MAGOG INVASION
Russia, Iran, and the Coming War: Ezekiel 38-39

INTRO: We are living in extremely exciting days. The events that have unfolded this last week are setting up the most important prophetic event since May 14, 1948 (the birth of the State of Israel) and the Six-Day War in 1967 where Israel recaptured Jerusalem, and that is the stage being set for the Magog Invasion of Ezekiel 38-39.

I. The Nations Involved. (38:1-6)
   A. (v. 2)
      1. “Gog” - Title like Pharaoh, Caesar, or Czar.

      2. “the land of Magog”
         a. Q = Why all these weird names?...
            1) NOTE: Have you ever wondered why the Biblical prophets always seem to refer to various peoples by such strange names? It's actually our fault!
            2) KEY: We keep changing the names of things!
               a) There once was a city known as Petrograd. For many years it was known as St. Petersburg. Then it was changed to Leningrad. Now it’s St. Petersburg again.
               b) The capital of the old world, Byzantium, was renamed Constantinople. Now that city is known as Istanbul.
               c) This occurs even in our own country. “Cape Canaveral” was renamed "Cape Kennedy", then 10 years later it became "Cape Canaveral" again.
            3) KEY: But we do not change the names of our ancestors!
               a) Q = If you were the prophet Isaiah and were called upon to speak of the Persians over a century before they emerged as an empire, how could you refer to them?... You would speak of them as the descendants of Elam, the forebears of the Persians (Cf. Isaiah 11:11; 21:2; 22:6).

      b. From the Text:
         1) Ezekiel 38:15; 39:2 - “the north parts”
            a) Possible countries: Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, and Russia
            b) NOTE: Moscow is directly north of Israel!
C. From History:

1) Hesiod, “the father of Greek didactic poetry,” identified Magog with the Scythians and southern Russia in the 7th century B.C. (Hesiod was a contemporary of Ezekiel.)

2) Herodotus, known as the “Father of History,” wrote extensively about the descendants of Magog by their Greek name, the Scythians, in the 5th century B.C.

3) Flavius Josephus records that Magogians were called Scythians by the Greeks. Philo, in the 1st century, identifies Magog with southern Russia.

3. “the chief prince” - some translate the prince of Rosh, as a proper name, but there is not likely.

4. “of Meshech and Tubal”
   a. Ancient name for the cities:
      1) Moscow and Tobolsk in Russia?
      2) Mushki and Tabal in Turkey?
         a) Either way, both of these countries are mentioned in this battle.

B. (v. 4)

2. “horsemen” - Heb. “cavalry; drivers”
   a. Usually refers to a rider, a horseman, serving in a military capacity (cf. Gen 50:9; Ex 14:9, 17-18, 23, 26, 28)
3. “all sorts of armor” - Heb. “splendor; perfection” - indicates magnificence and completeness
5. “shields” - Heb. “protectors”, as the protective scales of a dinosaur (Job 41:15), thus speaks of armor.
6. “swords” - Heb. “sword; knife; cutting tool”
   a. Could refer to propellers - sharp tool cutting the air.

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7. **NOTE**: Alternate translation of v. 4 - “And I will turn you around, and put hooks in your jaws, and I will bring you forth, and all your army, leapers and drivers, all of them clothed splendidly, a great company with large shields and protectors, all of them handling swords”

C. (v. 5)
1. “Persia” - Iran

D. (v. 6)
1. “Gomer” - Eastern Turkey
2. “the house of Togarmah” - Western Turkey

E. **Countries NOT mentioned:**
1. **Egypt** - On March 26, 1979, *(when I was 21 days old!)* Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in Washington, DC, bringing the 30-year state of war between them to an end. In accordance with the terms of the treaty, Israel withdrew from the Sinai peninsula, exchanging former ceasefire lines and armistice agreements for mutually recognized international boundaries.²

² From the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs website - http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/History+of+Israel/HISTORY-%20The%20State%20of%20Israel

2. **Jordan** - *(Edom, Moab, Ammon)* – Three years of talks between Jordan and Israel, following the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference, culminated in a declaration by King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (July 1994), which ended the 46-year state-of-war between their two countries. The Jordan-Israel peace treaty was signed at the Arava border crossing (near Eilat in Israel and Akaba in Jordan) on 26 October 1994, in the presence of American President Bill Clinton.

3. **Iraq** *(Babylon)* – Until 2003, there’s no way these other nations would invade Israel without Iraq! Saddam Hussein stated many times that he would destroy Israel!
   a. Cf. Isaiah 13-14; Jeremiah 50-51; Revelation 17-18
      1) For those of us that take a literal approach to Bible prophecy, Babylon, Iraq, will become the capitol of the world empire of
the AntiChrist and the center of the One Word Religious system, led by the Roman Catholic Church.

2) Q = Where is the world military forces focused right now?... Iraq and Syria fighting ISIS.

4. **Syria** - an *extremely* anti-Semitic country is not listed in this battle.

5. **Saudi Arabia** (v. 13 - “Sheba and Dedan”)
   a. Right now, there is an Islamic Civil War going on between the Sunnis and Shi’ites.
      1) Sunni = ISIS, Al Qaeda, & other terrorist groups
      2) Shia = Iran, Hezbollah, etc.
      3) **NOTE**: Shia Iran and the Sunni ISIS have a lot in common, including hatred of Israel and the West, and a desire to spread extremist Islam worldwide through violent jihad. However, the main battleground right now for this intra-Islam conflict is Syria.³
         a) The 2 sides split in the 7th century because they disagreed over who should succeed Islam's prophet Mohammed. Shias felt it should be someone from Mohammed's direct bloodline. Sunnis disagreed. They have frequently been in conflict ever since and differ in certain areas in their interpretation of Islam. The hostility can run deep. Sunni ISIS, for example, considers all Shiites apostates who must be killed.
         b) Middle East expert Elliot Chodoff says the reason for the current conflict runs deeper than religious differences. He notes that Shiite Iran has supported Sunni terrorist groups against Israel and the West. Chodoff, a major who is a reserve in the Israel Defense Forces, told CBN News that a desire for power and a desire for regional supremacy are the ultimate reasons that ISIS and Iran are fighting each other. Both want to dominate the region and are standing in each other's way. "In many ways, it's classic fascism," Chodoff said. "These are fascist, either regimes or organizations.” One interesting byproduct of ISIS's rise and Iran's march to nuclear weapons is the growing relationship between Israel and its Arab neighbors in Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. "They're working very, very closely with the Israelis because they have

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shared interests and shared concerns about the jihadis on both sides of this conflict," Levitt said.4

II. The Scenario of War. (38:7-13)

A. (v. 13)

1. “Sheba and Dedan” - Saudi Arabia


3. “all the young lions thereof” - possibly USA, British commonwealth of nations?

III. The Stage is Being Set Right Now.

A. The Military Alliance of Russia and Iran.

1. Historically, Russia and Iran have never had any alliances until recent years.

2. 7/14 - Iran nuclear deal announced

3. 7/24 - Iranian Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani, a terrorist, flew to Moscow to meet with senior Russian leaders despite a travel ban and U.N. Security Council resolutions barring him from leaving Iran.5

4. 8/18 - Russia sold Iran 4 S-300 surface-to-air missile systems6

   a. This gives Iran the ability to protect itself from Israeli and US airstrikes.

5. 9/26 - Russia sold Iran satellite equipment and aircraft for $21 billion7

   a. Iran will now be able to spy over Israel and all over the Middle East.

B. Russia has recently been invading other countries.

1. Georgia - 2008

2. Ukraine - 2014


6 http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/18/us-russia-iran-arms-idUSKCN0QN11B20150818

7 http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/26/us-russia-iran-contracts-idUSKCN0RQ0KX20150926

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a. 9/21 - Netanyahu flew to Moscow to meet Putin and discuss Russian activity in Syria.⁸
b. 9/29 - Putin warned Israel about targeting Iranian targets in Syria⁹

C. The Iran Nuclear Deal.

1. 10/1 - Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu spoke at the U.N.
   a. In his speech, he said, "Israel will continue to respond forcefully to any attacks against it from Syria. Israel will continue to act to prevent the transfer of strategic weapons to Hezbollah from and through Syrian territory... Ladies and Gentlemen, I have long said that the greatest danger facing our world is the coupling of militant Islam with nuclear weapons. And I’m gravely concerned that the nuclear deal with Iran will prove to be the marriage certificate of that unholy union. I know that some well-intentioned people sincerely believe that this deal is the best way to block Iran’s path to the bomb. But one of history’s most important yet least learned lessons is this: The best intentions don’t prevent the worst outcomes. The vast majority of Israelis believe that this nuclear deal with Iran is a very bad deal. And what makes matters even worse is that we see a world celebrating this bad deal, rushing to embrace and do business with a regime openly committed to our destruction. Last week, Major General Salehi, the commander of Iran’s army, proclaimed this: “We will annihilate Israel for sure.”; "We are glad that we are in the forefront of executing the Supreme Leader’s order to destroy Israel." And as for the Supreme Leader himself, a few days after the nuclear deal was announced, he released his latest book. Here it is. It’s a 400-page screed detailing his plan to destroy the State of Israel. Last month, Khamenei once again made his genocidal intentions clear before Iran's top clerical body, the Assembly of Experts. He spoke about Israel, home to over six million Jews. He pledged, “there will be no Israel in 25 years.” Seventy years after the murder of six million Jews, Iran’s rulers promise to destroy my country. Murder my people. And the response from this body, the response from nearly every one of the governments represented here has been absolutely nothing! Utter silence! Deafening silence...” (followed by 45 seconds of silence)

D. Russian and Iranian troops are now on Israel’s northern boarder.

1. 9/30 - On Wednesday, Russian warplanes began air strikes in Syria, bombing U.S.-backed units that were trained and armed by the CIA.¹⁰

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⁸ http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/21/netanyahu-meets-with-putin-over-concerns-of-russian-support-for-assad
⁹ http://debka.com/article/24913/Putin-warns-Israel-off-targeting-Iranian-targets-in-Syria-
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a. Russia is backing Syrian president Assad, while the US is arming and training militants trying to overthrow his regime.

2. 10/2 - Russia kills US-backed Syrian rebels in 2nd day of air strikes as Iran prepares for ground offensive.¹¹

3. NOTE: As teachers of Bible prophecy, we’ve asked the question over the years: How in the world will Russia be able to justify bringing troops to attack Israel?... The answer: They have now invaded Syria to help fight “terrorism” (ISIS) and have brought troops on the ground on the northern border of Israel.

4. KEY: The Russians have been drawn from the north, they are right on the border of Israel right now, Iran has brought in troops, and Russia has hit targets that include those that America is backing. Vladimir Putin and Obama both express great concerns over a coalition of the US Air Force and the Russian Air Force in the same small theater.

   a. I saw the tense press conference of Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State John Kerry. Lavrov said, with Kerry nodding along at his side, that they would “establish channels of communications to avoid any unintended incidents” between their militaries in Syria, as well as work on the “political process” for resolving Syria’s war. John Kerry called it discussions on “deconfliction”.

E. The Hook In the Jaw?

1. Russia’s collapsing economy.

   a. There have been Western sanctions over Russia’s annexation of Crimea and support for separatists in eastern Ukraine.

   b. One of the main reasons Russia has invaded Syria is to for Russia’s financial self-interest.

      1) Russia has an Islamist insurgence in Chechnya, and there are fears that ISIS victory in Syria may have reverberations there.

      2) According to CNN’s Matthew Chance in his article What is Russia up to in Syria¹², wrote, “Russia has commercial and military interests in Syria it very much wants to keep, but could lose in any Syrian regime change. These include, but are not limited to, a naval facility at Tartus, Russia’s only Mediterranean toe-hold. Russia has billions of dollars of commercial investments in Syria too, including oil and gas infrastructure, which it wants to protect.”


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c. Russia also wants to continue to have international influence.
   1) CNN Chance also wrote, “Russia’s support for Syria has become the latest front in a wider battle being fought by the Kremlin for influence on the international stage. Just as the Kremlin believes allowing Eastern Ukraine to be governed by pro-Western authorities in Kiev would spell the end of Russian influence in Ukraine, it also assesses Syria in a similar vein. If Syria falls, so too will Russian influence in the Middle East, already eroded by the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and the chaos in Libya. Its uncompromising support for Assad and apparent willingness to put boots on the ground -- just as it is accused of doing in Eastern Ukraine -- may shift the military balance in favor of Assad. But it will also send a strong message: that Russia, despite falling oil prices and Western sanctions, is still a force to be reckoned with.”

d. To save their economy, it would make sense to invade Israel and take their natural resources.
   1) Israel found a massive natural gas reservoir off the coasts of Haifa, and is being one of the largest natural gas suppliers in the world.13

2. Unfortunate event with conflicting Air Force planes?
   a. What if:
      1) US drone accidentally hits a Russian plane?
      2) Israeli plane hits a Syrian plane?
      3) US/Israeli planes hit Russia-backed Syrian targets?

   b. KEY: These jets go over 1,500 mph, and they are all flying over these small cities, and that’s a lot of hardware in a small area.

3. Coming Nuclear Destruction of Damascus?
      1) I do not believe that the “ruinous heap” would be made by the Russians or the USA. I think it would have to be Israel.
      2) Israel has made pre-emptive strikes in the past.
         a) 2007 - Israel bombed Syria’s nuclear installation in Al-Kibar.

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b) 2013 - Israel bombed a military research facility north of Damascus

3) PM Netanyahu said in his UN speech, “The days when the Jewish people remain passive in the face of genocidal enemies - those days are over!”

IV. The Results of the Coming War:

A. Radical Islam will be defeated.
   1. Cf. Ezekiel 38:16, 23; 39:6-7, 21-29 - They will know that YHVH is their God, not Allah.

B. Create a power vacuum that will allow the EU & Union for the Mediterranean to fill, setting up the stage for the AntiChrist.
   1. Cf. Daniel 2 & 7 - The Revived Roman Empire
      a. NOTE: Those nations that made up the Roman Empire are now together in the EU & the Union for the Mediterranean, except that Iraq (Babylon) has not joined this Union yet.

C. Allow the AntiChrist to bring peace between Israel and its neighbors, which will allow the Jews to rebuild their Temple.
   1. Cf. Daniel 9:27

V. The Timing of This Coming War:

C. Paul wrote to Titus, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” (Titus 2:13-14)
D. Paul, in writing to the church at Rome, said, “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and

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14 http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/05/03/18043900-israel-strikes-syrian-military-research-center-us-official-says
15 http://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/days-when-jews-are-passive-are-over-pm-says/
16 http://europa.eu/index_en.htm
17 http://ufmsecretariat.org
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_for_the_Mediterranean
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wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” (Romans 13:11-14)

E. Cf. Matthew 24:32-51
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