

## Notes on Ezekiel Against Gog – Chapters 38 & 39

Book Gog is found in	Bible verses
1 Chron	5:4
Ezekiel	38:2, 3, 14, 16, 18, 21 39:1, 11, 15
Revelation	20:8

Gog is mentioned primarily in Ezekiel and once in Revelation. It is also mentioned once as a descendant of Rueben (so this one is not the one spoken of in Ezekiel as the one in Ezekiel is not an Israelite). It is interesting to see what 2 different Bible dictionaries shows below:

**GOG** — (1.) A Reubenite (1 Chr. 5:4), the father of Shimei.

(2.) The name of the leader of the hostile party described in Ezek. 38,39, as coming from the “north country” and assailing the people of Israel to their own destruction. This prophecy has been regarded as fulfilled in the conflicts of the Maccabees with Antiochus, the invasion and overthrow of the Chaldeans, and the temporary successes and destined overthrow of the Turks. But “all these interpretations are unsatisfactory and inadequate. The vision respecting Gog and Magog in the Apocalypse (Rev. 20:8) is in substance a reannouncement of this prophecy of Ezekiel. But while Ezekiel contemplates the great conflict in a more general light as what was certainly to be connected with the times of the Messiah, and should come then to its last decisive issues, John, on the other hand, writing from the commencement of the Messiah’s times, describes there the last struggles and victories of the cause of Christ. In both cases alike the vision describes the final workings of the world’s evil and its results in connection with the kingdom of God, only the starting-point is placed further in advance in the one case than in the other.”

It has been supposed to be the name of a district in the wild north-east steppes of Central Asia, north of the Hindu-Kush, now a part of Turkestan, a region about 2,000 miles north-east of Nineveh.<sup>1</sup>

### **GOG**

1. Reubenite, Shemaiah’s son (1 Chr 5:4).
2. Individual described as the prince of Meshech who ruled over the land of Magog (Ez 38:2–21; 39:1–16). Magog was evidently a territory located far from Palestine whose inhabitants would attack Jerusalem in a final attempt to overthrow God’s people. The Lord, through Ezekiel, promised Gog a catastrophic defeat.

Attempts to identify Gog with some historical ruler have not been convincing. Gyges of Lydia, who drove out Cimmerian invaders, has been suggested, but equally probable are Gaga, mentioned in the Amarna tablets, and Gagi, king of the city-state of Sabi. Some have maintained a mythological interpretation, in which Gog is a symbol of evil actively opposing good. Certainly Gog—connected in Scripture with godless nations such as Gomer, Put, Persia, Sheba, and Tarshish—is depicted as leading an alliance of world powers in opposition to God. Gog also appears in Revelation (20:7–9), where Satan mobilizes Gog and Magog (i.e., the nations of the world) against God’s saints in a final battle. A literal view contemplates an attack on Jerusalem by hostile forces (cf. Zec 14), while a symbolic interpretation envisions a climactic conflict between good and evil.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Easton, M. (1996, c1897). *Easton's Bible dictionary*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

<sup>2</sup>Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W. (2001). *Tyndale Bible dictionary*. Tyndale reference library (544). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

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### Details gleaned from this prophesy

<b>Who</b>	Gog & his army (38:4), Persia, Cush, Put, Gomer, Beth Togarmah, the many nations with you (38:5)
<b>When</b>	After many days (38:8), in future years (38:8), On that day (38:10), In that day (38:14), in days to come (38:16), in that day (38:18)
<b>From where</b>	Of the land of Magog (38:2), you will come from your place in the far north (38:15)

### God brings Gog against Israel His people

- I will turn you around (38:4)
- Gog, I will bring you against My land (38:16)
- that I would bring you against them (38:17)
- I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains of Israel. (39:2)

I liked the description of God's act in the BKC

God will use Gog and all his allies as pawns in His larger plans for Israel. Yet the idea for attacking Israel also will originate with Gog. Gog will act freely to accomplish his own evil goals. He "will devise an evil scheme," 38:10.<sup>3</sup>

### Has this already happened?

It is doubtful. All these nations coming against Israel after the exile is not clearly recorded in history. God's reference to **that day** which He had spoken of, would seem to reference the Day of the LORD (39:8). You would think that the aftermath that God describes, would have been recorded in history: they will use the weapons as fire wood for 7 years, it will take 7 months to bury the dead, etc.

### Is this the great battle in Revelation ?

'The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million.'<sup>4</sup> This occurs on the 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet in Revelation 9:16.

(possibly, but we are told in Ezekiel 39:21 "I will display my glory among the nations, and all the nations will see the punishment I inflict and the hand I lay upon them."<sup>5</sup> " , this doesn't exactly line up with what is said in Rev 9:20)

### Is this Armageddon ?

In Rev 16:12, we are told that the armies are coming from the **east**. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> bowl judgment. But in Ezekiel we are told that Gog comes from the **north**. In addition this is not where Gog is mentioned in Revelation.

### Is this the final battle after the Millennium ?

In Revelation 20:7-10, we are told that satan is released after the 1000 years and that satan stirs up Gog & Magog to attack God.

<sup>3</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (1:1300-1301). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>4</sup>*The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (Re 9:16). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>5</sup>*The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (Eze 39:21). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

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This doesn't seem to fit here in Ezekiel either. Because we are told in Ezekiel chapter 39 how all the nations will know that God has taken care of Israel after this battle and it would seem that during the 1000 year reign the world would already know God since He has already finished the tribulation.

### Conclusion

For me the understanding of how to align the prophesy of Ezekiel 38-39 with end times or with prior history is unclear. I do know that if God says this has/will happen then it most certainly has/will happen.

By the way, a tidbit of info I came across in researching this was that Armageddon spans from the 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet through the 6<sup>th</sup> Bowl according to the BKC. I kept reading in Rev 16 looking for the end of the battle when Jesus comes to destroy the enemies with the sword of His mouth, but it was much further into Rev when this happens. I also had thought the 200 million man army was found closer to the Armageddon scripture and was surprised to find it many judgments apart.

### Prophecy Details

God has Ezekiel give 2 prophecies in chapter 38 and chapter 39 is one prophecy.

#### Prophecy 1

- Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal

This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

- I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.
- I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army
  - horses, horsemen fully armed, a great horde with large & small shields, brandishing their swords.
  - Persia, Cush and Put will be with them, also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you.
  - Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them.
- After many days you will be called to arms.
- In future years you will invade a land
  - that has recovered from war,
  - whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel,
  - which had long been desolate.
  - They had been brought out from the nations,
  - and now all of them live in safety.
  - You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm
  - you will be like a cloud covering the land.

This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

- On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme.
- You will say,
  - I will invade a land of unwalled villages
  - I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people
  - all of them living without walls and without gates and bars

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- I will plunder and loot
- turn my hand against the resettled ruins
  - the people gathered from the nations
  - rich in livestock and goods
  - living at the center of the land
- Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all her villages will say to you,
  - Have you come to plunder?
  - Have you gathered your hordes to loot, to carry off silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods and to seize much plunder?

### **Prophecy 2**

This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

- In that day, when My people Israel are living in safety, will you not take notice of it?
  - You will come from your place in the far north
  - you and many nations with you
  - all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army.
  - You will advance against My people Israel like a cloud that covers the land.
- In days to come, O Gog, I will bring you against My land,
  - so that the nations may know Me when I show Myself Holy through you before their eyes

This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

- Are you not the one I spoke of in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel?
- At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them.
- This is what will happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel,
  - My hot anger will be aroused, declares the Sovereign LORD.
  - In My zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.
    - The fish of the sea,
    - the birds of the air,
    - the beasts of the field,
    - every creature that moves along the ground,
    - and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at My presence.
    - The mountains will be overturned,
    - the cliffs will crumble
    - and every wall will fall to the ground.
- I will summon a sword against Gog on all My mountains, declares the Sovereign LORD.
  - Every man's sword will be against his brother.
  - I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed;
  - I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him.
- And so I will show My Greatness and My Holiness,
- and I will make Myself known in the sight of many nations.
- Then they will know that I am the LORD.

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### Prophecy 3

This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

- I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.
- I will turn you around and drag you along.
- I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains of Israel.
- Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand.
- On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you.
- I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion birds and to the wild animals.
- You will fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD.
- I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in safety in the coastlands,
- and they will know that I am the LORD.
- I will make known My Holy Name among My people Israel.
- I will no longer let My Holy Name be profaned,
- and the nations will know that I the LORD am the Holy One in Israel.
- It is coming! It will surely take place, declares the Sovereign LORD.
- This is the day I have spoken of.
- Then those who live in the towns of Israel will go out and use the weapons for fuel and burn them up
  - the small and large shields,
  - the bows and arrows,
  - the war clubs and spears.
  - For seven years they will use them for fuel.
  - They will not need to gather wood from the fields or cut it from the forests, because they will use the weapons for fuel.
  - And they will plunder those who plundered them and loot those who looted them, declares the Sovereign LORD.
- On that day I will give Gog a burial place in Israel, in the valley of those who travel east toward the Sea.
  - It will block the way of travelers, because Gog and all his hordes will be buried there.
  - So it will be called the Valley of Hamon Gog.
- For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land.
  - All the people of the land will bury them,
  - and the day I am Glorified will be a memorable day for them, declares the Sovereign LORD.
  - Men will be regularly employed to cleanse the land.
  - Some will go throughout the land and, in addition to them, others will bury those that remain on the ground.
  - At the end of the seven months they will begin their search.
  - As they go through the land and one of them sees a human bone, he will set up a marker beside it until the gravediggers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog.
  - Also a town called Hamonah will be there.
  - And so they will cleanse the land.'

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### This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

- Call out to every kind of bird and all the wild animals:
  - Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel.
  - There you will eat flesh and drink blood.
  - You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs, goats and bulls—all of them fattened animals from Bashan.
  - At the sacrifice I am preparing for you, you will eat fat till you are glutted and drink blood till you are drunk.
  - At My table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers of every kind declares the Sovereign LORD.
- I will display My glory among the nations,
  - and all the nations will see the punishment I inflict and the hand I lay upon them.
  - From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God.
  - And the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to Me.
  - So I hid My face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and they all fell by the sword.
  - I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses, and I hid My face from them.

### This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

- I will now bring Jacob back from captivity
- and will have compassion on all the people of Israel,
- and I will be zealous for My Holy Name.
  - They will forget their shame
  - and all the unfaithfulness they showed toward Me when they lived in safety in their land with no one to make them afraid.
- When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies,
- I will show Myself Holy through them in the sight of many nations.
- Then they will know that I am the LORD their God,
  - for though I sent them into exile among the nations,
  - I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind.
  - I will no longer hide My face from them,
  - for I will pour out My Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD.