of the north'.

A potentate of bible history and prophecy was 'Agog'. That name, or rather, its title, comes from the same root. He was (in his own estimation), a, Aleph, + GG = No. 1 - GREAT ! The Agagites, we are told in *Young's Analytical Concordance*, were an 'Amalekite tribe' and Agog, was 'a poetic name of Amalek, derived from a particular dynasty ...'.

Of course, it is always on the cards that some great military dictator [in Russian Central Asia] may arise - he would be the personal Gog". (*The Russian Chapters of Ezekiel*, pages 9-10).

It seems reasonable to assert that these northern armies are typological of the future armies described in Ezekiel. They invade after the commencement of the new age of Israel under Joshua, typological of the Messianic Kingdom, which is set up under Jesus Christ (= Joshua the Anointed One), after which Gog and Magog invade.

4. After they are defeated we are told:

Jos 11:23 And Joshua took the whole land, according to all that Jehovah commanded Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And **the land rested from war** [typological of the Messianic age after Gog & Magog are defeated – no more wars until the end of the Millennium].

From the above brief summary of Joshua's typology, there can be no doubt that Ezekiel 38 & 39 are typed by foes primarily to the north of Israel, **after** Israel enters the Holy Land.

Evidently these are people that were yet to be reached and converted. It makes clear sense that upon the Messiah's return, he will gather his people Israel which would have been scattered to the four corners and bring them to the Near East. Somewhere close to the Holy Land (probably Sinai), He will plead with them and purge out the rebels from among them.

Then He will lead the Priests, Levites, Judah and Israel into the Promised Land where a New Covenant will be forged. Then the training of Israel to become world

servant leaders will commence.

Treasures from all over the world will pour into the Holy Land swelling the wealth of Israel. Yet nations not reached by God through Israel will rise up in jealous indignation. It will do them no good as Ezekiel 38 and 39 demonstrate. The 'rest will be history' as they say.



Gog & Magog, Royal Arcade, Melbourne

Concluding Remarks

Given all the evidence presented in this paper, I am forced to accept that the armies of Ezekiel 38 & 39 represent a threat to Israel **after** the return of the Messiah, and not beforehand.

Now, if Gog and Magog et al, are not the forces during the Great Tribulation which comes against Israel, then who composes the end-time Beast power? Separate papers and booklets are available on this topic.

Appendix: Parallel or Similar Scriptures

There are various prophecies which use either similar wording or are parallel events. I list them below:

Ezekiel 38 & 39	Other Scriptures	Comment
38:4	Zech 14:12-21; Hag 2:22	The parallel scripture in Zech represents a time after Christ's return
38:6	Jer 50:41-42; 51:27-28; Dan 11:44; Rev 16:12	From this, we see that these hordes are the remnants of the 200 million strong armies
38:11	Ezek 36:35-36; Zech 2:4-5; 14:11	The land is at rest (cp Lam 1:3), which is not the case in the end times
38:13	Is 60:3-14	These appear to be the repented nations who formerly composed the Beast Power or who were part
38:20	Rev 16:18, 20	The earthquake in Rev is against Babylon. The one in Ezek is against the northern armies
38:21	Zech 14:12-15	Parallel events seem to be described here
38:22	Rev 16:8, 21; Ps 140:10-11; Jos 10:11	Similar type of plagues poured upon Babylon and the Beast power, will be poured later upon these armies
39:16-21	Is 18:6	Similar wording and concepts in Is do not necessarily refer to the same event, but could do
39:17	Rev 19:17-21	The 'feast' for the animals referred to in Rev is for the Beast armies, but a similar fate awaits the northern armies which are not part of Babylon

Appendix: Ezekiel Chapters 38 & 39 with comments

Note the parts highlighted, showing that its application refers to a period after the return of Christ.

Eze 38:1 And the Word of Jehovah came to me, saying,

- 2 Son of man, set your face against Gog **[Central Asia]**, the land of Magog **[China]**, the chief ruler of Rosh **[Byelorussians]**, Meshech **[Great Russians around Moscow]**, and Tubal **[Great Russians around Tobolok]**, and prophesy against him.
- 3 And say, So says the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the chief ruler of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.
- 4 And I will turn you back, and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed most perfectly, a great assembly *with* buckler and shield, all of them swordsmen;
- 5 Persia **[modern Persia or peoples near Byelorussia]**, Ethiopia **[Cush in East African and India]**, and Libya **[Phut – the Africans and northern Indians]** with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet; **[no mention of Egypt here as it would have previously repented and come under the authority of the Messiah]**
- 6 Gomer **[SE Asia]** and all his bands; the house of Togarmah **[Caucasus and also in Siberia]** *from* the recesses of the north, and all his bands; *and* many peoples with you.
- 7 Be prepared; yea, prepare for yourself, you and all your assembly that are assembled to you, and be a guard to them.
- 8 After many days you will be visited. In the latter years **you shall come into the land turned back from the sword**, gathered out of many peoples, on the mountains of Israel, **which have always been waste**. (But he has been brought out of the peoples, and they shall dwell securely, all of them.)
- 9 And you shall go up, coming like a storm. You shall be like a cloud to cover the land, you and all your bands, and many peoples with you.
- 10 So says the Lord Jehovah: And it shall be in that day that things shall come into your heart, and you shall devise an evil plan.
- 11 And you shall say, I will go up to the land of open spaces. **I will go to those at ease, who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and there are no bars nor gates to them, [this must be a time after the Second Exodus]**
- 12 in order to take a spoil, and to steal a prize; **to turn your hand on the inhabited waste places, and on the people gathered out of the nations, who have gotten cattle and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.**
- 13 Sheba **[Schwabian Germans]** and Dedan **[Prussians]**, and the merchants of Tarshish **[Japanese and/or Spanish]**, with all their young lions **[Assyrians (Nah 2:8-12; Is. 5:29; Hos 5:13-14; Jer 2:14-15, 18; 4:7; 50:17; Zech 11:3; Joel 1:6) and perhaps other former nations and allies of the US of Europe]**, shall say to you, Have you come to take a spoil? Have you gathered your company to steal a prize, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? **[ie “don’t you know what happened to us?”]**

- 14 So, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, So says the Lord Jehovah: In that day when My people of Israel dwells securely, shall you not know *it*?
- 15 And you shall come from your place out of the recesses of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army.
- 16 And you shall come up on My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It shall be in the last days, and I will bring you against **My land [Holy Land, not North America and Britain]**, so that the nations may know Me when I shall be sanctified in you, O Gog, before their eyes.
- 17 So says the Lord Jehovah: *Are* you he of whom I have spoken in former days, by the hand of My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days *and* years that I would bring you against them? **[these prophecies appear to be lost]**
- 18 And it shall be on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel, says the Lord Jehovah, My fury shall come up in My face.
- 19 For in My jealousy *and* in the fire of My wrath I have spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great quaking in the land of Israel,
- 20 so that the fish of the sea, and the birds of the heavens, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men on the face of the earth, shall quake at My presence. And the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. **[a giant earthquake]**
- 21 And I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains, says the Lord Jehovah. *Each* man's sword shall be against his brother.
- 22 And I will judge him with a plague and with blood. And I will rain on him, and on his bands, and on the many peoples with him, an overflowing shower, and great hailstones, fire and brimstone. **[cp Jos 10:11]**
- 23 So I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself. And I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I *am* Jehovah.

Eze 39:1 Therefore, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, So says the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the chief ruler of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.

- 2 And I will turn you back, and lead you on. And I will bring you up from the recesses of the north, and I will bring you on the mountains of Israel.
- 3 And I will strike your bow out of your left hand, and will cause your arrows to fall out of your right hand.
- 4 You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your bands, and the people with you. I will give you for food to the birds of prey of every kind, and *to* the beasts of the field.
- 5 You shall fall on the face of the field, for I have spoken, says the Lord Jehovah.
- 6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and on the secure inhabitants of the coasts. And they shall know that I *am* Jehovah. **[volcanoes or meteorites?]**
- 7 And I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel. And I will not *let them* profane My holy name any more. And the nations shall know that I *am* Jehovah, the Holy One in Israel.
- 8 Behold, it is coming, and it will be done, says the Lord Jehovah. This *is* the day of which I have spoken.
- 9 And the inhabitants of the cities of Israel shall go out and shall set on fire and burn the weapons,

- both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the javelins, and the spears. And they shall burn them with fire **seven years [the Biblical number of completeness]**,
- 10 so that they shall take no wood out of the field, nor cut down *any* out of the forests for they shall burn the weapons for fire **[these weapons will provide fuel]**. And they shall plunder those who plundered them, and rob those who robbed them, says the Lord Jehovah.
- 11 And it will be in that day I will give to Gog a place there, a grave in Israel, the valley of those who pass by, east of the sea. And it shall stop the *noses* of those who pass by. And there they shall bury Gog and all his multitude. And *they* shall call *it*, The Valley of the Multitude of Gog.
- 12 And the house of Israel shall bury them, to cleanse the land, seven months.
- 13 And all the people of the land shall bury. And it shall be a name to them, the day when I am glorified, says the Lord Jehovah.
- 14 And men shall separate those who continually pass through the land, burying those who passed through, who remain on the face of the earth, to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they shall search.
- 15 And *as* they pass, those who pass through the land, and *any* man sees a bone, then he shall build a post beside it, until the buriers have buried it in The Valley of the Multitude of Gog.
- 16 And also the name of the city *is* The Multitude. And they shall cleanse the land.
- 17 And you, son of man, So says the Lord Jehovah. Speak to the bird of every wing, and to every beast of the field: Gather yourselves and come; gather yourselves from all around to My sacrifice that I sacrifice for you, a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, so that you may eat flesh and drink blood.
- 18 You shall eat the flesh of the mighty and drink the blood of the rulers of the earth, of rams, lambs, goats, *and* bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan.
- 19 And you shall eat fat until you are full, and drink blood until you are drunk, of My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.
- 20 And you shall be filled at My table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, all the men of war, says the Lord Jehovah.
- 21 And I will set My glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see My judgments which I have done, and My hand that I have laid on them.
- 22 So the house of Israel shall know that I *am* Jehovah their God from that day and forward.
- 23 And the nations shall know that the house of Israel was exiled for their iniquity. Because they sinned against Me, therefore I hid My face from them and gave them into the hand of their enemies. So they all fell by the sword.
- 24 According to their uncleanness and according to their sins I have done to them, and have hidden My face from them.

[possibly from about here onward, we have an inset section]

- 25 Therefore so says the Lord Jehovah: And I will return the captivity of Jacob, and will have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for My holy name;
- 26 *after* they have borne their shame and all their sins by which they have sinned against Me, when they dwell securely in their land and no one terrifies;

- 27 when I have brought them again from the peoples, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;
- 28 then they shall know that I *am* Jehovah their God **who exiled them among the nations**. But I have gathered them to their own land, and have not left any of them there.
- 29 Nor will I hide My face from them any more, for I have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel, says the Lord Jehovah.
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