

## TWO PROPHETIC WARS – PART II

*The war with Syria & her allies is over. Israel is triumphant. The Jews have been gathered from the nations, brought back to the land. The threat from her near neighbors is over. Israel has defeated Esau and Edom and Philistia et.al, or in modern terms, Syria & Jordan & Egypt - and possessed the Land of God's Promise. The Palestinian problem is solved. It is a time of peace; - Perhaps the peace confirmed by Antichrist. But Satan is not through with Israel.*

### Gog & Magog Cometh !

It is important first to establish an order of events. Using Isaiah 17, Amos 9, Jeremiah 24 and Ezekiel chapters 36-43, as well as other passages, we may have found such an order.

- The Jews begin to return to the land
- The prophesied war with Syria and the Palestinians etc.
- The peace and sense of security that follows that war
- The Gog / Magog invasion
- The completion of the Temple in Jerusalem

Beginning in chapter 38, Ezekiel reveals an amazing prophecy of the war to follow.

**“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. I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out.... 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.... 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. You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you. ‘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’— 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. 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?’”” (Ezek. 38:1-4, 5-6, 8-13)**

These are the opening words of the 38<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ezekiel. They tell us much of a war to come, and leave us much in the way of mysteries to solve. The prophet is speaking here of an invasion by a coalition of nations that surround Israel, determined on her destruction. Let's begin to break it down.

First it identifies the nations that will invade Israel in the last days. Ezekiel uses the ancient names, but with diligence, most can be traced with a reasonable degree of certainty to their modern equivalents. It's important to do this in order to see the specificity of the Biblical prophecy. I rely on eminent Bible scholars Chuck Missler, Hal Lindsey and others to do the identification for us. Most scholars believe that Gog refers to the leader of the political / military alliance of invaders. 1 Chronicles 5:4, lists a Gog as one of the descendents of Reuben and Joel, and so related to Jacob. Perhaps there will be a

connection there that we cannot yet see.<sup>1</sup> The identity of Magog seems clearer. The ancient Greek writer, Hecataeus identified Magog as referring to the Scythians.<sup>2</sup> The Jewish historian Josephus concurred in that appraisal.<sup>3</sup> From there it is easy to trace the location of these Scythians. Archaeology has traced that people to the areas east and north of the Black Sea, the Crimea and along the Don River. Chuck Missler further tells us that "...even the name "Caucasus" appears to have been derived from Gog-hasan, or "Gog's Fort".<sup>4</sup> Therefore: Magog = Scythians = Russians. To many, the first major player in the invasion is Russia.

Now to the allies! Meshech and Tubal were descendants of Japheth. Meshech becomes Muschki, referring to an area in modern Turkey. Tubal takes in parts of Turkey, Russia and Iran. Persia, of course, is Iran. Ethiopia (Cush) points to the Sudan, Put is equivalent to Libya. The descendants of Gomer, formerly from Turkey,<sup>5</sup> eventually settled in the Rhine and Danube valleys. To this day, Armenians identify themselves as of "The House of Togarmah."<sup>6</sup> This would mean Turkey, again. What is the common denominator? It is that with one exception, the invading coalition is one of all Islamic nations. These nations would of course be most upset at Israel's vanquishing of their Islamic brothers in the previous war. And of course, Russia is most tied in to these nations. Iran (Persia) is its most important ally / client-state in the Middle East. Many of the others are former Republics of the former Soviet Union.

But prophecy wonk Walid Shoebat disagrees with Magog being Russia, seeing Gog / Magog, as Turkey. Russia's role is then to serve as "**king of the north**" (Daniel 11:40) that comes against Antichrist "**like a whirlwind**". To this school of thought Russia is the King of the North and what was southern Soviet Russia, (combined with Turkey) is the Muslim Magog Alliance. Ezekiel 38:2 tells us Gog is "**of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Mashech and Tubal**". Shoebat agrees with the Syrian connection, but consulting ancient Assyrian writings as well as Herodotus we find that the Scythians or Lydians lived in what is called Anatolia and Asia Minor in modern day Turkey. Other nations Ezekiel names in this alliance; - Meshech, Tubal, Gomer and Beth Togarmah; - are all clearly traceable to either Turkey or the former Islamic Soviet Republics such as Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Kyrgystan Turkmenistan etc.<sup>7 8</sup> Ezekiel's Tubal likely refers to the Georgian capital Tbilisi, (pronounced Tuh-oooh-ball-ee-see) and meaning "the land of Tubal".<sup>9</sup> That means that component of the alliance is drawn clearly from Turkey and the former Soviet Republics of the Black and Caspian Sea regions. Then Jeremiah 51:27-28, God reveals just who will destroy the nations of the Magog invasion. "**Ararat, Minni and Ashkenaz**" as well as "**the kings of the Medes**". Minni and Ararat are the Armenians and Ashkenaz refers to the Russians and Europeans.<sup>10</sup> The Russians can't be part of the alliance that they are going to destroy. It's a close call with arguments on both sides, - but my guess is that it's the Turks. Yet we do "**see through a glass darkly**"...

The next section of the passage deals with the timing of this war, - so we may not mistake it for any that has gone on before. To repeat Ezekiel 38:8, "**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 is "**the latter years**". This prophecy written 2,600 years ago predicts both the return of the Jews, (who had not at that time been fully turned out of the Holy Land), and the fact that the invasion will happen at a time when they feel like they are living in safety. That time has not come yet. But it is reasonable to conclude that that would be the Israeli mindset once they had defeated Syria, the Palestinians, etc. As evidence for this possible order of events, it is important to note the nations that were not mentioned by Ezekiel: Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and names like Philistia, Edom and Esau, - which are ancient monikers for the Palestinians. This sense of security by Israel would only be heightened if the 7-year treaty outlined in Daniel, confirming their peace and safety, and guaranteed by the Antichrist, was in effect at the time.

Then beginning in verse 11, it tells how the coalition will come against "**...a land of unwalled villages...a peaceful people...without walls and having neither bars nor gates**". This is an Israel fully at peace and expecting that they have achieved a permanent peace. There is no Palestinian terror. There is no Hezbollah across the border, - poised with its thousands of rockets, to strike at the first opportunity. Gone is the Syrian threat. Gone specifically, it would seem, is the security fence. There are only "**unwalled villages**". Israel's victory over Syria and the Palestinians would certainly explain

it. Remember the words of Obadiah 1:18. **“The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau.” For the LORD has spoken.**” It seems that the prophet is saying very clearly, that there will not remain a Palestinian people to contend with Israel for the land.

Then comes this interesting passage beginning in Ezekiel 38:12, which gives the reasons for the attack and the reaction of the world to it. First, it says that the coalition has come specifically **“...to take plunder”**. Easy enough! If you remember, we talked about how Isaiah 17 which describes Israel’s destruction of its enemies, fuels a rage that leads them to attack. It tells us though that **“...God will rebuke them and they will flee far away...This is the portion of those that plunder us, and the lot of those who rob us”**. (Isaiah 17:13-14) Biblical scholars agree this passage is referring to the same war as Ezekiel 38. Interestingly, there’s that word plunder again. And then there are those potentially pregnant words of Ezekiel 38:13. **“Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder?’”** Sheba and Dedan are in Saudi Arabia. But to whom does **“the merchants of Tarshish”** refer? The early meaning of Tarshish referred to Phoenicia and its trading posts in Spain. Later it came to mean, in the words of prophecy scholar Thomas Ice, **“...the modern mercantile nations of Western Europe like Spain, Holland and Britain”**.<sup>11</sup> The reference to **“young lions”** intrigues many who’ve looked at this verse. The lion is of course the symbol of Great Britain and the British Empire. The **“young lion”** then could refer to Britain’s former colonies, ie. Canada, Australia and the United States. Dr. Ice concludes that the entire phrase may indeed refer to all of what we today call the West. But why such an anemic response? Perhaps the US has been debilitated by the rapture or defeated and debilitated by war or terror. Perhaps America has been absorbed into the Revived Roman Empire and taken on their ethic. In any case, if the US is referred to at all in prophecy, this passage seems the best bet to apply. However it is to happen, the invasion takes place, and there is little response from the rest of the world. In the final installment, we will see God’s reaction.

## **SO WHAT’S REALLY GOING ON...?**

Hal Lindsey’s recent column asked the question: **“Have we struck a deal with the devil?”** He was referring of course to the strange behavior coming out of the Bush White House regarding the recent National Intelligence Estimate exonerating Iran of nuclear military intent, that has shaken so much in the Middle East. Lindsey sees more behind the move that has undermined so much of the President’s previous policy in the Middle East, - which Lindsey argues would have had to have been approved by the President himself.<sup>12</sup> Curious indeed! And made more curious by the fact that the Israeli defense cabinet rejects the American intelligence report and is fully in favor of Israeli military action to put a stop to Iranian bomb-making which they believe could happen as early as 2009.<sup>13</sup>

Being a keen observer of both the political and prophetic scene’s, Hal Lindsey’s instincts may be correct. DEBKA and Saudi journalist Jihad El-Khazen both reported that the latest NIE was part of a deal worked out between Washington and Tehran. The US wanted Iranian arm shipments to Iraq stopped. Violence and smuggling are down. They wanted Iran’s client Syria and the Annapolis Peace Conference and they got it. According to DEBKA, Iran also held back their terror forces in check during the meeting itself. Here’s El-Khazen characterizing the arrangement: **“The rate of violent acts dropped in Iraq; therefore the American intelligence services discovered that Iran had halted its military nuclear program in 2003”**. [Amazing how that works!] Other tenets of the purported deal include Tehran having Hezbollah back off in the Lebanese political situation and stopping the arms shipments to Afghanistan. Perhaps the oddest part of the whole arrangement was that it was put together by the Saudi. The Sunni Kingdom has always been wary of Iranian power in the region.<sup>14</sup> Yet as a sign of the changing landscape, Saudi King Abdullah invited the Iranian President to make pilgrimage to Mecca, signaling both recognition and a thawing in relations; - all this with America’s blessing.<sup>15</sup> The Iranians and Russians have been making nice, setting up what many see as the prime axis in the Ezekiel 38 Gog / Magog End Times invasion of Israel. Besides putting a Russian fleet in the Mediterranean, symbolically reinforcing Iran’s position vis-à-vis Israel, Russia enhanced Tehran’s nuclear ambitions, delivering its first shipment of nuclear fuel the Bushehr reactor.<sup>16</sup> And in yet another possible sign of a deal, Washington approved the sale of sophisticated military-electronics to Iranian client Syria.<sup>17</sup>

## Prophetic Implications

All of this combined has led the Israelis to prepare in earnest for the next war. In the first installment of the current series *TWO PROPHETIC WARS*, published last week; - we saw how Isaiah and Obadiah seem to indicate a coming war against in which Israel vanquishes and destroys Syria & the Palestinians & Jordan & Egypt & conquers part of Lebanon [Hezbollah]. That is the very war that the IDF is now preparing to fight. The Defense Cabinet has begun to put in place mechanisms dealing with Air Force, Special Ops, submarines forces, etc to deal with the emerging threat. What they see coming is a war of multiple fronts: Syria, Lebanon, Hezbollah, and Hamas & Islamic Jihad in the Gaza area of the Palestinian territories.<sup>18</sup> It may be DEBKA that provided this latest report but we just have easily could have turned to the Holy Prophets for the info.

## THE FIX IS IN

That's right, the fix is in. The '*Great Jerusalem Give-Away*' is a done deal. According to documents released by Israel's Haaretz Newspaper, its been in the works since 2000. It was back then that then PM Barak agreed under pressure from President Clinton to "forfeit" the Temple Mount to the combined control of Jordan, Egypt and the PA. In addition, it was already agreed back then that Jerusalem was to be divided, to serve as twin capitals for both Israel and the new Palestine.<sup>19</sup> The Bush Administration has picked up where Clinton left off, putting pressure on the Israelis to produce the same type of settlement. Olmert is caving to the pressure. His Deputy PM Ramon, - citing the threat that Arab neighborhoods pose, - declared that Israel "must" be ready to give up large portions of Jerusalem. "Arab neighborhoods will be the Palestinian capital, which they will call...whatever they want".<sup>20</sup> And what they seem to want to call it is al-Quds. In the past, even one leading member of Benjamin Netanyahu's right of center opposition Likud Party, renounced Jewish control of the Temple Mount.<sup>21</sup> According to Islamic prophecy: Jerusalem is to serve as the seat of power for the returning Mahdi, believed to be returning in the very near future. It is from there that he will rule with the *Islamic Jesus*, or Issa, - who will denounce ties to the Christian faith, and help lead a worldwide crusade against Christian and Jews.

## YADAS

**"And There Will Be Famines"** – (Luke 24:7) – Citing "unforeseen and unprecedented" circumstances, the UN reports that world food supplies are dwindling as prices rose by 40% last year. Beside lower crop yields, part of the emerging crisis is being blamed on farmers shifting away from human food to bio-fuels.<sup>22</sup>

**NEW ROME** – A Revived Roman Empire, spoken of by the prophet Daniel, - and masquerading as a democratic entity calling itself the European Union, - has now scheduled itself a birthday; - January 1, 2009. That's when the new EU Reform Treaty will go into effect, creating this new, hybrid entity. At that time this pan-European power will be subject to the office of an "un-elected President of Europe", chosen by the heads of state. (Former British PM Tony Blair is the early favorite for the job.) It will sport a new, European foreign policy that will eventually trump the British Foreign Office and the Foreign Ministries in France and Germany. The trans-national organization will be able to overrule, for instance. – the British on immigration policy, - making member states subject to the tyranny of the collective whims of Union.<sup>23 24 25</sup> Right now France's Sarkozy is leading a move to associate the Middle Eastern Mediterranean States in a special relationship with Europe. If successful, this would recreate the Eastern half of the Roman Empire. Historical Rome split into Eastern & Western halves. In Daniel 2, the prophet describes a dream in which King Nebuchadnezzar sees a giant statue that represents all of the major world empires centered around the Holy Land. In this statue, ancient Rome was represented by the thighs of iron and its modern counterpart by the ten toes of clay and iron mixed together. This New Rome, (from its Western or Eastern (predominantly Muslim) divisions will be a key player in End Times events, with the Antichrist coming from its ranks. It's interesting that France's President Sarkozy, speaking at an EU summit is proposing greater powers over for the organization guided by a ten member "European reflection group".<sup>26</sup> Daniel 7 tells us that ten-horned beast will give power to the Antichrist, and that he will then uproot three of those horns. We are watching it form even today.

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- <sup>1</sup> Paul Robertson, Damascus Will No Longer Be a City, Truth Search, 2004
  - <sup>2</sup> Hal Lindsey & Chuck Missler, The Magog Factor – Special Report, pg 6
  - <sup>3</sup> Jennifer Rast, The Coming War of God and Magog, an Islamic Invasion?, Contender Ministries
  - <sup>4</sup> Chuck Missler, TheMagog Identity
  - <sup>5</sup> Jennifer Rast, The Coming War of God and Magog, an Islamic Invasion?, Contender Ministries
  - <sup>6</sup> Hal Lindsey & Chuck Missler, The Magog Factor – Special Report, pg 26
  - <sup>7</sup> Walid Shoebat, Islam And The Final Beast
  - <sup>8</sup> Mark Hitchcock, The Coming Islamic Invasin of Israel, 2002, pg 31
  - <sup>9</sup> James Lloyd, Gog And Magog Are Gathering Momentum, Christian Media Research, April 15, 2002
  - <sup>10</sup> Walid Shoebat, Islam And The Final Beast
  - <sup>11</sup> Thomas Ice, Is America In Bible Prophecy?
  - <sup>12</sup> Hal Lindsey, Have we struck a deal with the devil?, Oracle, December 7, 2007
  - <sup>13</sup> Most members of Israeli defense cabinet favor independent action..., DEBKAFfile, December 10, 2007
  - <sup>14</sup> Bush Embarks on Saudi-Brokered Deal with Tehran, DEBKAFfile, December 8, 2007
  - <sup>15</sup> Saudi-Iranian rapprochement..., DEBKAFfile, December 13, 2007
  - <sup>16</sup> First Russian fuel shipment delivered..., DEBKAFfile, December 17, 2007
  - <sup>17</sup> Washington loosens restrictions..., DEBKAFfile, December 15, 2007
  - <sup>18</sup> Most members of Israeli defense cabinet favor independent action..., DEBKAFfile, December 10, 2007
  - <sup>19</sup> Aaron Klein, Revealed: Israel agreed to forfeit Temple Mount, World Net Daily, December 13, 2007
  - <sup>20</sup> Aaron Klein, Jerusalem to be divided, declares Israeli official, World Net Daily, December 9, 2007
  - <sup>21</sup> Stan Goodenough, Likud official infers Temple Mount not Jewish holy place, Jerusalem News Wire, October 17, 2007
  - <sup>22</sup> Elizabeth Rosenthal, World food stocks dwindling rapidly, UN warns, International Herald Tribune, December 17, 2007
  - <sup>23</sup> Deborah Summers, Q&A: EU reform treaty, Guardian, October 15, 2007
  - <sup>24</sup> Toby Helm, EU treaty to become UK law, London Telegraph, July 11, 2007
  - <sup>25</sup> Susan Easton, The EU's Treaty Treachery, Human Events, December 17, 2007
  - <sup>26</sup> Charter & Watson, Gordon Brown and Nicolas Sarkozy..., London Times, December 15, 2007