

יְחֶזְקֵאל YEchezkel

EZEKIEL 38–39 An Invasion of Israel by the Forces of God

SESSION 11 STARTS HERE

Before we begin discussing Ezekiel 38 and 39, we will look at a time when the disciples of Jesus asked Him for a sign.

Luke 21:29–31 KJV

Luke 21:29 ¶ And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

Luke 21:30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

Luke 21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

Jesus told them to “behold the fig tree” (the nation of Israel) and “all the trees” (nations about which the prophets spoke). Jesus told them the sign of the soon coming of the end of days would be “when they now shoot forth.” As we examine Ezekiel 38 and 39 and discuss the news of the day, we will see what Jesus spoke of—we will see the nations “shooting forth” into their places.

Three Wars

Jewish sages teach that there are two Gog-Magog wars. I believe there are three distinct wars in the end of days. The first and third are identified with the term “Gog and Magog.”

The first: Ezekiel 38 and 39

This is an invasion of Israel by Gog’s forces.
This war could occur at any time now.

The second: Zechariah 14, Revelation 16:16

The Battle of Armageddon takes place at the end of the Great Tribulation. This battle ends in the defeat of the Antichrist and his forces.

The third: Revelation 20:8

At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan is “loosed out of his prison.” He goes forth to deceive the nations. He gathers a large army of followers, which God destroys with fire from heaven.

An Ongoing War: Psalm 83

I see Psalm 83 as an ongoing war of attrition with the forces of Islam against Israel. This war does not have an exact starting date. It is called by some the Arab-Israeli conflict. But it is really an Islamic confederacy.

Satan (Hebrew שָׂטָן: *adversary*) is a major player in each of these conflicts. He is an adversarial force against the plans of God.

Ezekiel 38

Ezekiel 38:1–3 יְחִזְקְיָהוּ JPS 1917

א 1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying:

ב 2 'Son of man, set thy face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

ג 3 and say: Thus saith the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal;

“Gog”

I believe Gog is an evil spirit being—Satan—and that he is operating from the mid-heavens as the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), directing the invasion over the city of Moscow.

Such “princedom” of the air over nations are shown in the Book of Daniel as the Prince of Persia (Iran) and the Prince of Grecia.

(See Appendix 2: *The Seat of Satan*.)

Excerpted from Appendix 2 “The Seat of Satan”

Revelation 2:12–13 ASV

Rev. 2:12 and to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These things saith he that hath the sharp two-edged sword:

Rev. 2:13 I know where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan’s throne is; and thou holdest fast my name, and didst not deny my faith, even in the days of Antipas my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwelleth [sits].

One day as I crossed the Rhema Bible Training Center campus in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Patsy Behrman (now Cameneti) called me to the prayer room to pray with a young couple who felt called to Brussels. As we prayed, we were overcome—in a wonderful way—by the power of God.

Soon after, I received an invitation to accompany them to Brussels for a prayer conference they were calling “Breakthrough for Brussels.”

On March 25, 1991, I walked from my home on a bluff overlooking a lake near Pryor, Oklahoma, down to the water’s edge. Seated on a rock in a secluded place, I began to pray about whether I should go.

Immediately the Lord spoke to me. He unveiled strategies of Satan and his seats (thrones) of rule from what I will call the mid—heavens, or the double—kingdom system set up after Adam allowed the adversary a place in this world.

...

The Seat of Satan at Pergamon

As I sat on that rock beside Lake Hudson in Oklahoma, the Lord reminded me of what Jesus said to the angel of the church at Pergamon. (See Revelation 2:12–13 above.)

The Lord showed me that Satan moves his throne from place to place—and that history reflects it.

E. W. Bullinger, *The Companion Bible*

Pergamos. A city of Mysia famous for the worship of Aesculapius, to whom the title *soter* (saviour) was given and whose emblem was the serpent. . . . Some trace the Babylonian pagan priesthood as removing to Pergamos.⁵⁴

The Lord made known to me that at the time of Jesus’ appearing to John on the Isle of Patmos, Satan had set up his throne over Pergamon. Pagan cults and emperor worship were centered there. The huge Altar of Zeus dominated the acropolis over the ancient Greek city in what is now Turkey.

The Lord made known to my spirit that Satan had since set up his throne over Berlin in World Wars I and II. And that his throne was over Moscow during the Cold War.

I heard in my spirit, “The adversary will set up his throne over Brussels before he attempts the move to Jerusalem, where he plans to set himself up in the rebuilt Temple.” (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4.) “I want you in Brussels as my witness.”

So for years, I have been going to Brussels in my ministry as a witness (Acts 26:16).

The Lord has since made me to know that earthly Jerusalem is not Satan’s final goal. He plans another attempt to ascend to the heavenly Jerusalem and the throne of God. How wonderful to read the Book of Revelation and the utter frustration of the plans of the enemy in the judgments of God.

Tracing the Moves

Eerily, there has been a physical counterpart—an *earthly reflection of the seat of Satan in the heavenlies*—in each of the cities the Lord pointed out to me. That counterpart is a huge structure. Yet in modern times, it has moved from ancient Pergamon to Berlin, from Berlin to Moscow, and then back to Berlin, where it now sits.

⁵⁴ E. W. Bullinger, *The Companion Bible* (1922; repr., Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1990), 1886.



Above: Note that E shows what the temple of Zeus may have looked like.
 Below: Dr. Brim on the reconstructed steps of the Zeus temple in Berlin.



Here is the story of the seemingly impossible travels of such a gargantuan structure, the great Pergamon Altar of Zeus:

The new German Empire began in 1871. Alliances were made with the Ottoman Empire of Turkey. A German road builder, who was also an archeologist, discovered the ruins of Pergamon and the Altar of Zeus. Kaiser Wilhelm became passionately

involved with transporting the huge altar to Berlin. And there it stood in a specially constructed museum during World War I.

Hitler was enamored with the altar and, some say, worshiped at it. In 1934, he ordered the building of a sports field in Nuremberg, patterned after the altar. Here, huge Nazi rallies with swastika—emblazoned flags were staged in cultish array. Hitler spoke from the altar—like edifice. All during the Nazi reign of horror, the altar stood in their capital.

U.S. General George Patton led the Allied armies in the final land thrust, resulting in the taking of Berlin. Under orders, the U.S.—led forces stepped back to allow Russia to actually take the city because of the Nazi siege of Leningrad. This step, however, led to the dividing of Berlin during the Cold War and the building of the Berlin Wall. Guess on which side of the wall the Pergamon Museum stood? It stood in Communist East Berlin. However, the altar itself was dismantled and taken to Moscow.

Phyllis Farber, "The Trail of Paint— The Nazi Art Obsession,"
personal.psu.edu, April 1998,

http://www.personal.psu.edu/jxz8/Student_Webquests/Farber/trailo.html

The massive Pergamon Altar, originally removed from the Greek city of Pergamon to Germany, was dismembered, carefully packed and sent to Moscow in 1945. ... The Russians discovered it hidden (if you can hide something that large) by the Germans in the Zoo tower in Berlin which was supposed to be bomb proof. The Zoo tower contained crates of art treasures stolen by the Germans from victims during the Holocaust and collections hidden by museum curators to protect them from the destruction of Allied bombings. ...⁵⁵

The following passage is repeated from above.

Ezekiel 38:1-3 יְחִזְקְאֵל JPS 1917

א 1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying:

ב 2 'Son of man, set thy face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

ג 3 and say: Thus saith the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal;

⁵⁵ Phyllis Farber, "The Trail of Paint—The Nazi Art Obsession," personal.psu.edu, April 1998,
http://www.personal.psu.edu/jxz8/Student_Webquests/Farber/trailo.html

“Gog” גוג

It is Gog—the evil Satan—that God is against.

“the land of Magog” אֶרֶץ מַגּוּג

Rabbi Moshe Eisemann, *Yechezkel*

Gog of the land of Magog.

The various traditions concerning the identity of Magog, who in Genesis 10:2 is listed among the sons of Noah’s son Japheth, tend to place the land of Magog in what today is ... Russia ...

Thus ... land of Magog, is located in a region aptly described as ... the farthest north ...

Meshech and Tubal.

Both ... are listed in Genesis 10:2 as sons of Japheth.

... prince, leader [*rosh*] of Meshech and Tubal.

This salutation ... indicates that the Gaonim [early Talmudic sages] had a tradition that these countries were indeed located in Russia.⁵⁶

“chief prince” נָשִׂיא רֹאשׁ

nasi rosh. The JPS 1917 translates these two words together as “chief prince.” *Nasi* means “prince,” and *rosh*, as we have already learned, means “head, chief.”

Brim Note: Modern Russian cities bear names that are similar to Meshech (Moskva) and Tubal (Tobolsk).

Magog can also refer to the earthly area of Gog’s operation.

Ezekiel 38:4 יְהִיזְקֵאל JPS 1917

4 and I will turn thee about, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed most gorgeously, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them handling swords:

What this great military company does will be the result of what God has placed in their minds to do. Though they will not recognize it.

⁵⁶ Rabbi Moshe Eisemann, *Yechezkel—The Book of Ezekiel: A New Translation with a Commentary Anthologized from Talmudic, Midrashic and Rabbinic Sources*, 3rd edition (Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications Ltd, ArtScroll, 1988), 580–583.

Ezekiel 38:5-7 JPS 1917

ה פָּרַס כּוּשׁ וּפּוּט, אֲתָם; כָּלָם, 5 Persia, Cush, and Put with them,
מִגֵּן וְכוֹבֵעַ. all of them with shield and helmet;

ו גּוֹמֶר, וְכָל-אֲנָפִיהָ--בֵּית תּוֹגַרְמָה, 6 Gomer, and all his bands; the
יִרְכָּתִי צָפוֹן וְאֶת-כָּל-אֲנָפָיו; עַמִּים house of Togarmah in the uttermost
רַבִּים, אִתָּךְ. parts of the north, and all his bands;
even many peoples with thee.

ז הֵכֵן, וְהֵכֵן לָךְ--אֶתָּה, וְכָל- 7 Be thou prepared, and prepare for
קָהְלֶךְ הַנִּקְהָלִים עֲלֶיךָ; וְהָיִיתָ thyself, thou, and all thy company
לָהֶם, לְמִשְׁמָר. that are assembled unto thee, and be
thou guarded of them.

"Persia"

This is present day Iran. Until 1935, Iran was known as Persia. A strong alliance between Russia and Iran began when Russia helped Iran build a nuclear reactor.

"The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant," Wikipedia.org.

Construction ... was started in 1975 by German companies, but the work was stopped in 1979 after the Islamic revolution of Iran. The site was repeatedly bombed during the Iran–Iraq war. Later, a contract for finishing the plant was signed between Iran and the Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy in 1995 ... The work was delayed several years by technical and financial challenges as well as by political pressure from the West. ... The plant ... was officially opened in a ceremony on 12 September 2011 ...⁵⁷

"Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant Phase 2," Power-Technology.com.

The Bushehr nuclear power plant (NPP) is being developed as part of a joint nuclear cooperation agreement between Russia and Iran, which includes a provision to build up to eight new reactors in Iran.

Foundation stone for the \$10bn Bushehr-2 was laid in September 2016, while an official ceremony marking the start of construction was held in October 2017. The new phase will consist of two units designated 2 and 3, which will have a cumulative output capacity of 2,100MW. The construction is expected to be completed by 2026.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ "Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant," Wikipedia.org. Accessed June 1, 2021.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bushehr_Nuclear_Power_Plant

⁵⁸ "Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant Phase 2," Power -Technology.com. Accessed June 1, 2021.

<https://www.power-technology.com/projects/bushehr-nuclear-power-plant-phase-2/>

The evil alliance, which the Lord foresaw, continues until the very time of this writing.

Joby Warrick, “Russia is preparing to supply Iran with an advanced satellite system that will boost Tehran’s ability to surveil military targets, officials say,” WashingtonPost.com.

Russia is preparing to supply Iran with an advanced satellite system that will give Tehran an unprecedented ability to track potential military targets across the Middle East and beyond, according to current and former U.S. and Middle Eastern officials briefed on details of the arrangement.⁵⁹

More than 2,500 years ago, Ezekiel prophesied a Russian-Persian coalition. It is not as if God predestined it; every nation and its leaders have free wills. But by His foreknowledge, the Lord sees how things will turn out. His judgments are predicated on the leader’s own actions.

The following items are referred to in the video as the “Addendum.”

Eugene Rumer, “[A Brief Guide to Russia’s Return to the Middle East](#),” CarnegieEndowment.org

The Kremlin is riding high in the Middle East, where Russia’s military intervention in Syria has changed the course of the country’s civil war. ...

Russia has emerged as a key power broker and military actor in the Middle East. In 2015, it sent its air force and a limited number of ground troops to Syria. That intervention changed the course of the Syrian civil war and saved President Bashar al-Assad’s regime from what looked like certain defeat.

Using its success in Syria as a springboard, Russia has transformed old relationships throughout the region and forged new ones. ...⁶⁰

Anna Borshchevskaya, Raed Wajeih, Daniel Rakov, and Li-Chen Sim, “Russia in the Middle East: A source of stability or a pot-stirrer?” AtlanticCouncil.org.

... The Middle East has always been part of Russia’s vulnerable underbelly: a region the Russian state sought to secure as it pushed to play a key role in European politics and gain great power recognition. Since officially coming to power in May 2000, if not before, Vladimir Putin worked to return Russia to the Middle East as part of his zero-sum approach to international politics. Putin’s military intervention in Syria in September 2015 to prop up Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad shocked and surprised many, but it was the logical

⁵⁹ Joby Warrick, “Russia is preparing to supply Iran with an advanced satellite system that will boost Tehran’s ability to surveil military targets, officials say,” WashingtonPost.com. June 10, 2021. Accessed June 10, 2021. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/iran-russia-satellite/2021/06/10/d28978f0-c9ab-11eb-81b1-34796c7393af_story.html

⁶⁰ Eugene Rumer and Andrew Weiss, “A Brief Guide to Russia’s Return to the Middle East,” CarnegieEndowment.org. October 24, 2019. Accessed June 1, 2021. <https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/10/24/brief-guide-to-russia-s-return-to-middle-east-pub-80134>

conclusion of years of broader aims to deter the West in a context of dithering Western policies.

Unlike the former Soviet Union, Putin cultivated and continues to cultivate all major actors even as they oppose one another. It is a more pragmatic, flexible approach than that of the Soviet Union's ideological approach which had clear allies and adversaries. Putin's strategy has been successful especially given the ambivalence of Western commitments to the region. Thus, Moscow maintains good relations with Iran and its proxies, Israel, and the Gulf—to name but a few—and tells each side it can play peacemaker. Moscow utilizes all tools in its state toolkit to build pragmatic leverage—not only through the military but also para-military, intelligence, trade, and soft power.

Moreover, Putin had come to perceive the West as weak—especially after President Barack Obama drew but did not enforce a red line in Syria in 2013—and it is likely for this reason he felt confident to intervene in Syria militarily. American ambivalence helped Putin make inroads in the region. Moscow's approach to the Middle East is zero-sum: for Putin to win, the West has to lose. Putin is also not seeking genuine stability—on the contrary, low-level instability puts him in an advantageous managerial position [emphasis added].

Syria is the epicenter of Kremlin activity, which Putin uses as a springboard to project power throughout the region and Europe and Africa. Nothing makes as clear a statement about Moscow's interests as the recent unveiling of a [monument](#) to the patron saint of the Russian army, Prince Alexander Nevsky, at the Russian Khmeimim airbase in Syria. This demonstrates Russian commitment on a symbolic as well as practical level. And symbolism resonates [sic] both in the Middle East and Russia.

Of course, militarily, Russia is in Syria to stay for at least the next forty-nine years, as per an agreement between Moscow and Damascus. In this time, Moscow continues to take practical [steps](#) on the ground to vie for influence in Syria and push for its preferred [outcome](#). Syria's strategic location on the Eastern Mediterranean allows Russia to project power into NATO's southern flank and, more broadly, southern Europe. In this context, the oil-rich and strategically-positioned Libya was the next logical step, as I have [written](#) in early 2017. Indeed Russian activity there became more [explicit](#) in recent years both on the diplomatic front—as Moscow aimed to position itself as a mediator—and with more visible and increased deployment of so-called private military contractors, such as the Wager Group.

While Moscow's interests are primarily geopolitical, there is also a commercial aspect—mostly concerning energy and arms—in addition to cultural and religious dimensions. And, although Putin works to build ties with everyone—not an easy balance to maintain—the balance is still tipped in favor of anti-American forces, Iran and its proxies, and Assad.

The US under Biden has yet to announce its Syria policy, but Damascus is unlikely to be a priority, which will only continue to help Putin. While many details are unclear, from a broader perspective, the US continues to deprioritize the Middle East in favor of great power competition with China and Russia in other regions. In contrast, Moscow sees the Middle East as a

prime arena for this joust. If this trend continues, Russia will continue its already deep convergence with Iran and its proxies and will ultimately have the final word on Syria's future. This could lead to a more explicit rise of a Russia-Iran-Assad nexus and transform the Middle East in a way that could create more vulnerabilities for the West and its allies, both in the region and in Europe. Such a scenario could only hurt broader American competition with China and Russia.

Dr. Anna Borshchevskaya is a senior fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy where she focuses on Russia's approach to the Middle East. She is also the author of the upcoming book, [Putin's War in Syria: Russian Foreign Policy and the Price of America's Absence](#).⁶¹

[Joby Warrick](#), "Russia is preparing to supply Iran with an advanced satellite system that will boost Tehran's ability to surveil military targets, officials say," [WashingtonPost.com](#)

Russia is preparing to supply Iran with an advanced satellite system that will give Tehran an unprecedented ability to track potential military targets across the Middle East and beyond, according to current and former U.S. and Middle Eastern officials briefed on details of the arrangement.

The plan would deliver to the Iranians a Russian-made Kanopus-V satellite equipped with a high-resolution camera that would greatly enhance Iran's spying capabilities, allowing continuous monitoring of facilities ranging from Persian Gulf oil refineries and Israeli military bases to Iraqi barracks that house U.S. troops, the officials said. The launch could happen within months, they said. ...

The disclosures came as President Biden is preparing for his first meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The imminent launch of a Russian-made Iranian satellite could add to a long list of contentious issues that have strained relations between Moscow and Washington, including most notably [recent Russian hacking operations](#) and efforts to interfere with U.S. elections. Opponents of the U.S. reentering the nuclear accord with Iran are also likely to seize on the disclosure to argue against any engagement with Tehran that doesn't address its military ambitions in the region.

If fully realized, the deal with Russia would represent a significant boost for an Iranian military establishment that has struggled in its own attempts to put a military reconnaissance satellite into orbit. After several prominent failures, Iran last year successfully launched an indigenous military satellite dubbed Noor-1, but the spacecraft was quickly derided by a senior Pentagon official as a "tumbling webcam." ...⁶²

⁶¹ Anna Borshchevskaya, Raed Wajeih, Daniel Rakov, and Li-Chen Sim, "Russia in the Middle East: A source of stability or a pot-stirrer?" [AtlanticCouncil.org](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/russia-in-the-middle-east-a-source-of-stability-or-a-pot-stirrer/). April 21, 2021. Accessed June 1, 2021.

⁶² Joby Warrick, "Russia is preparing to supply Iran with an advanced satellite system that will boost Tehran's ability to surveil military targets, officials say," [WashingtonPost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/iran-russia-satellite/2021/06/10/d28978f0-c9ab-11eb-81b1-34796c7393af_story.html). June 10, 2021. Accessed June 1, 2021. https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/iran-russia-satellite/2021/06/10/d28978f0-c9ab-11eb-81b1-34796c7393af_story.html

Ezekiel 38:5-7 JPS 1917

ה פָּרַס כּוֹשׁ וּפּוּט, אֲתָם; כָּלָם, 5 Persia, Cush, and Put with them,
מִגֵּן וְכוֹבֵעַ. all of them with shield and helmet;

ו גּוֹמֵר, וְכָל-אֲנַפְיָהּ--בֵּית תּוֹגַרְמָה, 6 Gomer, and all his bands; the
יֶרֶכְתִּי צָפוֹן וְאֶת-כָּל-אֲנַפְיּוֹ; עַמִּים house of Togarmah in the uttermost
רַבִּים, אִתָּךְ. parts of the north, and all his bands;
even many peoples with thee.

ז הֵכֵן, וְהֵכֵן לָךְ--אֶתָּה, וְכָל- 7 Be thou prepared, and prepare for
קָהְלֶךָ הַנִּקְהָלִים עֲלֶיךָ; וְהָיִיתָ thyself, thou, and all thy company
לָהֶם, לְמִשְׁמָר. that are assembled unto thee, and be
thou guarded of them.

"Cush and Put"

This area is south of Egypt, probably spread over a region which today is the eastern part of the Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea.

"Gomer and ... Togarmah"

These are the son and grandson of Japheth. The ArtScroll commentary on *Yechezkel* addresses this issue.

Rabbi Moshe Eisemann, *Yechezkel*

It is difficult to identify with any certainty. ...

Josephus (History of the Jews, ch. 1) identifies ... *children of Gomer*, as the "Franks who live in France on the River Seine" ...⁶³

The following reference identifies the origin of the Franks as Germanic tribes.

"Franks," Wikipedia.org.

The Franks were a group of Germanic tribes that, about the middle of the 3rd century AD, dwelt along the middle and lower Rhine River. The Franks appeared in the Roman provinces around 253 ...⁶⁴

Agreeing with ArtScroll's *Yechezkel*, that no one can be sure about Gomer, I would hazard a guess that they are European. A clue that brings me to this conclusion is the name of another of Gomer's grandsons, *Ashkenaz*. The Jews from Europe are called *Ashkenazis*.

⁶³ Rabbi Moshe Eisemann, *Yechezkel—The Book of Ezekiel: A New Translation with a Commentary Anthologized from Talmudic, Midrashic and Rabbinic Sources*, 3rd edition (Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications Ltd, ArtScroll, 1988), 584.

⁶⁴ "Franks," Wikipedia.org. Accessed June 1, 2007.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franks#:~:text=The%20Franks%20\(Latin%3A%20Franci%20or,edge%20of%20the%20Roman%20Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franks#:~:text=The%20Franks%20(Latin%3A%20Franci%20or,edge%20of%20the%20Roman%20Empire)

“Togarmah”

Many teachers of prophecy believe that *Togarmah* is Turkey.

“Togarmah,” Wikipedia.org.

Togarmah (Hebrew: תֹּגַרְמָה *Tōgarmā*) is a figure in the "table of nations" in Genesis 10, the list of descendants of Noah that represents the peoples known to the ancient Hebrews. Togarmah is among the descendants of Japheth and is thought to represent some people located in Anatolia.⁶⁵

“Anatolia,” Wikipedia.org.

Anatolia, in geography known as Asia Minor, Asian Turkey, Anatolian peninsula, or Anatolian plateau, denotes the westernmost protrusion of Asia, which makes up the majority of the Republic of Turkey.⁶⁶

“Armenian Genocide (1915 to 1917),” Wikipedia.org.

The **Armenian genocide** was the systematic mass murder and ethnic cleansing of around one million ethnic Armenians from Anatolia and adjoining regions by the Ottoman Empire and its ruling party, the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP), during World War I.⁶⁷

“Turkey,” Wikipedia.org.

The **Republic of Turkey** was founded in 1923, following the Ottoman Empire’s defeat in World War I and the subsequent Turkish War of Independence led by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. As the first president of the new republic, Atatürk initiated a program of political, economic, and cultural reforms, which became known as secular Kemalism, to build a ‘new Turkey’ that was far from its Ottoman and Islamic heritage.⁶⁸

Ezekiel 38:7 Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.

Many commentators and teachers no longer feel that this refers to Russia, but rather to Turkey and the Islamic states. My opinion is still that this speaks of Russia.

*The following items are referred to in the video as
“Current Events 6-17-21.”*

Russia Closely Follows Ukraine's NATO Membership Aspirations—Kremlin

Sumaira FH Published June 17, 2021 | 01:44 PM

MOSCOW (UrduPoint News / Sputnik - 17th June, 2021) Russia closely follows Ukraine's plans to join NATO, these are the red lines that trigger concerns, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday.

"We follow this very closely, this is the red line, which the president has repeatedly mentioned," Peskov told Echo of Moscow radio station, asked if Ukraine's potential

⁶⁵ “Togarmah,” Wikipedia.org. Accessed June 1, 2007. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Togarmah>

⁶⁶ “Anatolia,” Wikipedia.org. Accessed June 1, 2007. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anatolia>

⁶⁷ “Armenian Genocide,” Wikipedia.org. Accessed June 1, 2007.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_genocide

⁶⁸ “Turkey,” Wikipedia.org. Accessed June 1, 2007. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Turkey

[NATO](#) accession is on the agenda of the negotiations between Presidents [Vladimir Putin](#) and Joe Biden.⁶⁹

Russia–Ukraine relations **From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**

Russia-Ukraine relations refers to the relations between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Currently, the two countries are engaged in the Russo-Ukrainian War which started in 2014 following Russian annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. The modern bilateral relationship between Russian Federation and Ukraine formally started during World War I as the former Russian Empire was going through its political reform. In 1920, the bilateral relationship between two countries was changed as Ukraine was conquered by the Russian Red Army and Polish Army. In 1990s, immediately upon the dissolution of the Soviet Union, of which both Soviet Russia and Soviet Ukraine had been formally founding constituent republics, bilateral relations were revived. Relations between the two countries have been hostile since the 2014 Ukrainian revolution, followed by Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, and over Russia's backing for the separatists fighters of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic in a war that by early 2020 had killed more than 13,000 people and brought Western sanctions on Russia.⁷⁰

Putin's passport ploy in Ukraine may pave way for Russia's next annexation **By Peter Dickinson May 20, 2021**

As Vladimir Putin's hybrid war against Ukraine grinds into its eighth year, Russian passports are emerging as Moscow's most effective weapon. On May 20, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy raised the alarm over the mass distribution of Russian passports in occupied eastern Ukraine and accused Moscow of paving the way for a possible annexation attempt.

Speaking during a landmark press conference at the Antonov plant in Kyiv to mark his first two years as president, Zelenskyy [noted](#) the alarming similarities between the current situation in eastern Ukraine's Kremlin-controlled separatist republics and Moscow's actions in Crimea prior to the 2014 Russian takeover of the Ukrainian peninsula. "This [passport distribution] is definitely the first step, because the same thing happened earlier in Crimea. Crimean residents were given Russian passports [prior to annexation]. This is a big problem," the Ukrainian leader stated.⁷¹

⁶⁹ Sumaira Hussain, "Russia Closely Follows Ukraine's NATO Membership Aspirations – Kremlin," Urdupoint.com. Accessed June 17, 2021. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/world/russia-closely-follows-ukraines-nato-members-1279748.html>

⁷⁰ "Russia-Ukraine relations," Wikipedia. Accessed June 17, 2021. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia%E2%80%93Ukraine_relations

⁷¹ Peter Dickinson, "Putin's passport ploy in Ukraine may pave way for Russia's next annexation," Atlanticcouncil.org. Accessed June, 17, 2021. <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/putins-passport-ploy-in-ukraine-may-pave-way-for-russias-next-annexation/>

Ukraine honors 2 sects with Jewish roots as ‘indigenous peoples,’ angering Putin

By [CNAAN LIPSHIZ](#) 17 June 2021, 11:17 am

([JTA](#))—Two tiny sects with Jewish roots have been dragged into yet another diplomatic fight between Russia and Ukraine.

The few hundred Karaites who remain in Ukraine today are remnants of a sect that broke off from mainstream Judaism in eighth-century Iraq. They were documented in Crimea in the 13th century and nearly wiped out during the Holocaust.

The nearly extinct Krymchaks, meanwhile, are related to Karaites but are believed to be more heavily descended from Georgian Jews.

... But by designating those groups “indigenous peoples,” Zelensky, who is [himself Jewish](#), angered Russia, which zealously guards the interests of Ukraine’s ethnic Russian minority.

Russian President Vladimir Putin came out swinging, using the opportunity to further stoke Ukraine’s many preexisting interethnic tensions. He protested the bill’s perceived implication that ethnic Russians, who make up about a third of the population of Ukraine, and other groups are somehow not indigenous to it. ...⁷²

Ezekiel 38:8 יִחְזָקָאֵל JPS 1917

ח 8 מִיָּמִים רַבִּים, תִּפְקַד--בְּאַחֲרִית הַשָּׁנִים תָּבוֹא אֶל-אֶרֶץ מְשׁוּבָּבֶת מִחֶרֶב מִקְבְּצַת מַעַמִּים רַבִּים, עַל הָרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר-הָיוּ לְחֶרֶבָה תָּמִיד; וְהָיָא מַעַמִּים הוֹצָאָה, וַיָּשְׁבוּ לִבְטַח כָּלָם.	After many days thou shalt be mustered for service, in the latter years thou shalt come against the land that is brought back from the sword, that is gathered out of many peoples, against the mountains of Israel, which have been a continual waste; but it is brought forth out of the peoples, and they dwell safely all of them.
--	--

“After many days”

מִיָּמִים רַבִּים The literal translation is *“from many days”*

Rabbi Moshe Eisemann, *Yechezkel*

From ancient times [lit. from many days] you are to be recalled.

In the *nifal* ... [passive] usually means that one is recalled with the purpose of subjecting him to his predestined fate, good or bad.

⁷² Cnaan Lipshiz, “Ukraine honors 2 sects with Jewish roots as ‘indigenous peoples,’ angering Putin,” Timesofisrael.com. Accessed June 17, 2021. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ukraine-honors-2-sects-with-jewish-roots-as-indigenous-peoples-angering-putin/>

Rashi sees the wars ... as a time of reckoning for all the evils which the nations had perpetrated against Israel over the centuries. He renders, *You are to be recalled* (that is, punished) for sins which were committed *long ago*.

... another interpretation is possible. God's ... *consideration*, of Gog goes back into antiquity. This final confrontation ... is the culmination of all of world history which was inexorably flowing towards this point; although we could not understand how while the events were taking place (*R' Breuer*).⁷³

Brim Note: I have studied what is called “antisemitism” throughout history. This *Yechezkel* commentary brings to my mind more recent history of terrible atrocities perpetrated against the Jews from these very geographical areas. As mentioned, however, it probably goes back into antiquity as well.

“against the mountains of Israel, which have been a continual waste; but it is brought forth out of the peoples”

See Ezekiel 36:8–12, 24–38, where it speaks of the time of the Ingathering.

Ezekiel 38:9–11 יְחִזְקֵאל JPS 1917

ט וְעָלִיתָ כַּשָּׂאָה תָּבוֹא, כְּעָנָן
לְכִסּוֹת הָאָרֶץ תִּהְיֶה--אַתָּה, וְכָל-
אֲנָפֶיךָ, וְעַמִּים רַבִּים, אוֹתְךָ. {ס} 9 And thou shalt ascend, thou shalt come
like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to
cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and
many peoples with thee. {S}



I believe verse 9 speaks of a possible air attack.

Here we are on Mt. Carmel, overlooking the Jezreel Valley. This flat area is the only place in northern Israel where planes can be landed.

⁷³ Rabbi Moshe Eisemann, *Yechezkel—The Book of Ezekiel: A New Translation with a Commentary Anthologized from Talmudic, Midrashic and Rabbinic Sources*, 3rd edition (Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications Ltd, ArtScroll, 1988), 584–585.



Figure 7: View of the Jezreel Valley from Mt. Carmel



Figure 8: Airstrip in the Jezreel Valley

Ezekiel 38:9-11 JPS 1917

י כה אָמַר, אֲדֹנָי יְהוֹה: וְהָיָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, יַעֲלוּ דְבָרִים עַל-לִבְּךָ, וְחֲשַׁבְתָּ מַחְשַׁבֶּת רָעָה. 10 Thus saith the Lord GOD: It shall come to pass in that day, that things shall come into thy mind, and thou shalt devise an evil device;

יא וְאָמַרְתָּ, אֶעֱלֶה עַל-אֶרֶץ פְּרוּזוֹת--אֲבוֹא הַשְׁקֵטִים, יֹשְׁבֵי לְבֵטָח; כֻּלָּם, יֹשְׁבִים בְּאֵין חוֹמָה, וּבְרִית וּדְלָתִים, אֵין לָהֶם. 11 and thou shalt say: I will go up against the land of unwalled villages; I will come upon them that are at quiet, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates;

In Bible times, important cities had walls. It was not until the resettlement of Israel in very recent times that Jews began to live outside walls and to build towns without walls. I believe the prophet was referring to the time when things would have changed.

“Mishkenot Sha’ananim,” Wikipedia.org.

Mishkenot Sha’ananim—The First Settlement outside the Old City walls.

Until the middle of the 19th century, all the people of Jerusalem lived inside the Old City Walls. Different ethnic groups: Muslims, Jews, Christians and Armenians lived together in an area of only one square kilometer. Being outside the City walls was considered very dangerous, especially at night. People were scared of being attacked by gangs of robbers and only felt safe inside the city walls. Accordingly, the old city became overcrowded. Living in such crowded conditions was hazardous for everyone's health. Diseases spread quickly among the old city's residents because it was hard to be hygienic under such conditions. People were also incredibly poor because there were not enough job opportunities for them. It was clear that the only solution for the city's natural growth was to build new neighborhoods outside the old city walls. ...

Moses Montifiore was a wealthy English Jew who decided to help the Jewish community inside the old city walls by buying lands outside the old city walls.

Montifiore decided to ... create a new settlement outside the city walls for Torah scholars who were poor and needy.

In the year 1860, Moses Montifiore built the first settlement outside of the walls. He named the neighborhood Mishkenot Sha'ananim ...

Poor Torah Scholars and their families quickly populated Mishkenot Sha'ananim. At the beginning they were frightened to sleep outside the old city walls, so they would return to their original homes to sleep at night.⁷⁴

Ezekiel 38:12-13 יְהוֹקָאֵל JPS 1917

12 יב לְשָׁלַל שָׁלַל, וְלָבֹז בֹּז--לְהָשִׁיב
 יָדְךָ עַל-חֲרָבוֹת נוֹשְׁבוֹת, וְאֶל-עַם
 מְאַסָּף מִגּוֹיִם, עֹשֶׂה מְקִנָּה וְקִנְיָן,
 יֹשְׁבֵי עַל-טִבּוֹר הָאָרֶץ.
 12 to take the spoil and to take the
 prey; to turn thy hand against the
 waste places that are now inhabited,
 and against the people that are
 gathered out of the nations, that
 have gotten cattle and goods, that
 dwell in the middle of the earth.

13 יג שְׂבָא וְדֶדָן וְסַחְרֵי תַרְשִׁישׁ וְכָל-
 כְּפִירֵיהֶּ, יֹאמְרוּ לָךְ, הֲלִשְׁלַל שָׁלַל
 אַתָּה בָּא, הֲלָבֹז בֹּז הִקְהַלְתָּ
 קְהָלְךָ--לְשֹׂאת כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב, לְקַחַת
 מְקִנָּה וְקִנְיָן, לְשָׁלַל שָׁלַל גָּדוֹל.
 {ס}
 13 Sheba, and Dedan, and the
 merchants of Tarshish, with all the
 magnates thereof, shall say unto
 thee: Comest thou to take the spoil?
 hast thou assembled thy company to
 take the prey? to carry away silver
 and gold, to take away cattle and
 goods, to take great spoil? {S}

"to take the spoil"

Some prophecy teachers have said the "spoil" would be oil. This would take a supernatural discovery. I really don't know what the "spoil" is, but the Word of God declares it, so it shall surely be.

"Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the magnates [KJV: young lions] thereof"

Sheba and Dedan were sons of Keturah, who became forefathers of the Arabs.

⁷⁴ "Mishkenot Sheananim," Wikipedia.org. Accessed June 1, 2007.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mishkenot_Sha%27ananim

1 Chronicles 1:32 KJV Now the sons of **Keturah**, Abraham's concubine: she bare Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. And the sons of Jokshan; Sheba, and Dedan [emphasis added].

Dr. Hilton Sutton, a teacher, mentor and friend, believed Sheba and Dedan were perhaps Saudi Arabia—and that the young lions of the merchants of Tarshish, who were sailors, could include England, and her offspring, the United States.

He speculated that when the invading armies came down into Israel, these other nations might hold a press conference in which they asked the questions posed in verse 13. Whimsically, he inferred that they might do nothing more about it.

Ezekiel 38:15-17 יְהוָה יְהוָה JPS 1917

15 וּבָאתָ מִמְּקוֹמָךְ, מִיִּרְכְּתִי צָפוֹן--אֶתָּה, וְעַמִּים רַבִּים אִתָּךְ: רֶכֶב־סוּסִים כָּלָם, קָהָל גָּדוֹל וְחֵיל רַב. **15** And thou shalt come from thy place out of the uttermost parts of the north, thou, and many peoples with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company and a mighty army;

16 וְעָלִיתָ עַל-עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל, כְּעָנָן לְכֶסֶת הָאָרֶץ; בְּאַחֲרִית הַיָּמִים תִּהְיֶה, וְהִבֵּאתִיךָ עַל-אֶרֶץ, לְמַעַן דַּעַת הַגּוֹיִם, אֲתִי בְּהִקְדָּשִׁי בְּךָ לְעֵינֵיהֶם, גּוֹג. {ס} **16** and thou shalt come up against My people Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the end of days, and I will bring thee against My land, that the nations may know Me, when I shall be sanctified through thee, O Gog, before their eyes. {S}

17 כֹּה-אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה, הֲאֶתָּה-הוּא אֲשֶׁר-דִּבַּרְתִּי בַיָּמִים קְדָמוֹנִים בְּיַד עֲבָדֵי נְבִיאֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, הַנִּבְּאִים בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם, שָׁנִים--לְהָבִיא אֹתָךְ, עָלֵיהֶם. {ס} **17** Thus saith the Lord GOD: Art thou he of whom I spoke in old time by My servants the prophets of Israel, that prophesied in those days for many years, that I would bring thee against them? {S}

“out of the uttermost parts of the north”

ArtScroll's *Yechezkel*, translates, “from your place in the farthest north.”⁷⁵

Moscow is due north from Jerusalem.

“My people Israel”

This will occur in the end of days and God calls them, “My people Israel.” If only politicians and all people would recognize Israel's status as the “apple of God's eye” and be on the Lord's side concerning them.

⁷⁵ Rabbi Moshe Eisemann, *Yechezkel—The Book of Ezekiel: A New Translation with a Commentary Anthologized from Talmudic, Midrashic and Rabbinic Sources*, 3rd edition (Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications Ltd, ArtScroll, 1988), 587.

“as a cloud to cover the land”

Throughout the prophecy, Ezekiel uses the only terms he knew at the time to describe an invading army he could not even imagine.

“it shall be in the end of days”

The time is fixed. It could only happen now, during our lifetime. Considering the current alignment of nations, *we could see it happen at any time.*

“I will bring thee”

God brings them down for His purposes ...

“that the nations may know Me, when I shall be sanctified through thee, O Gog, before their eyes”

Throughout the prophecy, God sets this forth as His purpose. I believe that the nations around about will recognize that it is a supernatural victory, evidently brought forth by the hand of Israel’s God, Jehovah. I also believe that Israel’s Islamic neighbors will recognize that Jehovah is God. Many Muslims, as well as people from other backgrounds, will turn to Jehovah God. I believe that this short, supernatural victory will result in a huge number of people coming into the kingdom of God.

Israel, too, will recognize Jehovah in this victory.

Ezekiel 39:7 KJV So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not *let them* pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen [nations] shall know that I *am* the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

The following is copied from “Lesson 18: Ezekiel 36”

Brim Note: A very excellent study of Israel’s national repentance is found in David Baron’s *Zechariah: A Commentary on his Visions and Prophecies*. It is too long to go into here, but perhaps this introduction to the last chapters will give you an idea.

David Baron, *Zechariah: A Commentary on His Visions and Prophecies*

The overthrow of world-power, and the establishment of Messiah’s Kingdom, may be given as the epitome of the last chapters of Zechariah ... The two oracles which make up the whole of the second half of the book (chaps. 9-11 and 12-14) ... are corresponding portions of a greater whole. Both sections treat of war between the heathen world and Israel, though in different ways.

In the first (chaps 9-11), the judgment *through which Gentile world-power over Israel is finally destroyed*, and Israel is endowed with the strength to *overcome all their enemies* forms the fundamental thought ... In the second (chaps 12-15), the judgment *through which Israel itself is sifted and purged*

in the final great conflict with the nations, and transformed into the holy nation of Jehovah, forms the leading topic.⁷⁶

Zechariah 9:1 KJV ¶ The burden of the word of the LORD in the land of Hadrach, and Damascus *shall be* the rest thereof: when the eyes of man, as of all the tribes of Israel, *shall be* toward the LORD.

Everything will begin with the judgment of the nations. Note the specific mention of Damascus.

Brim Note: The following Scripture, I believe, could relate to Ezekiel 38 and 39—particularly verse 14, which speaks of “them that spoil us.” If it does, the work of God’s supernatural forces will result in a quick, easy-to-see-it-is-Jehovah victory.

Isaiah 17:1, 12–14 KJV

Is. 17:1 ¶ The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from *being* a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap.

Is. 17:7 At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel.

Is. 17:12 ¶ Woe to the multitude of many people, *which* make a noise like the noise of the seas; and to the rushing of nations, *that* make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!

Is. 17:13 The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but *God* shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

Is. 17:14 And behold at eveningtide trouble; *and* before the morning he *is* not. This *is* the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us.

Isaiah 17 is the “burden of Damascus” chapter which says, “Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap” (Isaiah 17:1).

I have long recognized that Syria is not listed in Ezekiel 38 as an ally in this invasion—even in the light of how long Russia and Syria have been cohorts. So I thought Damascus would be wiped out in some sort of limited nuclear blast, probably at the hands of Israel.

However, recent developments in the Syrian Civil War at the time of this writing have virtually crippled the Syrian regime of the Assads. Various groups are fighting for the territory we have known as Syria.

When you read this, it may all be sorted out. But at any rate, Syria, as it was known in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, is no longer the same.

⁷⁶ David Baron, *Zechariah: A Commentary on His Visions and Prophecies* (1918; repr., Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2001), 285.

Ezekiel 38:18-23 יְהוָה יִחְזָקֶאל JPS 1917

18 יח וְהָיָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, בַּיּוֹם בּוֹא גֹג
עַל-אַדְמַת יִשְׂרָאֵל--נֹאֵם, אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה:
תַּעֲלֶה חֲמָתִי, בְּאַפִּי.
18 And it shall come to pass in that
day, when Gog shall come against the
land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that
My fury shall arise up in My nostrils.

19 יט וּבִקְנָאֲתִי בָאֵשׁ-עֵבְרָתִי, דִּבַּרְתִּי:
אִם-לֹא בַיּוֹם הַהוּא, יְהִיָּה רָעַשׁ
גָּדוֹל, עַל אַדְמַת יִשְׂרָאֵל.
19 For in My jealousy and in the fire of
My wrath have I spoken: Surely in that
day there shall be a great shaking in
the land of Israel;

20 כ וְרָעִשׁוּ מִפְּנֵי הָיָם הַיָּם וְעוֹף
הַשָּׁמַיִם וְחַיֵּית הַשָּׂדֶה, וְכָל-הָרֶמֶשׁ
הָרֹמֵשׁ עַל-הָאָדָמָה, וְכָל הָאָדָם,
אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה; וְנִהְרָסוּ
הַהָרִים, וְנִפְּלוּ הַמְּדִרְגּוֹת, וְכָל-
חוֹמָה, לְאֶרֶץ תִּפּוֹל.
20 so that the fishes of the sea, and the
fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of
the field and all creeping things that
creep upon the ground, and all the men
that are upon the face of the earth,
shall shake at My presence, and the
mountains shall be thrown down, and
the steep places shall fall, and every
wall shall fall to the ground.

21 כא וְקָרָאתִי עָלָיו לְכָל-הָרִי חֶרֶב,
נֹאֵם אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה: חֶרֶב אִישׁ, בְּאֶחָיו
תִּהְיֶה.
21 And I will call for a sword against
him throughout all my mountains,
saith the Lord GOD; every man's sword
shall be against his brother.

22 כב וְנִשְׁפָּטִיתִי אֹתוֹ, בְּדָבָר וּבְדָם;
וְנָשַׁם שׁוֹטֵף וְאֶבְנֵי אֶלְגָּבִישׁ אֵשׁ
וְנִפְרִית, אֲמַטִּיר עָלָיו וְעַל-אַנְפּוֹ,
וְעַל-עַמִּים רַבִּים, אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ.
22 And I will plead against him with
pestilence and with blood; and I will
cause to rain upon him, and upon his
bands, and upon the many peoples that
are with him, an overflowing shower,
and great hailstones, fire, and
brimstone.

23 כג וְהִתְגַּדַּלְתִּי, וְהִתְקַדַּשְׁתִּי,
וְנִזְדַּעַתִּי, לְעֵינֵי גוֹיִם רַבִּים; וְיָדְעוּ,
כִּי-אֲנִי יְהוָה. {ס}
23 Thus will I magnify Myself, and
sanctify Myself, and I will make Myself
known in the eyes of many nations;
and they shall know that I am the
LORD. {S}

Ezekiel 39

The Invasion Continued

This chapter continues the invasion and the immediate aftermath. My comments are on only a few verses.

Ezekiel 39:2 יְהִיזְקֵאל JPS 1917

ב וְשִׁבַּבְתִּיךָ, וְשִׁשְׁתִּיךָ, וְהֵעֲלִיתִיךָ, 2 and I will turn thee about and **lead thee on**, and will cause thee to come up from the uttermost parts of the north; and I will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel;

This verse is perplexing to translate. The challenge is a certain word, **וְשִׁשְׁתִּיךָ**, *v'shishetichah*, the meaning of which could be taken two ways. One meaning is “to seduce, to persuade, to lead on, or to drive.” The other could be “to annihilate” or “to leave by the sixth part,” related to *shesh*, the word for six.

Ezekiel 39:2 ArtScroll's Yechezkel I shall lead you astray and seduce you, and I shall cause you to advance from the farthest north and bring you to the mountains of Israel ...

Rabbi Moshe Eisemann, *Yechezkel*

Radak suggests that it means *to destroy*, or that it is related to **שֵׁשׁ**, *six*: *I will reduce you to a sixth [of your population] ...*⁷⁷

Ezekiel 39:2 AMPC And I will turn you about and will lead you on, and will cause you to come up from the uttermost parts of the north and will lead you against the mountains of Israel.

Ezekiel 39:2 YLT And have turned thee back, and enticed thee, And caused thee to come up from the sides of the north, And brought thee in against mountains of Israel.

Ezekiel 39:9 יְהִיזְקֵאל JPS 1917

ט וַיֵּצְאוּ יֹשְׁבֵי עָרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וּבְעָרוֹ 9 And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall **וְהִשְׂקוּ בְנֹשֶׁק וַיִּצְנֶה בְּקֶשֶׁת** make fires of the weapons and use

⁷⁷ Rabbi Moshe Eisemann, *Yechezkel—The Book of Ezekiel: A New Translation with a Commentary Anthologized from Talmudic, Midrashic and Rabbinic Sources*, 3rd edition (Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications Ltd, ArtScroll, 1988), 593.

וּבְחַצִּים, וּבְמִקְלֵי יָד, וּבְרִמָּח;
וּבְעֵרוּ בָהֶם אֵשׁ, שִׁבַּע שָׁנִים.
them as fuel, both the shields and
the bucklers, the bows and the
arrows, and the hand-staves, and
the spears, and they shall make
fires of them seven years;

The relatively long period in which the weapons will be fuel for the fire seems to indicate to me that the war *could* happen at any time. Verses 11-16 *may* also indicate that this war occurs in a relatively “normal” period rather than a more specific time such as the Tribulation. I emphasize “may” because no one can say for sure. Also worth noting is that seven years is a *shmittah* cycle. And again, nothing in the Scripture says this particular seven years is a *shmittah* cycle.

Ezekiel 39:11-16 JPS 1917

11 **יא** וְהָיָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא אֶתֵּן
לְגֹג מְקוֹם-שָׁם קֶבֶר
בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, גֵּי הָעֹבְרִים קְדַמַּת
הַיָּם, וְחֹסְמֹת הִיא, אֶת-
הָעֹבְרִים; וְקָבְרוּ שָׁם, אֶת-גֹּג
וְאֶת-כָּל-הַמִּזְוָה, וְקָרְאוּ, גֵּיא
הַמִּזְוָה גֹּג.
11 And it shall come to pass in that day,
that I will give unto Gog a place fit for
burial in Israel, the valley of them that
pass through on the east of the sea; and it
shall stop them that pass through; and
there shall they bury Gog and all his
multitude; and they shall call it the valley
of Hamon-gog.

12 **יב** וּקְבְּרוּם בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל,
לְמַעַן טַהַר אֶת-הָאָרֶץ,
שִׁבְעָה, חֳדָשִׁים.
12 And seven months shall the house of
Israel be burying them, that they may
cleanse the land.

13 **יג** וְקָבְרוּ כָל-עַם הָאָרֶץ,
וְהָיָה לָהֶם לְשֵׁם--יּוֹם,
הַכְּבֹדִי, נְאֻם, אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה.
13 Yea, all the people of the land shall
bury them, and it shall be to them a
renown; in the day that I shall be glorified,
saith the Lord GOD.

14 **יד** וְאֲנָשִׁי תָמִיד יִבְדִּילוּ,
עֹבְרִים בָּאָרֶץ, מִקְבָּרִים אֶת-
הָעֹבְרִים אֶת-הַנּוֹתְרִים עַל-
פְּנֵי הָאָרֶץ, לְטַהֲרָה--מִקְצֵה
שִׁבְעָה-חֳדָשִׁים, יִחְקְרוּ.
14 And they shall set apart men of
continual employment, that shall pass
through the land to bury with them that
pass through those that remain upon the
face of the land, to cleanse it; after the end
of seven months shall they search.

15 And when they that pass through shall pass through the land, and any seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamon-gog.

16 And Hamonah shall also be the name of a city. Thus shall they cleanse the land. {P}

"them that pass through (KJV: passengers)"

May mean just "those passing by," but could it mean tourists?

"seven months"

The number seven is always significant.

"cleanse the land"

The Holy Land is to be cleansed of all traces of death. A friend of mine was a policeman in Netanya when the terrible Beit Lid tragedy occurred at a bus stop where soldiers were standing. He told me how the special Jewish religious task force literally scraped remains of human flesh off of lampposts and all the other surfaces of the area so that it could be cleansed.

"Beit Lid suicide bombing," Wikipedia

The **Beit Lid suicide bombing** ... was a suicide attack by Palestinian Islamic Jihad against Israeli soldiers at the Beit Lid Junction on January 22, 1995. It was the first suicide attack by Palestinian Islamic Jihad.... at approximately 9:30 am, a Palestinian suicide bomber, disguised as an Israeli soldier, approached the bus stop at the Beit Lid junction in central Israel. The bus stop was full of Israeli soldiers who were on their way to their bases after their weekend vacation. The suicide bomber walked into the crowd and detonated the hidden explosives belt he was wearing. About three minutes later a second suicide bomber exploded at the same spot, killing and injuring people wounded in the first explosion, as well as bystanders who had rushed to the scene to assist the victims of the first explosion.⁷⁸

Ezekiel 39:17-20 יְהוָה יִקְרָא JPS 1917

17 And thou, son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD: Speak unto the birds of every sort, and to every beast of the field: Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on

⁷⁸ "Beit Lid suicide bombing," Wikipedia.org. Accessed June 1, 2007.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beit_Lid_suicide_bombing

וּבְאוּ הָאֲסָפוֹ מִסְבִּיב, עַל-זִבְחִי
אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי זֹבֵחַ לָכֶם זִבְחַ גָּדוֹל,
עַל הָרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל; וְאָכַלְתֶּם
בָּשָׂר, וּשְׁתִיתֶם דָּם.

יח בָּשָׂר גְּבוּרִים תֹּאכְלוּ,
וְדָם-נְשִׂאֵי הָאָרֶץ תִּשְׁתּוּ;
אֵילִים כָּרִים וְעֵתוּדִים פָּרִים,
מְרִיאֵי בָשָׂן כֻּלָּם.

יט וְאָכַלְתֶּם-חֶלֶב לְשִׁבְעָה,
וּשְׁתִיתֶם דָּם לְשִׁכְרוֹן, מִזִּבְחִי,
אֲשֶׁר-זִבַּחְתִּי לָכֶם.

כ וּשְׁבַעְתֶּם עַל-שְׁלַחְנֵי סוֹס
וְרֻקָּב, גְּבוּר וְכָל-אִישׁ
מִלְחָמָה--נָאֻם, אֲדֹנֵי יְהוָה.

every side to My feast that I do prepare for you, even a great feast, upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh and drink blood.

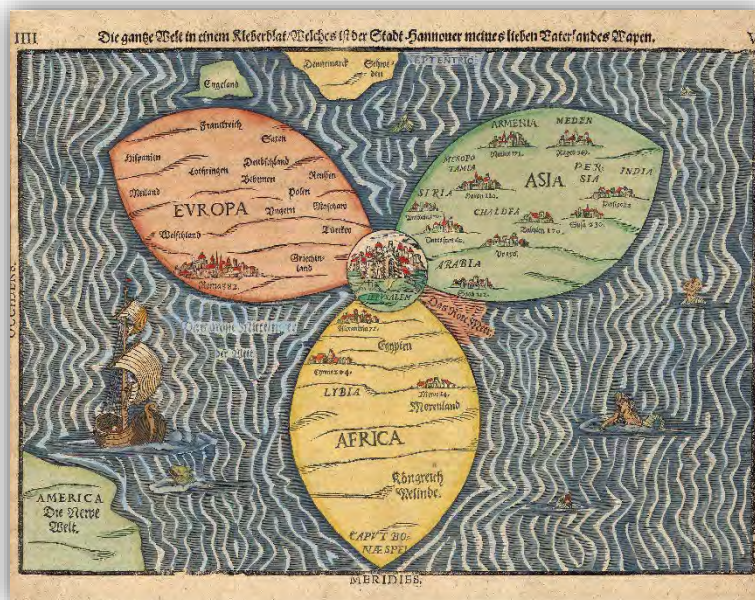
18 The flesh of the mighty shall ye eat, and the blood of the princes of the earth shall ye drink; rams, lambs, and goats, bullocks, fatlings of Bashan are they all of them.

19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of My feast which I have prepared for you.

20 And ye shall be filled at My table with horses and horsemen, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.

When Israel gave up the Sinai to Egypt, their air space was drastically reduced. Israel today is the size of the state of New Jersey—only 60 miles wide at its widest point. If you put the bottommost part of Israel on Los Angeles, its top would not quite reach San Francisco.

Consider the three-leaved ancient map by Bünting.



Israel is a land bridge between three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa. Most people cannot identify the continent on which Israel is located when asked. (It is located in Asia.) It was not only the easiest passageway for ancient armies and trade caravans—it is the easiest pathway for large birds. During migration seasons (spring and autumn), large birds ride the thermals over Israel to their destinations, either north or south.

The drastic reduction in size that resulted from losing the Sinai dangerously imperiled Israel's flight training space. Because the planes and the birds shared the same space, Israel lost more planes to birds than to enemy fire. The Israelis studied the problem and discovered they could predict, to the day, the travel of the birds. So they adjusted their flights and solved their problem accordingly.

I believe the prophet Ezekiel summoned the birds (39:17). They are already invited to the feast. Because of their migration flight patterns, certain Rabbis believe this battle will take place in the autumn. Spring is also a possibility.

The battle called Armageddon, during which the King Messiah comes to earth on his white horse, also mentions the feast for the birds (Revelation 19:17–18). So this gives us a clue to its timing as well. And this one, I believe, will be in the autumn at the time of the High Holy Days, usually in September or October. For it will be at the end of the seven-year *schmittah* cycle of both the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in heaven, and of the Tribulation period on earth.

Ezekiel 39:21-22 יְהוָה יִזְכָּרָל JPS 1917

כא 21 And I will set My glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see My judgment that I have executed, and My hand that I have laid upon them.
וְנָתַתִּי אֶת-כְּבוֹדִי, בְּגוֹיִם;
וְרָאוּ כָל-הַגּוֹיִם, אֶת-מִשְׁפָּטִי
אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי, וְאֶת-יָדִי, אֲשֶׁר-
שָׂמַתִּי בָהֶם.

כב 22 So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God, from that day and forward.
וַיָּדְעוּ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, כִּי
אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם, מִן-הַיּוֹם
הַהוּא, וְהָלְאָה.

God's purpose—to reveal himself:

To the nations: He is revealed through His dealings with Israel.

To the House of Israel: Many people in Israel are secular. Some believe but are not “practicing.” Others even claim to be atheists. Some say they lost their faith when the Holocaust happened. In verse 22, “from that day and forward,” they will know that He is Jehovah, their God.

The Ingathering

Ezekiel 39:25-29 JPS 1917

- 25 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD: Now will I bring back the captivity of Jacob, and have compassion upon the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name.
- 26 And they shall bear their shame, and all their breach of faith which they have committed against Me, when they shall dwell safely in their land, and none shall make them afraid;
- 27 when I have brought them back from the peoples, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations.
- 28 And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, in that I caused them to go into captivity among the nations, and have gathered them unto their own land; and I will leave none of them any more there;
- 29 neither will I hide My face any more from them; for I have poured out My spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.' {P}
- כה לכן, כה אמר אֲדֹנָי יְהוֹה, עַתָּה אָשִׁיב אֶת-שְׁבִית (שְׁבוּת) יַעֲקֹב, וְרַחֲמֹתִי כָל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל; וְקִנְאֹתִי, לְשֵׁם קָדְשִׁי.
- כו וְנָשׂוּ, אֶת-כָּל־מִתָּתָם, וְאֶת-כָּל-מַעַלְתָּם, אֲשֶׁר מָעְלוּ-בִּי--בְּשִׁבְתָּם, עַל-אֲדָמָתָם לְבִטָּח, וְאֵין מַחְרִיד.
- כז כִּי בָשׁוּבִי אֹתָם, מִן-הָעַמִּים, וְקִבַּצְתִּי אֹתָם, מֵאֲרָצוֹת אֲבִיהֶם; וְנִקְדָּשְׁתִּי בָם, לְעֵינֵי הַגּוֹיִם רַבִּים.
- כח וְיָדְעוּ, כִּי אֲנִי יְהוֹה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם, בְּהִגְלוֹתִי אֹתָם אֶל-הַגּוֹיִם, וּכְנַסְתִּים עַל-אֲדָמָתָם; וְלֹא-אוֹתִיר עוֹד מֵהֶם, שָׁם.
- כט וְלֹא-אֶסְתִּיר עוֹד פָּנַי, מֵהֶם, אֲשֶׁר שָׁפַכְתִּי אֶת-רוּחִי עַל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, נָאֻם אֲדֹנָי יְהוֹה. {פ}

SESSION 11 ENDS HERE

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