

# WHAT EZEKIEL 38-39 REVEALS

## About

### A FUTURE WORLD WAR III

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#### **Introduction and Context:**

The “latter day” prophecy found in Ezekiel 38-39 has long been seen by many Christians as a key prophecy describing events which will occur among the nations in the time preceding the Millennium (or Messianic Age). This is a lengthy and very “meaty” prophecy which needs a thorough examination in order to be understood and appreciated. This research paper has been prompted by the fact that so much is happening in world events which is directly setting the stage for the fulfillment of this prophecy in future world geopolitics. It is needful to warn as many people as possible about what will occur in the years ahead of us, because when it is fulfilled, it will shock all nations and it will drastically affect the lives of everyone on the planet. Ezekiel 38- 39 reveals, in advance, many details about a future World War III which will occur in the years ahead of us.

What is noteworthy about this prophecy is that it has God’s “guarantee” that he will personally intervene as needed to make sure it comes to pass exactly as prophesied. If you are interested in knowing the future, consider what Ezekiel 38-39 has to say. If you doubt that there is a Creator God who can influence or control world events, your doubts will also be addressed in this report. As a reassurance to all potential readers, this research paper will not “grind an ax” for or against any religious denomination and it will not ask you for money.

A common Christian view is that Ezekiel 38-39 is a pre-millennial prophecy about a Russian-led alliance which will attack the small Jewish-Israeli nation just prior to the second coming of Jesus Christ/Yahshua. A literal application of this prophecy shows this view is correct in terms of the time context of this attack and the fact that Russia will lead an alliance of nations to attack someone else. However, most Christians completely misunderstand which nations will be targeted by this attack due to a widespread misunderstanding of what is meant by the biblical/prophetic term “Israel.” This report is intended to apply the prophecies of Ezekiel 38-39 toward many modern nations. When applied literally, this prophecy is strikingly accurate in predicting the current alliances and geopolitics of the modern world and it reveals future events yet to occur. As the reader will see, these future events can be seen as an inevitable, logical, result of what is now occurring in modern world events; however, few believe that the future will unfold as the Bible prophesies. This research paper will first examine Ezekiel 38-39 in its proper context within the book of Ezekiel, and then it will examine the Ezekiel 38-39 prophecy in depth.

To begin with, it is necessary to examine this prophecy in context within the book of Ezekiel. Doing so will allow the reader to better understand this prophecy. This book contains a lengthy series of individual visions and/or prophecies given by God to the prophet Ezekiel. The Bible nowhere indicates that these prophecies are to be understood sequentially or chronologically.

Instead, *each prophecy in the book of Ezekiel has its own subject matter and time-setting. Each prophecy is also clearly marked by specific language so the reader can understand when each prophecy begins and ends.* Ezekiel 2 begins a long series of prophecies which God gave to Ezekiel

and the first prophecy is introduced with these words of God in verse 1: “Son of man...I will speak to you.” Another prophecy is introduced in Ezekiel 6:1 with the words: “And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying...” indicating that God was giving a new prophecy to Ezekiel which was distinct from the previous one. Another prophecy is introduced with the same wording in Ezekiel 7:1. New prophecies are introduced to the reader with similar language in Ezekiel 12:1, 13:1, 14:1, 14:12, 15:1, 16:1, etc. Approximately 26 such individual prophecies are introduced with similar introductory language between chapters 16 and 37. Some chapters contain two prophecies and other prophecies involve more than one chapter. Many subjects and time-settings are contained within these prophecies. It is obvious that they are not connected by any sequential flow. A key to understanding prophecies in the book of Ezekiel in their proper context is the realization that each time one encounters distinctive wording like “The word of the Lord came unto me, saying...,” a dividing mark is made between the previous prophecy and the new one. It is vital to understand this fact as we approach Ezekiel 37-39.

Ezekiel 37 contains two separate prophecies in one chapter while Ezekiel 38-39 contains a single prophecy. There is no language in the biblical text that indicates these three distinct prophecies should be understood as chronologically linked. Like the many prophecies contained in the previous chapters of Ezekiel, the three prophecies in Ezekiel 37-39 have their own unique subject matters and different time-settings.

### **The Two Prophecies of Ezekiel 37:**

Ezekiel 37:1-14 can be understood as a separate prophecy or as a continuation of the prophecy which began in 36:16. This is the famous “dry bones” prophecy, and it describes a future resurrection of all the deceased members of “the whole house of Israel” (verses 11-13). The term “whole house of Israel” is very expansive, and it includes anyone who was a member of any of the twelve tribes of Israel throughout history. This resurrection is not the resurrection of the righteous saints which occurs when the Messiah comes to the earth (i.e. the Second Coming of Christ). The resurrection at Christ’s return involves dead saints of any race who are given *spiritual, eternal bodies*. The resurrection of Ezekiel 37 is an entirely different resurrection. It is a mass resurrection of countless members of the “whole house of Israel.” This “exceedingly great” multitude is given sinews, flesh and skin and then receives “the breath of life” from the Creator. This resurrection is a partial glimpse of a general resurrection of all the dead who will be resurrected to a second life in a physical body. Revelation 20:1-5 reveals that all mankind from all ages (not just the Israelites) will be raised to life again in a massive resurrection to a second physical life. Rev. 20:5 adds that this resurrection of “the rest of the dead” occurs after the millennium/Messianic Age. This resurrection is also called “the great white throne” resurrection in Revelation 20:11.

The subject matter of Ezekiel 37:1-14 concerns the Israelite portion of the great resurrection of all deceased mankind to a second physical lifetime at *the end of the millennium*. It will be fulfilled *after* the millennial reign of the Messiah, and it clearly has no applicability to events to be fulfilled in this age in which we now live.

Ezekiel 37 contains a second and distinct prophecy in verses 15-28. It can easily be seen that this is a new prophecy, not a sequential prophecy linked to the previous “dry bones” prophecy. Verse 15 introduces the new prophecy with the standard language found in the book of Ezekiel which indicates the previous prophecy has concluded and a new one is beginning: “The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying...” This second prophecy has a subject matter about a time when the “house of Israel” (the ten tribes of Israel) are reunited with the members of the “house of Judah” (the tribes of Israel led by Judah). This reunion is symbolized by “two sticks” coming together, one for Joseph (the lead tribe of the ten tribes of Israel) and the other stick for Judah (the leading tribe of the house of Judah). Ephraim and

Manasseh jointly composed the tribe of Joseph. Christians of many denominations widely understand that “Judah” references the Jews. However, most Christian denominations wrongly assume that the northern ten tribes “died out” or became “lost” when they were exiled from the Promised Land. Nothing could be more biblically incorrect!

The critical matter of understanding who the tribes of Israel are in the modern world will be examined now as it is a point vital to understanding the prophecy in Ezekiel 38-39. **The Abrahamic Covenant and “Birthright” Promise:** God was bound by an unbreakable covenant with Abraham to make Abraham’s “birthright” descendants exceedingly numerous, prosperous and powerful. This covenant is described and affirmed by God many times in the book of Genesis, and its terms require review. The “birthright” promises of this covenant were given by Abraham to Isaac, then to Jacob and finally to the sons of Joseph: Ephraim and Manasseh (Genesis 48:8-22). Ephraim and Manasseh became the leading tribes of the tribes of Israel. The covenant between God and Abraham predated the covenant God made with Israel through Moses, and the Abrahamic covenant’s terms are not affected or rescinded by anything which happened (A) under the Mosaic covenant made at Mt. Sinai, and (B) the exile of the tribes of Israel from the Promised Land. *The Abrahamic covenant with the Israelite tribes remained in effect even after the Israelites were exiled from the Promised Land.* God himself affirmed this fact in Hosea 1. Hosea 1 prophesies that God will expel the house of Israel (the northern ten tribes) from their portion of the Promised Land, but he affirms that in the future he will still honor the Abrahamic covenant with them in verses 7-11. Even though he is expelling the northern ten tribes of Israel for their sins as required by the Covenant God made with Israel via Moses, God affirms that he will still convey great blessings upon the tribes *after their expulsion*, as required by God’s covenant with Israel through Abraham. Many Christians have missed this critical fact, and have therefore misunderstood Ezekiel 38-39.

God proclaims in Hosea 1:10 that after Israel’s tribes are exiled from the Promised Land, he will make “...the number of the children of Israel...as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered...” Remember that this blessing of huge population growth was to be inherited by the ten tribes of Israel *after they were expelled from the Promised Land for their sins!*

This statement confirms that God had not forgotten that he was immutably bound by his covenant with Abraham to convey the “birthright” blessings upon the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh (who led the ten tribes of Israel). The promise of exceptional population growth was a key part of the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 13:16, 17:2-7, 22:15-18). This prophecy precludes any possibility that the “ten tribes of Israel” could “die out” or “become lost” in history. In Jeremiah 51:5, God also declared that he would not forsake either “Israel” (the ten tribes) or “Judah” (the Jews) in the future. As the millennia passed by, the ten tribes of Israel gradually lost an awareness of their roots even though the Jews (“Judah”) retained an awareness that they were an Israelite tribe. When the ten tribes of Israel were expelled from the Promised Land by the terms of the Mosaic Covenant, it had the effect of ensuring that the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant would be poured out upon them in nations and lands *distant from their former inheritance in the Promised Land.*

An awareness of the modern locations of the tribes of Israel is critical in order to understand Ezekiel 38-39, and that is why this important digression is found at the beginning of this paper. As we will see, *the nations attacked in Ezekiel 38-39 are the latter-day descendants of the ten tribes of “Israel.”* While the Jews/Israelis are mentioned in a variety of latter-day prophecies, Ezekiel 38-39 is not one of them. Judah (the Jews) is not specifically mentioned at all in Ezekiel 38-39.

The modern nations of the ten tribes of Israel (because of the great blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant which God affirmed in Hosea 1 would still be applicable in the post-exilic period) must be

found in the modern world among the major nations of the earth. The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, which were fated to have wealth and national power in addition to large populations, must especially be found among the major powers or superpowers of the earth. Even as Ephraim and Manasseh were both sons of Joseph, their modern descendants will be “brother” nations with a common culture and language. The Abrahamic Covenant requires in Genesis 22:15-18 that the nations of Ephraim and Manasseh would be given the “gates” of their enemies (i.e., strategic chokepoints such as the Suez Canal, the Panama Canal, Gibraltar, etc.). The nations of Ephraim and Manasseh, the “birthright” tribes of Israel, also inherited a divinely-given clue of the Abrahamic Covenant that their offspring will be known by the name of Isaac (Genesis 21:12).

Since vowels were not written in ancient times, these Israelite tribes will be known by the consonants “S-C.” Names with these consonants (written different ways in different languages over the millennium) include such terms as “Sacaе,” “Saka,” etc.) The Romans substituted the Latin “x” for the Semitic “c” or “k” sound and rendered the name of the birthright tribes as “Saxons.” The Israelites were prophesied to become “many nations” (Genesis 17:1-7), far more than the single nation of Judah (the Jews). The tribe of Manasseh was prophesied to eventually become a mighty single nation while the tribe of Ephraim was prophesied to become a “multitude” (company or commonwealth) of nations (Genesis 48:14-19).

One reason why researchers have been unable to locate the tribes of Israel in history is that *they wrongly assume* they will be found in forsaken, tiny little knots of people around the globe with vestigial Jewish customs. Based on God’s decrees in Hosea 1 and Jeremiah 51, the ten tribes of Israel can only be found among the larger, wealthier, more powerful nations in history! While the nations of the ten tribes throughout history will be Semitic, they will not be “Jewish.” The tribe of Judah on the other hand, has always been recognized as Jewish.

For those who wish to read and review more evidence about the history and modern identifications of the tribes of Israel, a large body of evidence is available. This author has written a four-book series with abundant evidence and documentation tracing the tribes of Israel throughout history. Their migrations, wars, empires and modern locations are extensively detailed in these books, and it will provide the reader with an entirely new perspective on ancient history. These books may be previewed and ordered on-line at the publisher’s website: [www.bibleblessings.net](http://www.bibleblessings.net). These books contain photographs of key artifacts, hundreds of illustrations, copious endnotes and extensive bibliographies so readers can duplicate the same research and “prove all things.” Indeed, readers are urged to do so! Those who wish to read articles re: the Israelite tribes by this author can do so by accessing the “Christian Authors” link at: [www.israelite.info](http://www.israelite.info). Also, an Orthodox Jewish author, Yair Davidy, has also written a series of books which agrees with many of the main conclusions of this author’s books. Mr. Davidy utilized different sources in coming to his conclusions, and his books can be obtained at: [www.britam.org](http://www.britam.org).

These books and articles make it clear that there is a Creator God who is real and also engaged in the affairs of nations to guarantee that his prophecies are fulfilled in human events. Back to the prophecy of Ezekiel 37:15-28. In it, God prophesies that he will finally join together the “two sticks” representing the long-separated ten tribes of Israel and the house of Judah. This joining will occur at a time when ancient King David is resurrected to rule over the reunified tribes (verses 24-25). Since David is one of the saints listed in the “Faith” chapter of Hebrews 11 (see verse 32), this resurrection is the resurrection of the righteous saints to eternal life in spirit bodies at the *beginning* of the millennium/ Messianic Age. The time setting of this prophecy is at the very beginning of the millennium when the events of the “latter days” have all been concluded and the resurrection of all deceased saints occurs. It is worth noting

that the descendants of the ten tribes of Israel in this prophecy (Ezekiel 37:21) are gathered by God “*from among the heathen whither they be gone...*” Since this prophecy is fulfilled as the millennium/Messianic Age dawns, all the tribes of Israel have to be present on the earth in order for them to be gathered together and joined to the house of Judah (the Jews). It also must be pointed out that this re-joining of all the tribes of Israel does not occur until King David is resurrected to be their collective king! This means that the ten tribes of Israel cannot be found among the tribe of Judah (the Jews) in our current time. They will be found “among the heathen” (i.e. they will be non-Jewish nations), and scattered around the world far from the old Promised Land. A prophecy in Zephaniah 2:6-10 (rightly regarded by many Christians as prophesying the founding of the modern Jewish/Israeli nation in 1948) indicates that only the tribe of Judah (the Jews) will be living in the old Promised Land at the end of this age. The other tribes of Israel will be living elsewhere.

### **Prophetic Time-Setting of Ezekiel 38-39:**

The next prophecy in the book of Ezekiel is the subject of this paper. It is the famous prophecy about the attack of “Gog and Magog” *against the nations of Israel* in the latter days. This prophecy begins in Ezekiel 38:1 with the usual introductory words used throughout the book of Ezekiel which indicate a previous prophecy has concluded and a new one is beginning. This language is the now-familiar: “And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying...,” and this new prophecy continues through Ezekiel 39:29. *The language in Ezekiel 38:1 makes it clear that the prophecy contained in Ezekiel 38-39 cannot be a continuation of any prophecy contained in Ezekiel 37.* The prophecy which God gave to Ezekiel in chapters 38-39 has a subject matter and time context of its own and it is not a continuation of any previous prophecy in the book of Ezekiel.

At the end of Ezekiel 39, the long string of prophecies in the book of Ezekiel ends, and its later chapters discuss matters pertaining to the Temple and new land inheritances for Israel’s tribes at the beginning of the millennium. As the final prophecy in a long progression of prophecies in the book of Ezekiel, Ezekiel 38-39 needs to be seen as the climactic prophecy which it truly is. There is much material to cover in Ezekiel 38-39, but first some contextual comments are needed. It is now obvious that the three separate prophecies contained in Ezekiel 37-39 are not sequential. Indeed, they are in three different, biblical “ages,” and they are written in *reverse* time order. The “dry bones” prophecy in the first half of Ezekiel 37 will be fulfilled in a Judgment Age *after the millennium concludes* and after a second resurrection has occurred. The “two sticks” prophecy at the end of Ezekiel 37 has a time-setting which occurs *at the very beginning of the millennium* just after the first resurrection of the saints (including King David) occurs at the return of the Messiah: Jesus Christ/Yahshua. These two prophecies are obviously not in a forward chronological sequence. They are in a reverse chronological sequence as the first prophecy in Ezekiel 37 will be fulfilled 1000 years *after* the second prophecy contained within Ezekiel 37! If one wishes to assume the prophecies of Ezekiel 37-39 are in a chronological sequence, the *reverse chronological sequence* of Ezekiel 37’s prophecies should be continued into Ezekiel 38-39. This means Ezekiel 38-39’s prophecy should have a time-setting in an age earlier than the preceding prophecy in Ezekiel 37:15-28 even as the prophecy of Ezekiel 37:15-28 had a time-setting one thousand years *earlier* than the “Dry Bones” prophecy which preceded it. Interestingly, that is exactly the case as God reveals Ezekiel 38-39 will be fulfilled during “the latter days,” the climactic years at the end *of our current age* before the Millennium/Messianic Age begins.

There can be no doubt about the time-setting for Ezekiel 38-39’s prophecy as God states very clearly when it will be fulfilled. All that is needed is to accept God’s Word at face value. Ezekiel 38:16 states the prophecy will be fulfilled “*in the latter days,*” which is the same prophetic phrase commonly

used for many other biblical, pre-millennial prophecies. Indeed, this biblical language is so clear that virtually all Christian denominations do take it at face value and understand that it will be fulfilled at the end of our modern age just prior to the return of Jesus Christ.

A second time-dating statement for this prophecy is found in Ezekiel 38:8 which states this prophecy will be fulfilled “*in the latter years*” (KJV). This wording comes from a very closely related phrase indicating the latter years of this age instead of the latter days of this age, but the expressions reinforce each other. Ezekiel 38:8 also adds this prophecy will be fulfilled “after many days.” This wording indicates the prophecy would be fulfilled in a time far into the future from when it was originally given to the prophet Ezekiel. The evidence is abundant that Ezekiel 38-39 will be fulfilled in the latter days (and years) of this age *just prior* to the return of the Messiah/Jesus Christ/Yeshuah.

### **The “Evil Alliance” led by Gog:**

The subject matter of the Ezekiel 38-39 prophecy reveals many details about a surprise attack to be launched by an alliance led by “Gog” against the latter-day descendants of the ten tribes of Israel. Who is “Gog” and who are the nations led by Gog who will launch this attack at the climax of our age? The attacking and defending nations named in Ezekiel 38 are so numerous that it will constitute a World War III which will have a destructive nature far in excess of World Wars I and II combined.

Ezekiel 38:1-7 reveals who Gog and its allies are. The first names mentioned are “Gog, the land of Magog... Meshech and Tubal...” The term “Gog” comes from the Hebrew word “Rosh” which means “head” or “chief.” It means either the individual who is the “chief” or leader of this alliance or the nation which “heads” it. The “land of Magog” is identified with the region of Asia which is within the modern territory of Russia.<sup>1</sup> Gog is identified as “the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.” These entities have long been identified by Christian teachers as designating Russia in the modern world, and they are correct. There is much support for this designation. Ancient words did not have vowels so words can be traced into modern times by their consonants. The consonants of Meshech and Tubal are “M-S(h)-C(h)” and “T-B-L.” The chief city of Russia is Moscow, and the first three consonants of Moscow match the principle consonants of Meshech (i.e. “M-S-C”).

The consonants of Tubal (“T-B-L”) can be seen preserved in the Russian city of Tobolsk and the Tobol River in Russia as well as in the Georgian city of Tblisi, which was long a part of the old Soviet Union. According to Ezekiel 38-39, Russia will lead the attacking alliance. Russia led the USSR in creating an anti-American and anti-Western alliance of Communist nations during the decades of the Cold War. Who are named in Ezekiel 38 as Russia’s latter day allies?

The allies of Russia will constitute a “great company” (verse 4) and verses 5-6 identify Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer, Togarmah and many others who are not named. Many of these nations can be identified in the modern world, and most are already cooperating with Russia in the modern world. Persia is the region now called Iran. In ancient times, these people were known as the Medo-Persians. The word “Medes” is derived from the word for their forbear named “Madai,” a son of Japheth in Noah’s formative family. It was Noah’s family which repopulated the earth after the Deluge and Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. All modern nations have descended from one of these three sons of Noah or from a mixture of these three main branches of mankind.

All modern nations have descended from the sons and grandsons of Noah who are named in Genesis 10. A prophecy about Noah’s sons is found in Genesis 9:25-29. It states Shem was to be “blessed of God,” indicating his descendants would grow into prosperous nations and foreshadowing the fact that they would include the “birthright” nations of the tribes of Israel which would later descend from Abraham. Canaan, one of the sons of Ham, was cursed for a specific sin and his descendants were

destined to be in a state of servitude or subordination to Shem's descendants. However, this biblical curse applies only to Canaan's descendants, not the other branches of Ham's family. Japheth's descendants were to be "enlarged," indicating his descendants would be the most numerous of the three major groupings. Shem's descendants generally include Caucasian and European nations as well as Jews, Turks, Arabs, etc. Hamitic nations include the Black- and Brown-skinned nations of Asia and Africa (i.e. ancient Egypt was long known as Mizraim, the name of one of the sons of Ham). The nations of Japheth are identified with the Oriental nations of Asia. The listing of formative nations in Genesis 10 is important because the Bible utilizes these ancient biblical names in Ezekiel 38 to describe the destinies of modern nations.

Iran (Persia) is a radical Islamic nation which has been very anti-American since the Ayatollahs overthrew the Shah. Iranian leaders refer to the United States as "the Great Satan" and the Israeli nation as "the little Satan." As this paper is being written, Iran is building nuclear facilities and European nations led by England, France and Germany have been attempting via diplomacy to motivate Iran to abandon its nuclear industry. These efforts appear to be unsuccessful. Iran obviously does not need nuclear facilities for energy as it is one of the leading nations of OPEC with large reserves of oil. This argues that the real goal of Iran is to build nuclear weapons. Media articles and reports have long identified Russia as the supplier and builder of Iran's nuclear facilities so Ezekiel 38-39's identification of Iran as a Russian ally is accurate. The United States has lobbied Russia to cease exporting its nuclear skills to the Iranians, but Russia has "stiffed" these American requests. As this paper was being written, media articles have speculated about whether the USA and/or Israel will launch a preemptive strike against Iran to prevent it from becoming a nuclear power. If this happens, Iran will crave revenge against America and be driven ever-closer into an alliance with Russia. However, since Iran is already allied to Russia via its nuclear program and is very anti-American, no preemptive strike is needed to place Iran in the Russian orbit. It is already there, exactly as Ezekiel 38 prophesied.

The next nation named as Russia's ally is "Ethiopia," translated in the *King James Version* of the Bible from the Hebrew word for "Cush." Cush's descendants do include the nation of Ethiopia in the Horn of Africa, but they are only a small portion of Cush's descendants. Most Cushites migrated eastward toward and into the Indian subcontinent and the name of their forefather Cush is still on the "Hindu Kush" mountains along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Hindu Kush region is where Al Qaeda had its infamous terrorist training camps that were attacked by the USA in the aftermath of Al Qaeda's attack upon the USA on 9/11. This region is inhabited by tribes with much sympathy for Al Qaeda and the Taliban and it has long been rumored as a likely hiding place for Osama Bin Laden. While the USA is attempting to create a pro-Western government in Afghanistan, Islamic warlords control most of the nation.

Pakistan is another Cushite nation sharing the Hindu Kush Mountains. While Pakistan's current government is pro-Western, much of Pakistan's Islamic population is anti-American. India is a Hindu Cushite nation which is Islamic Pakistan's rival. India is a democracy and that fact would seem to argue against it becoming an enemy of the USA and the West. However, during the Cold War India was largely anti-American and much of its military equipment was imported from Russia. In recent years, India has been drawn closer to the USA and other western nations due to the outsourcing of English-speaking jobs from the USA and the rest of the English-speaking world to India. It is not clear how many of the modern Cushite nations will join Ezekiel 38's "evil alliance" headed by Russia. Ezekiel 38 specifically prophesies (as we will see) that some Cushites will not join Russia's alliance so it is not clear which Cushite nations will join Russia's alliance. India is the biggest "wild card." Future events will reveal the answer.

The next nation named in Ezekiel 38 as an ally of Russia is “Libya.” The Hebrew word translated “Libya” is “Phut” or Put.” Phut is a nation descended from Phut, a son of Ham (Genesis 10:6), and *Young’s Analytical Concordance to the Bible* (October, 1978 Ed.) defines Phut /Libya as “. . .the region W[est] from Egypt along the African coast.”<sup>2</sup> This describes the region which includes Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, etc. Again, as for “Cush,” Ezekiel’s prophecy does not specifically state “all of Phut” will join Russia’s alliance, so time will tell whether all or part of this region joins Russia. Libya’s Col. Khaddafi was long a very anti-American leader in Russia’s orbit, but has apparently given up his nuclear program in the aftermath of the War on Terrorism. Given the prophecy in Ezekiel 38, only time will tell if Libya’s move toward the West is genuine or not. Algeria has a strong radical Islamic faction while Morocco has been friendly with the western nations.

The next nation identified as an ally in Russia’s alliance is “Gomer,” identified in Genesis 10:2-3 as one of the sons of Japheth. Ezekiel 38:6 refers to “Gomer *and all his bands*,” indicating that Gomer will have an extremely large population and it will have many internal ethnic groups defined as “bands.” The nations of Japheth are found in Oriental regions of Asia and the most populous nation is China. China is an aggressively anti-American and anti-Western nation in the modern world. It is building its military strength at a rapid rate and is perennially at odds with the USA over the issue of Taiwan. China is the largest Communist nation on the earth and while it has “loosened up” to entice western factories and investments, it is still a totalitarian nation. It is also becoming more closely allied to Russia as recent media reports have confirmed that Russia is supplying advanced weaponry to China. Russia and China have also agreed to conduct joint military exercises. Russia and China were the two heads of the world Communist alliance which opposed the USA and the West in the Cold War, and Ezekiel 38-39 reveals they will be allies in the final war of this age.

### **China and America Heading for Conflict:**

China is preparing for an asymmetrical war against America and the West. Whether by accident or design, it has a cunning strategy to forestall American intervention in behalf of Taiwan if China attacks the pro-Western island nation. For many years, China has attracted a prodigious number of factories from America and other Western nations to its soil via the allure of cheap labor costs. The label “Made in China” is now ubiquitous for clothing, electronics, etc. for sale in America. The American government has been strangely passive as American global corporations have relocated their production facilities to China. This is a growing political issue in American elections because vast numbers of manufacturing jobs were lost when these facilities were relocated to China. *China is effectively stealing the industrial capacity of America without having to wage war to obtain it* and America has an incurable and massive trade deficit with China as a result. China has also been unusually willing to help finance America’s insatiable lust for deficit spending as China has purchased immense amounts of America’s Treasury debt offerings. America has benefited temporarily from this arrangement with artificially low inflation and interest rates for its domestic economy, but China has arranged a cunning trap for a gullible America.

America is in an increasingly dangerous security situation with China. If China attacks Taiwan, America has long proclaimed that it will come to Taiwan’s aid. However, China is now in a position to issue an ultimatum to America to “stay out.” China’s ultimatum could declare that if the USA militarily aids Taiwan, China will (A) refuse to buy any US government debt for many years, (B) it will dump all its holdings of US Treasury debt on the world markets, (C) nationalize all production facilities of all American corporations now located in China and (D) double or triple the price of all goods sold to America from these production facilities. America would face a Faustian choice. Any American presi-

dent or political party who “abandoned Taiwan” (while cable-TV stories documented the slaughter of a multitude of people in Taiwan as they pleaded for US help) would be politically ruined, and America’s credibility as an ally would evaporate all over the world if it abandoned Taiwan. If America abandoned Taiwan to a Chinese invasion, such nations as Japan and South Korea would have little choice but to quickly develop nuclear weapons of their own as America’s credibility as a defender would become non-existent.

China has cunningly created an ability to collapse the US economy if the USA militarily helps Taiwan. China is a Communist nation which still remembers the Communist adage about capitalists being willing to sell to the Communists the very rope on which the Communists will hang the capitalist nations. China’s trade and monetary policies have been designed for years to create the ability to “hang” the USA and the capitalist, Western nations in a crisis over Taiwan. On the other hand, the USA has some “high cards” of its own to play if China opts for “hardball” with the USA. Indeed, if America did not rise to meet such a possible Chinese challenge, America’s superpower era would be over.

If China issues the above ultimatums to the USA, the USA can respond with these tough measures: (A) It can declare China’s threat “an act of war” and declare all US Treasury debt instruments bought or held by the Chinese to be non-negotiable and forever “null and void,” (B) it can place high tariffs on all Chinese goods, (C) effectively “foreclose” on nationalized US factories in China by launching hundreds of cruise missiles to destroy these facilities so the Chinese cannot use them, and (D) convert the trillion dollars or so “saved” by the voiding of all Chinese-held US debt instruments into interest-free loans to US companies to rebuild their production facilities in the USA.

China is a growing military power and it has many missiles aimed at Taiwan. Will a military confrontation between the USA and China over Taiwan happen? While such a confrontation seems likely, it is possible that a shooting war between America and China over Taiwan will not occur. However, if it does occur, America and China will become greater enemies regardless of the outcome and a vengeful China will be drawn ever-closer to Russia. It is even possible that a war over Taiwan could become a flashpoint (or a precursor) for the world war prophesied by Ezekiel 38-39.

Financial markets and diplomats like to gloss over the worsening situation between the USA and China, but the above risks are obvious to serious observers of world geopolitics. America’s self-destructive willingness to allow its critical production facilities to be effectively “stolen” by the Communist Chinese makes no sense. Why has the USA allowed this to happen? The only reason apparent to this author is that America and its western allies are trying to use economic relationships to so closely link China to America and other western nations that war between them becomes unthinkable. This policy worked well with Germany and Japan after World War 2 so it is apparently being attempted with China as well. Biblical prophecy makes it clear that this policy will fail in regards to China. China will be part of an alliance which attacks America in the latter days. Every facility America relocates to China will eventually be used against America in a future war. China will be a major ally in the Russian-led alliance of Ezekiel 38-39.

### **Other Members of Gog’s Alliance:**

The next member of Russia’s latter-day alliance to be identified in Ezekiel 38-39 is “Togarmah of the north quarters and all his bands.” Togarmah was a son of Gomer (Genesis 10:2-3), so it is closely-related to the Chinese ethnically. This group is also described as being very populous and having many ethnic groups (“bands”). It will be located in the “northern” regions of Asia and its close relationship with Gomer indicates it will be located just north of Gomer’s latterday descendants. With Gomer identi-

fied as China's many ethnic groups, Togarmah would dwell in the regions located to the north of mainland China: Mongolia, Siberia and perhaps Manchuria and North Korea. All these regions are already in China's or Russia's territory or their spheres of influence. North Korea is especially anti-American and will logically be part of Russia and China's anti-American alliance. However, South Korea has long been pro-western, and another part of Ezekiel 38 indicates it will remain pro-western.

After identifying the above nations and regions as part of Russia's alliance, Ezekiel 38:6 adds the phrase "and many people with you," allowing for other unnamed nations to a part of this Russian-led alliance. From what the Bible reveals, it will be an alliance of Russia, China and Iran along with other Communist or east-bloc nations and radical Islamic nations in South-Central Asia and North Africa. Given today's headlines, this biblical prophecy is already proving to be strikingly accurate.

This Russian-led alliance is prophesied in Ezekiel 38:4 to be heavily-armed. Russia has more nuclear warheads than any nation on earth, China is in the midst of a prodigious weapons build-up, and Iran is becoming a nuclear power with Russia's help. China has the greatest reserve of manpower in the world to furnish soldiers for this alliance.

### **The Target of Gog's Attack:**

Ezekiel 38:8 states that this prophecy will be fulfilled far in the future from when Ezekiel first received it in the 6th century A.D., and that it would be fulfilled in the "latter years" of this age. This verse prophesies the "evil alliance" led by Gog will: "...come into the land that is brought back from the sword and is *gathered out of many peoples*, against the mountains of *Israel*, which have been *always waste*; but it is *brought forth out of the nations* and they shall dwell safely all of them." (Emphasis added.) Many Christians assume that this prophecy designates the Jewish/Israeli nation in the Middle East as the target of this attack, but that is based on a non-literal, mistaken application of this prophecy. It is true that the Jews have had a Diaspora and that leads a cursory reader to assume it means the Israelis. However, when biblical prophecy refers to the descendants of the tribe (or house) of Judah, it calls them "Judah," not "Israel." Such references to the Jews/Israelis are found in Zephaniah 2 (where the term "Judah" is used in a prophecy about the founding of the Jewish State in 1948) or Zechariah 14 (where "Judah" is used for the Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem and the Israeli nation who are also involved in the great world war at the climax of this age). When the Bible prophesies about Jews/modern Israelis, it uses the term "Judah." When the Bible refers to the descendants of the ten tribes of Israel, it uses the term "Israel." Ezekiel 38-39 doesn't mention "Judah" as a target of the attack by Russia and its allies in the latter days. The target of this attack in this prophecy is described by such terms as:

- Ezekiel 38:8 — "Mountains of Israel"
- Ezekiel 38:16 — "my people of Israel"
- Ezekiel 38:18 — "the land of Israel"
- Ezekiel 39:7 — "my people Israel"
- Ezekiel 39:12 — "the house of Israel"
- Ezekiel 39:22-23 — "the house of Israel"

Clearly, the nations of modern "Israel" (not "Judah") are the primary target of Gog's attack in the latter days. This term "Israel" must be seen in its proper biblical context. In Genesis 48:14-16, *the man named "Israel" (who previously was named "Jacob") placed his own personal name on Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh*. From that point forward in the Bible, the term "Israel" applies mostly to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, but broadly to all the tribes of the "house of Israel" (the ten tribes of Israel led by Ephraim and Manasseh). Illustrating this point is the fact that even during the times of the United Kingdom of Israel under Kings David and Solomon, the northern ten tribes were called "Israel"

and the southern tribes led by Judah were called “Judah” (II Samuel 5:5 and I Kings 4:20-21). After the Israelite tribes divided into two separate kingdoms called Israel and Judah, they fought many wars against each other. To modern readers, such references as II Kings 16:5-6 and II Chronicles 13 sound contradictory because they describe wars in which Israel fought against the Jews/Judah. In the modern world, the terms “Israel” and “Jewish” are seen as synonymous, but they are not synonymous in biblical usages. The modern world would understand these biblical definitions much easier if the Jews in 1948 had called their new Middle Eastern nation “Judah” (after the ethnicity of the nation) instead of “Israel” (after the land where Israel and Judah both lived in biblical times).

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah confirm that Israel and Judah never reunited. Only contingents of Judah’s tribes (Judah, Benjamin and Levi) reestablished a Jewish enclave in the old Promised Land in those books. The famous Jewish historian, Josephus, also noted in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD that the ten tribes of Israel were not living anywhere near Judea. Indeed, Josephus recorded the nations of the ten tribes of Israel in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD were extremely numerous nations which were located outside the Roman Empire.<sup>3</sup> Since Josephus even names one of the geographic borders of the ten tribes of Israel at that time, it is easy to identify them in that era. The locations in which the ten tribes of Israel lived at that time are documented in the third book of this author’s 4-book series on the history of the ten tribes of Israel (see [www.bibleblessings.net](http://www.bibleblessings.net)).

Ezekiel 38-39 prophesy that Russia’s alliance will attack the latter-day nations of the ten tribes of Israel just prior to the end of this age which will be climaxed by Divine intervention in human affairs. As noted above, the ten tribes of “Israel” are led by Ephraim and Manasseh, the “birthright” tribes. Therefore, the attack of Gog’s alliance in Ezekiel 38-39 is primarily directed at the modern nations of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh! Biblical clues given earlier in this paper revealed that these tribes/nations will have large populations, possess strategic geographic chokepoints, have great national power and wealth, and that they will be “brother” nations with a common culture with Manasseh being a single great nation and Ephraim being a company or group of nations. These nations can only be the United States of America and Great Britain. No other nations can fit the prophesied descriptions of Ephraim and Manasseh. The single great superpower nation of Manasseh is the USA and its powerful brother nation of Ephraim, which was destined to grow into several nations, is Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. These nations also bear the name of Isaac (“Saxon” in English or “Sachsisch” in German) upon them as prophesied in Genesis 21:12 and have long enjoyed a “special relationship.” The reason for this is that they are the descendants of the two leading “brother” tribes of Israel. The remaining nations of the ten tribes of Israel are found primarily in Europe and Scandinavia. Abundant and conclusive biblical and secular evidence for these identifications are found in the fourth book of this author’s 4-book series on the history of the tribes of Israel.

It is easily seen in the Bible’s prophecies that the ten tribes could not die out or become insignificant nations. We have seen in Hosea 1 that God prophesied they would become very large nations in the future *after* they were exiled from the Promised Land. Genesis 49, Jeremiah 30, Revelation 7 and other prophecies confirm that the Bible asserts all of the ten tribes of Israel will be present and active among the nations of the world in the “latter days” and throughout human history. Those who declare the ten tribes died out or cannot be found inadvertently deny the Bible because God Himself emphatically prophesied otherwise!

The ten tribes of Israel in the modern world are found in NATO, the EEU and other multinational entities led by the nations of North America and Europe. These nations are also, in our modern times, the nations most hated, envied and opposed by the nations in the Russian-led alliance, so this grouping of modern rival alliances has perfectly fulfilled the prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39. Indeed, the ancient prophecy

found in Ezekiel 38-39 precisely predicted the opposing alliances of the modern world. During the Cold War, a Communist alliance led by Russia and China opposed the western alliance led by the western nations of NATO which was founded and led by the USA and the UK. The “Cold War” ended with the fall of the Soviet Union, but Russia and China are being joined by Iran and other radical Islamic nations in a new anti-American, anti-Western alliance. The USA and UK remain allied to many European nations in NATO and to other non-NATO nations in the western world’s economy. The fact that a prophecy written thousands of years ago is now coming to pass in great detail in our current age is striking evidence that an all-powerful Creator inspired the Bible and is guiding world events to ensure his prophecies are fulfilled.

While Judah is not specifically named in the prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39, other biblical prophecies (Jeremiah 30 for example) make it clear that Judah will be an ally of the ten tribes of Israel in the latter days, and the Israelis are solidly part of the Western World’s culture and economy. Jeremiah 30 clearly shows Judah will be attacked at the same time as the nations of the modern house of Israel are attacked in the “latter days” of this age. While Zechariah 14 is a prophecy about the role of “Judah” in this latter day war, Ezekiel 38-39 is a prophecy about the role of the ten tribes of “Israel” in this same war.

Ezekiel 38:8’s wording shows the primary target of the Russian-led attack will be a nation which is “gathered out of many people.” In other words, it is a “melting pot” nation. The United States of America fits that prophetic description perfectly and it is also the leading nation of the Western alliance and is the nation most hated by the Russian-led alliance. It is entirely logical that the USA would be the “number one target” of an attack by the east-bloc and radical Islamic states. The USA was always the primary enemy of Russia during the entire Cold War period, China is increasingly hostile to the USA and Iran now calls the USA “the Great Satan.” These nations have learned their history well. The lesson of World Wars I and II is that the USA will become an unstoppable “arsenal of Democracy” if it is unscathed and free to supply and reinforce its European allies (the other tribes of the ten tribes of Israel). The Russian-led alliance will logically assume that if the USA is “taken out” in an initial strike, the European Democracies and the rest of America’s allies cannot fight on and win by themselves.

Ezekiel 38:8 also refers to “the mountains of Israel which have always been waste.” This cannot possibly mean the central highlands of the Israeli nation for two reasons: (A) they are not high enough to be true mountains and (B) they have most assuredly not been “always waste.” Many civilizations and cities have risen and fallen in the highlands of the Promised Land and their ruins are numerous and widespread. However, one can fly over the Rocky Mountains of North America and not see any sign of human habitation over much of its expanse. Again, this prophecy describes North America, not the Israeli nation.

Ezekiel 39:9 and 15 gives more detail about the Russian-led attack against the West in the latter days. The attacking alliance will “come like a storm...like a cloud” and it will mostly come “from the north” with many armed forces. The ancient imagery of this latter-day attack aptly foretells the fact that military attacks in our time will be initiated with aerial attacks by airplanes and missiles (which travel through the atmosphere like storms and clouds). During the Cold War, it was widely understood that Russia would likely attack “from the north” (i.e. “over the north pole”), and America and Canada positioned their defenses in that direction. While Great Britain and Europe could easily be attacked from the east, they would also be attacked from the north as Russia has much of its naval and long-range bomber forces stationed north of Europe in the Kola Peninsula. Russia also has military forces stationed in the far north of the European continent at Kalinigrad on the Baltic Sea. China and its allies would logically attack Australia and New Zealand from the north.

### **The Motive for the Attack:**

Ezekiel 38:10-12 gives us the motive for this attack. Russia, China, Iran and their allies will attack the nations of the West to “take a spoil...cattle and goods.” The attacking nations are envious of the wealth of the West and they will mistakenly think that the nations of the West have become “soft targets” that can be defeated and occupied in a surprise attack. Notice that the primary motive is to seize the wealth of the West, not annihilate its people (who can either be killed later or used for slave labor after Gog’s expected triumph). Nuclear weaponry would destroy the very goods and wealth that the Chinese, Russians, etc. wish to seize. While this does not rule out some nuclear weapons being used in the initial strike, the prophecy’s language indicates conventional weapons will dominate this attack. In this respect, the attack can be seen as an attack of the “have-nots” of the world against the “have” nations of the world. The nations of the house of Israel enjoy the Divinely-decreed blessings of the covenant God made with Abraham, and the attacking nations will be so envious of these blessings that they will seek to steal them. Ezekiel 38:11 also prophesies that this will be a surprise attack against the nations of modern Israel (i.e. a climactic “Pearl Harbor” surprise attack).

Verse 11 personifies the nations of modern Israel as “dwelling without walls” and “having neither bars nor gates.” This is very appropriate ancient terminology for a people who have foolishly “let down their defenses.” An ancient city’s primary defensive weapons against attack were a strong wall and strong gates which could withstand sieges, battering rams, etc. A city without walls and gates was a “sitting duck” for an attacker. Modern readers who have seen such epic movies as “El Cid” or the recent “Lord of the Rings” series and the movie “Kingdom of Heaven” can easily understand this prophetic imagery. This imagery has accurately foretold the rapid disarmament which has been implemented in the Western nations of the House of Israel since the “Cold War ended.” The West has dramatically smaller military forces than during the Cold War ended, and even the “superpower” USA now has such a small army that it is straining to meet its obligations to stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan. Indeed, by accident or design, the East Bloc nations have, by “losing” the Cold War, succeeded in weakening the West’s defense of its own homelands. Also, by involving American and western forces in a variety of wars which tie down America’s reduced military forces abroad, America’s enemies have ensured that fewer forces are actually available to defend American home soil.

### **Nations NOT attacking the Western Alliance:**

The content of Ezekiel 38-39 examined so far might lead some readers to assume that all the Israelite, Caucasian and Semitic nations will be attacked by nations descended from Ham and Japheth. Ezekiel 38:13 shows that to be an incorrect concept. Verse 13 foretells that when Gog’s attack begins, several nations question (or object to) it. They are “Sheba, Dedan...[and] the merchants of Tarshish with all the young lions thereof.” This prophecy poses both clear answers and interesting questions. While Ezekiel 38:5 stated “Cush” was among the attacking allies of Russia and China, verse 13 states “Sheba and Dedan” will not be among the attackers. Genesis 10:6-7 reveal that Sheba and Dedan are also nations descended from Cush; therefore, not all modern Cushite nations will attack the USA and the West. Tarshish, a nation shown by Genesis 10:4 to be descended from Japheth, is also not among the attackers. There are other nations affiliated with “the merchants of Tarshish” who also do not join the attack against the West, and these nations can also be identified.

It is easy to identify the “merchants of Tarshish.” Tarshish was a son of “Javan” in Genesis 10:4 and its people will be an Asiatic “nation of merchants” in the latter days. Ancestral veneration is a part of Asiatic culture so the modern nation of Tarshish could still be named in honor of its ancestor: Javan. In

modern times, there is one Asian nation which has effectively pioneered and developed an economy based on merchandising finished goods to the Western nations. That nation is Japan (with a name strikingly close to “Javan,” the father of Tarshish. Japan is such a nation of merchants that the world’s financial press even called it “Japan, Inc.” as it developed into a commercial powerhouse. The “young lions thereof” would be smaller Asian nations which copied the mercantile example of Japan in shaping their own economies. These nations include: South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, etc. The biblical expression “young lions” describes modern geopolitics in a strikingly accurate manner. There were no tigers in the ancient Holy Land so the Hebrew word for “lion” was used by Ezekiel. However, since the focus of this part of the prophecy is not the Middle East but instead is on the Western Pacific Rim where tigers are dominant over lions, the prophecy’s translation could easily be the “young tiger” nations. The world financial press has called the nations of South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, etc. the “young tiger” nations for their aggressive export-driven economies modeled after the example of Japan. It is easy to understand why Japan and the young tiger nations would not attack the USA and the West. Their economies are so linked to the West in banking, manufacturing, and trade relationships that any attack against the West would destroy their own economies! One could say China’s attack is equally self-defeating but Ezekiel 38:12 reveals Russia and China have an overall goal of world domination. Japan and the “tiger nations” seek prosperity, not world domination. That Tarshish would not attack the nations of modern Israel is historically logical. Tarshish has enjoyed a commercial trading relationship with the Israelite nations since biblical times (II Chronicles 9:21).

Also, while the name of “Javan” is very similar to “Japan” and the mercantile policies of Japan argue that Japan is the nation identified in the prophecy as “Tarshish,” one other possibility needs to be considered. The name of “Javan” is also present in “Java,” one of the principal islands of the Islamic nation of Indonesia. Does the prophecy also imply Indonesia will not be allied with the attackers of the West? This is not clear. The nations of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India have received much help from America and the West in the aftermath of the great tsunami of 2004, and this factor argues in favor of a positive response toward America and the West, but such a response is not certain. Indonesia may opt for an export-driven economy and become one of the “young tigers” allied to Japan or it may opt to ally itself with China and the radical Islamic nations.

What about “Sheba and Dedan?” These Cushite nations have more than one possible fulfillment in the modern world. Cushites are located in the Indian subcontinent and include nations such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. There is another “brown”-skinned nation in Asia which has long been close to the USA. That nation is the Philippines, which is also a likely member of the Cushite family of nations. The Philippines have been linked to America since the Spanish-American war, and Filipino and American blood was shed together as allies in World War II. The Philippines are also located in the midst of the “young tiger nations” which are identified as not attacking the Israelite nations in the latter days, and it is logical that the Philippines are included among the “Sheba and Dedan” nations. However, there is a “wild card” in this analysis.

India is the largest Cushite nation, and it is also a Democracy. It is an axiom of world geopolitics that “democracies do not attack other democracies,” and this would argue that India will not be with the anti-American alliance. Also, since the Ezekiel 38-39 alliance of anti-Western nations includes radical Islamic nations such as Iran (and Cushite Pakistan is strongly Islamic), it makes little sense that India, a historic rival of Pakistan and Islam, would be part of an East Bloc/Radical Islamic alliance against the USA. Furthermore, through the “outsourcing” of many jobs from America to English-speaking India, India is being drawn inexorably closer to the USA via economic ties. Because it was once a part of the

British Empire, India retains historic ties to Great Britain and the English language is spoken by many in India. On the other hand, Russia was one of India's main weapons suppliers in the Cold War and India was a leader of the "Non-Aligned Nations" during the Cold War. Those non-aligned nations were generally perceived to be anti-American. Ezekiel 38-39 leaves the latter-day destinies of such important nations of India and Indonesia unclear. What can be said with certainty is that the modern Cushite nations will be divided: some will be allies of Russia and China and others will be allied to America and the Western alliance.

Ezekiel 38:14-16 include commentary by God himself directed at Gog's alliance. God repeats verse 6's information that Gog's attack against Israel's nations will be out of the north, and that it will constitute a very large military force. God reiterates it will be fulfilled "in the latter days" (i.e. the end or climax of this current age). God chides Gog's alliance that they will attack Israel while Israel is dwelling "safely." The Hebrew word translated "safely" in the *King James Version* of the Bible can also be translated "carelessly" or "without care."<sup>4</sup> The word "carelessly" fits the context of this chapter better than "safely" because this prophecy makes it very clear that the Israelite nations will not be dwelling safely. Indeed, they are about to be attacked very violently, but they are dwelling carelessly, oblivious to the imminent danger. This fits the imagery of verse 11 that the Israelite nations would be dwelling "without walls or gates," having let down their defenses. Verse 12 acknowledges that the Israelite nations will be prosperous nations when they are attacked so in modern terms the Israelite nations will be pursuing materialistic comforts at a time when they should be preparing to defend themselves! In verse 16, God says he will "bring Gog" into Israel's land in order for God to "sanctify" and reveal himself to the world's nations when God himself intervenes in this war.

### **Ezekiel 38-39 Parallels other Prophecies:**

Ezekiel 38:17 links this prophecy together with other biblical prophecies. God says of Gog's alliance: "Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied...that I would bring thee against them?" This is a "smoking gun" verse in which God himself declares this prophecy has parallels in other, previously-inspired prophecies in the Bible. Let's look for such prophecies, knowing that they must pre-date the lifetime of Ezekiel in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. Genesis 49 was a prophecy given by Jacob (renamed "Israel") about the fates of the tribes of Israel in the latter days. Since it was for "the latter days," we know conclusively that it is for the same time context as Ezekiel 38-39. It also confirms that all of the 12 tribes of Israel will be present and involved in global events in the latter days, so no one can assert that the tribes of Israel "died out" or cannot be found. Indeed, this prophecy contains specific clues on how to find each of the tribes of Israel in the latter days, and the nations of the modern ten tribes of Israel are identified in this author's books which apply Genesis 49's clues to the modern world. [These books are available at: [www.bibleblessings.net](http://www.bibleblessings.net)].

Genesis 49's prophecy dates to over a millennium before Ezekiel's lifetime so there is no question it was penned "in old time" from the perspective of Ezekiel's day. This prophecy foretells in verse 22-26 that the tribe of Joseph (the birthright tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph) will have many "blessings" of prosperity, favorable climate, population growth, etc. during the latter days. However, verses 23-24 also foretell that these tribes will be attacked by enemies who hate them in the latter days. The term "Israel" was placed specifically on Ephraim and Manasseh (Joseph's sons) in Genesis 48:14-16 so the term "Israel" in Ezekiel 38-39 directly parallels Genesis 49's term for "Joseph." Ezekiel 38 reveals which nations will constitute the nations who "hate" and "attack" Joseph's tribes in Genesis 49. Interestingly, the imagery of Genesis 49 indicates the attack against Ephraim and Manasseh

in the latter days will begin with archers shooting “arrows.” In ancient times, arrows were long-distance weapons which were shot while far from an opponent. In modern applications, such weapons would be called ICBMS, cruise missiles, etc. Genesis 49:24-25 also states Joseph’s tribes will not remain helpless against this attack. God is prophesied to strengthen Joseph’s “bow” and “arms” to fight against his enemies, and God declares that he will personally “help” Joseph in this climactic war. This exact same theme is found in Ezekiel 38-39.

Another prophecy which predates Ezekiel 38-39 is Joel 2, which was written circa 800 B.C. (centuries before Ezekiel lived). Joel 2:1 confirms that its prophecy will be fulfilled just before “the day of the Lord,” a time when God intervenes in human affairs. It describes God’s angelic army which will not be hurt by human weaponry (verse 8), and adds that a great earthquake and heavenly signs will occur simultaneous to this event as God himself utters his voice at the head of this spiritual army (verse 11). Who do they intervene to protect and who do they attack? Verse 17-27 reveal that God intervenes to “spare his people” who are also called “Israel.” This directly parallels Genesis 49 and Ezekiel 38-39 as those prophecies also address a time when God personally intervenes to rescue Israel (the ten tribes) at the end of this age.

God’s divine army attacks and slaughters an invading enemy which is called “the northern army” (Joel 2:20). He does so only after God’s people pray and entreat him to intervene in their behalf (verses 17-20). This directly parallels Ezekiel 38 which described Gog’s army as one which attacks Israel “from the north.” The enemy army is destroyed by God in Israel’s latter-day land which has an “eastern” and a “western” sea. What modern nation is known as the land “from sea to shining sea” because it is bordered by two oceans on its west and east? The United States of America, the latter day nation of Manasseh fits that description. Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the nations of modern Ephraim, are also all located between eastern and western seas, just like the USA. All the nations of modern Joseph (or “Israel”) fit the description of Joel 2’s target nations which are attacked by a northern army. The modern Jewish nation doesn’t fit this description. It has a western sea, but the “Dead Sea” on its eastern side is not a “sea” defining its entire eastern border, but is rather a shriveled salt-water lake. One more prophecy written before Ezekiel’s time will be mentioned: Jeremiah 30. It describes a time of “Jacob’s Trouble” (verse 7) which will occur in “the latter days” (verse 24).

This parallels Genesis 49, Joel 2 and Ezekiel 38-39. This prophecy reveals that the attack against Israel’s enemies is also directed *simultaneously* against Judah (the Israelis and Jews) as well as against “Israel” (verse 3). Verse 3 is badly mistranslated in the *King James Version* as most other versions of the Bible render the phrase not as “I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah...” but rather as: “I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel and Judah...”

Jeremiah’s prophecy confirms that the attack of Russia, China and Iran will be against the Jewish/Israeli nation as well as against the USA, the UK, NATO, etc. It is a time of global danger and warfare so great that it is unparalleled in human history (verse 7), but the prophecy declares Israel and Judah “will be saved” by God’s divine action. This also parallels the previously examined prophecies. The fact that this will be a time of unparalleled danger on the earth indicates that this event also parallels other prophecies in Daniel 11:40-12:4 and in Matthew 24:21 which call this time the “Great Tribulation.” Combining all these prophecies together, it is the invasion of the nations of the latter day ten tribes of Israel by Russia, China, Iran, etc. which constitutes “Jacob’s Trouble.” However, the modern nations of Israel strike back with breathtaking violence against their attackers, quickly escalating this world war into a threat to all humanity (i.e. “the Great Tribulation” which threatens all life on our planet). All these prophecies are climaxed by Divine intervention which ends the war, saves the nations of Israel and ushers in the Messianic Age/the millennium.

### **God Intervenes Against Gog's Alliance:**

Now back to Ezekiel's prophecy. In Ezekiel 38:18, God states that "at the same time" Russia, China and Iran launch their invasion against the nations of the latter-day tribes of Israel: "my fury shall come up in my face." In other words, God gets very angry at Gog and its allies, and he enters the war on the side of Israel and Judah (the USA, the UK, much of Europe, the Israelis and all their allies). Verses 18-19 prophecy a great earthquake will occur as God intervenes, an event directly paralleling Joel 2:10 and other prophecies which foretell of global earthquakes at the time of Divine intervention at the end of this age. Joel 2:10-11 prophesied that immediately after this great earthquake, God himself shouts at the head of a divine army which intervenes to rescue Israel from a northern army. Genesis 49 and Jeremiah 30 also predicted a divine rescue of Israel and Judah at the end of this age. Ezekiel's prophecy parallels these other prophecies because just after a great earthquake, God declares "my presence" will be on the earth and all men will "shake" at this event! For Christians this event is the return of Jesus Christ while for Jews this is the arrival of the Messiah (who also rescues Judah in Zechariah 14).

In Ezekiel 38:21, God calls for "a sword" against Gog's invaders "throughout all my mountains" (i.e. in all the nations of the modern house of Israel and house of Judah). This confirms that the nations of Israel have regrouped and are fighting back against their invaders with their own weaponry (as was also prophesied in Genesis 49:23-24). Realizing that God has intervened on their side, the people of Israel and Judah counterattack their enemies with terrible ferocity. The phrase "every man's sword will be against his brother" indicates the diverse nations in Gog's alliance will start fighting among themselves as their morale collapses. God also plagues the armies of Gog with "pestilence," and "fire and brimstone." God could do this by divine miracle or he may also do this via the Israelites and Jews as his surrogates since God told them to use their own swords (weaponry) against Gog's armies in verse 21. If the latter option is what occurs, the phrase "pestilence" could refer to a chemical and bacteriological attack against Gog's armies and "fire and brimstone" is an apt description of a nuclear attack against the armies and homelands of Gog's alliance. However, since Joel 2:1-11 describes God's divine army as being involved in the combat, it is apparent that God's divine armies and the armies of all the tribes of Israel combine to wage total war against the armies and nations of Russia, China, Iran, etc. Verse 23 adds that this divine intervention reveals the reality of God and his power to "many nations." When this event occurs, no one will ever again believe in the unscientific, illogical theory of evolution.

Ezekiel 39:1 contains God's "declaration of war" against Gog and its allies (either directly through divine action and/or via his Israelite surrogates). Verse 2 again mentions that Gog's armies have come from the north and adds the chilling fact that the slaughter of Gog's alliance will not stop until only "a sixth part" of them are left. Then God declares the war over. This prophecy could mean that 5/6ths of all the soldiers in the armies of Russia, China, Iran and their allies will be killed in this world war or it could mean that 5/6ths of *both* the military and civilian populations of Russia, China, Iran and their allies will be slaughtered before the fighting ends. That would be easily possible if the USA, the UK, France and the Israelis launch all-out nuclear strikes against the homelands of their attackers. This is a fitting application of the biblical proverb that people and nations "reap what they sow." Russia, China, Iran and their allies will "sow" an attack to subjugate the nations of the western alliance, but it is their own homelands, peoples and armies which "reap" a terrible destruction. Zechariah 14 discusses these same events, but from the perspective of the Israelis and Jews, not the nations of the ten tribes of Israel. It prophesies that Judah and the Lord will fight against the nations that invaded Israeli territory and Jerusalem. When God intervenes, he describes in verse 12 what will happen to the enemies of Judah: "...their flesh shall consume away *while they stand upon their feet*, and their eyes shall consume away in

their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.” While God could do this via Divine action, it also describes very precisely what happens to human beings who are caught in a nuclear explosion. In a nuclear blast, human beings literally “consume away” while they are still standing. Revelation 16:12 reveals an army led by “the kings of the east” will be attacking out of Asia as they head westward across the Euphrates River. This will be part of the army of Russia, China, Iran, etc. as it heads toward Jerusalem and the Israeli nation while its other forces attack the nations of the ten tribes of Israel.

Zechariah 12:2 relates that while Jerusalem falls to the enemy just before the Messiah returns (verse 3-4), Judah’s nation is not yet conquered as it is still actively fighting in the region of Jerusalem when Divine intervention occurs. Knowing the “never again” determination of the Jews/Israelis in the aftermath of the Holocaust of World War II, the capture of Jerusalem by its enemies would be the likely moment when the Israelis would unleash their full nuclear arsenal on their enemies. The Israelis are widely believed to have at least several hundred nuclear weapons, and the Israelis can deliver them by aircraft, land-based Jericho missiles, sub-launched cruise missiles and perhaps other means. If the Israeli nation faces an existential crisis (and Zechariah 14 prophesies they will face such a moment), can there be any doubt that the Israelis will unleash every weapon of mass destruction at their disposal? Since God tells the ten tribes of Israel to use their weapons vs. Gog and all its allies, there is no reason to doubt God will permit the house of Judah to do the same thing. Since the enemies of Judah “consume away while they stand” (Zechariah 14:12) in the midst of a war raging in Israeli territory at the end of this age, it argues that Israeli nuclear weapons will be used massively as this age draws to an end. Most likely, the Israeli attack with nuclear weapons will be coordinated with nuclear strikes by the USA and its NATO allies. This does not mean the nations of the modern ten tribes of Israel will be unscathed. They will also reach an existential crisis. They are targeted by the Russian-led attack and we do not know exactly how far God will allow this invasion to progress until he intervenes on the side of the modern Israelite nations. Joel 2, a parallel prophecy, indicates that God will not intervene until the priests, ministers and people of the attacked nations implore God to rescue them (Joel 2:17-20).

Jeremiah 30 also indicates that God’s divine intervention rescues the nations of Israel and Judah from a defeat and prevents a looming captivity. The combined message of the prophecies is that the Israelites could lose this war unless God intervened to save them. However, Matthew 24:21 also indicates that unless God intervened, there would be “no flesh” at all left alive. This prophesied World War III would quickly become so violent that nothing would survive the conflict unless God intervened to stop it.

### **The Defeat of Gog’s Alliance:**

In Ezekiel 39:3 God states the following to Gog’s invaders when they attack the nations of the modern house of Israel: “I will smite your bow out of your left hand and will cause your arrows to fall out of your right hand.” To put this in modern military terms, God promises to personally disable some of the arrows (“missiles”) and bows (“launch platforms”) of the Russians, Chinese, Iranians, etc. It is entirely possible that with a coordinated initial attack of EMP weapons, saboteurs pre-positioned inside the western nations, and salvos of well-placed cruise missiles from off-shore vessels, the Russian-led alliance could deliver a knock-out blow to America and Europe from which they could not recover. This Divine promise in Ezekiel 39:3 indicates God will nullify at least a portion of Gog’s weaponry so that more of America and the West’s weaponry survives the initial attack than the attackers thought possible. Genesis 49:23 also prophesies that God will “strengthen” the “bow” (weaponry) of Joseph’s nations during this latter-day attack, which parallels God’s similar promise in Ezekiel 39:3.

In Ezekiel 39:6, God promises that he will “send a fire on Magog and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles...” This indicates that the Russian homeland (indicated by “the land of Magog” in Ezekiel 38:2) will be hit hard by nuclear weapons, God’s divine fire or both. Interestingly, the Hebrew word translated “carelessly” in Ezekiel 39:6 is the same Hebrew word (“betach”) which is translated “safely” in Ezekiel 38:11 although “carelessly” would be a more appropriate translation in both cases. The word translated “isles” can as easily be translated “seacoasts,” indicating that the coastal regions of Russia, China, Iran, etc. in which their attack fleets were based will also be struck.

Ezekiel 39:7 contains this declaration of God as he directly intervenes in human affairs: *“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 shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel.”* This declaration is what one would expect when God intervenes unexpectedly in human affairs and the nations are forced to realize that there is an actual Creator God who can intervene in mankind’s affairs at any time he chooses to do so. This declaration indicates that the nations of the ten tribes of Israel are sinful and unconverted nations who do not really know who God is until he intervenes, which aptly describes the current status of these nations in the modern world. The gentile nations also are stunned at God’s divine intervention to help the Israelite nations. This intervention of God is, to Christian readers, the second coming of Jesus Christ, and Jewish readers will see this scripture as the arrival of the Messiah. This divine intervention is followed by the “millennium” or “Messianic Age” during which God’s reality will be well-known in all nations and no one will be allowed to “pollute” God’s name.

#### **“It Is Done”:**

Ezekiel 39:8 directly parallels another pre-millennial prophecy in Revelation 16:17. Ezekiel 39:8 cites God as saying “It is done” when the events of Ezekiel 38-39 are fulfilled, and these exact same words also proceed from the divine throne in Revelation 16:11 when this age draws to a close. The contexts of the two chapters show they are directly parallel, premillennial events. Ezekiel 39:8’s statement follows God’s divine intervention in a great war taking place on earth and it occurs in the wake of a massive global earthquake (Ezekiel 38:20). The words (“It is done”) in Revelation 16:17 follow Jesus Christ’s intervention in a great war (“Armageddon”—verse 16) and associated with an unprecedented earthquake (verse 18). The parallel nature of these chapters could scarcely be more obvious. The book of Revelation calls this climactic war “Armageddon,” and Ezekiel 38-39 reveal the alliances of nations fighting in this climactic world war at the end of our age.

In Ezekiel 39:9-16 some of the denouement of this climactic war is given. It mentions that the weaponry strewn abroad the earth’s surface will take seven years to clean up, and verse 12 states it will take the nations of the house of Israel (the ten tribes of Israel) seven months to bury the dead bodies following this war. This is the time prophesied in Micah 4:3 and Isaiah 2:4 when the nations will “beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.”

There is another very clear parallel between Ezekiel 39:17-21 and Revelation 19. Both Ezekiel 38-39 and Revelation 19 prophesy about the divine intervention which will occur at the end of this age just before the Millennium/Messianic Age is established. In Ezekiel 39:17-21, God calls for the beasts and birds to eat the flesh of the fallen combatants. In Revelation 19:17-21, God calls for the beasts and birds to eat the flesh of the fallen combatants. The parallelism of these chapters is unmistakable. This makes sense from a practical point of view. Ezekiel 39 prophesies that it will take seven months to bury the dead. That means there will be a lot of rotting flesh on the earth and it will help stop the spreading of diseases if the animals and birds are employed to help consume the carcasses.

Ezekiel 39:22 repeats the theme of Ezekiel 39:7 that “from *that day* and forward” the nations of the house of Israel will know their God is real indeed. The prophetic phrase “in *that day*” appears in a number of other biblical prophecies indicating the climactic events at the end of this age. Verses 23-24 state that the heathen (all non-Israelite nations) will know that the Israelites “went into captivity because of their iniquity.” This prophecy was written circa 586 B.C. The house of Israel had gone into captivity/exile in a period of time circa 741-721 B.C. so it had already happened by the time the prophet penned these words. Ezekiel 38-39 show that God actually rescues the Israelites from a pending captivity to Gog and its attacking alliance so this cannot reference a latter-day captivity but rather the one in 741-721 B.C. Verse 25 shows the events of Ezekiel 38-39 culminate in God having mercy “upon the whole house of Israel” and that he will “restore the fortunes of Jacob.” [Both translations are from the *Revised Standard Version* of the Bible.]

The *King James Version* of the Bible contains a mistranslation in Ezekiel 39:25, which renders this passage “I will bring again the captivity of Jacob,” which some Christians mistakenly assume means that another captivity of the Israelite nations will occur at the end of this age. An accurate translation reveals this will be a time when God prevents another captivity of his people and that it is actually a time of their “restoration.” The same mistranslation occurs in Jeremiah 30, another latter-day prophecy which indicates that “Israel” and “Judah” will be attacked at the same time in the latter days (by the attacking alliance which Ezekiel reveals will be led by Russia).

Jeremiah 30:3 repeats the phrase: “bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah” in the *KJV*, but the *RSV* (and other Bible translations) correctly translate this phrase as “I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel and Judah [in the latter days].”

Ezekiel 39:26-29 concludes with God reiterating that God rescues the Israelites, sanctifies his name in the sight of many nations, and that he will “pour out my spirit upon the house of Israel.” This last phrase is a fitting phrase for what will, indeed, occur as the Millennium/Messianic Age begins when God and the resurrected saints (Revelation 5:10, 20:1-6) will directly rule over the nations on the earth.

### **Unanswered Questions:**

While it contains much information, Ezekiel 38-39 does not answer every possible prophetic question. As explained above, it does give preordained information about the nations of the USA, UK and their western European allies in NATO, Japan and the “young tiger” nations of Asia, Russia, China, Iran and nations on the Asian subcontinent and northern Africa. We have examined several parallel prophecies which indicate the fate of the Jewish/Israeli nation is linked to that of the NATO and Western nations. However, since many prophecies focus on the Middle East, what about the Arab nations? Since Ezekiel 38:2-6 states clearly that the attacking “evil alliance” of Gog and Magog will include “bands” and “many people” who are not named, it allows for the possibility that the Arab nations will be allied with Russia, China and Iran. Since the Islamic nation of Iran (“Persia”) and various Islamic nations of Cush on the Asian subcontinent and Islamic nations in North Africa will be allied to Gog’s alliance, it could easily be assumed that the Arab nations will be part of that alliance. However, another option is possible.

The Arabs have a long tradition that they are the descendants of Ishmael, the first-born son of Abraham via Hagar. This author agrees with that belief, and this opens up a whole new possibility. The connection between modern Arabs and Ishmael, a son of Abraham, is mentioned in three encyclopedias (the *Britannica*, the *Americana* and *Colliers*).<sup>5</sup> The Arabs have a great deal of oil wealth and are linked closely to America, Great Britain, and the Western nations via economic and commercial ties. As fellow

descendants of Abraham, might the Arabs be allied to the Israelite nations in the final battle of this age? The fact that Iran (“Persia”) is allied to Russia can also be a reason why the Arabs would NOT be part of the Russian-Chinese-Iran alliance. While united by Islam, the Arabs are ethnically different from the Persians, and the Arabs suffered under Persian rule in the past. Iraq was supported by many Arab nations in its war with Iran in the 1980s in order to prevent Iranian hegemony over the Arab nations.

In modern geopolitics, the Bush administration of the USA has made a major effort to link the Arabs to the West by spreading democracy to the Arab nations. Iraq has had a national election, Kuwait has given the vote to women, Lebanon may become a real democracy after the withdrawal of Syrian troops, etc. If this effort ultimately succeeds, some or all of the Arab nations may become allies of the West in the Ezekiel 38-39 war.

Abraham’s grandsons via Isaac were Esau and Jacob. Jacob gave birth to twelve sons who were the namesakes of all the tribes in the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Esau’s descendants (called Edomites in the Bible) were not given the choice “birthright” promises of God’s covenant with Abraham, but they also comprise a variety of nations in the world as Esau gave birth to over a dozen sons (Genesis 36). The oldest, named Teman, is one of the most prominent. His name encompassed all the Edomites in Genesis 36:34, and Teman’s name was also prominently borne by one nation in the modern world. Turkey used to be called the “Ottoman Empire” and the consonants of “Teman” and “Ottoman” are identical. This author believes the modern Turks are Esau’s Temanite descendants, and the Turks are already allied to the West in NATO, and are seeking closer ties to Europe and the West. This author believes the Edomites are found in more locations than just Turkey. However, there is one branch of the Edomite family of nations which, historically, is intensely hostile to all the tribes of Israel. That branch is the Amalekites and it is very unlikely that this group of Edomites will be allied to the Western nations at the end of this age.

Abraham was promised to be the father of many nations (Genesis 17:5), and his seed via Sarah includes all modern nations descended from the house of Israel, the house of Judah, Ishmael, and Edom. Abraham also had sons from his final wife, Keturah, and their descendants also have to be present in the modern world. The nations descended from Abraham are Semitic and/or Caucasian nations. Since the prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39 *does not name a single Semitic nation* in the attacking alliance headed by Russia, China and Iran, it allows for the possibility that all the modern nations descended from Abraham will be on the same side in the great world war at the end of this age.

### **Other Resources:**

This concludes this detailed explanation of the critically-important prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39. A few closing issues need to be addressed. While the roles of many nations are identified in this research report, some are not. This author previously authored another lengthy research report on the topic of prophecy which includes more detailed information comparing Ezekiel 38-39 with other “latter day” prophecies found in Daniel, Numbers and other books of the Bible. The other research report identifies more modern nations (Germany, Egypt, Jordan, etc.) in terms of whether they will be allied to the nations of the house of Israel, NATO and the Western World) or the attacking nations of Gog’s alliance (Russia, China, Iran, etc.). The previous research paper was written in the aftermath of the events of the terrorist attacks upon America in “9/11” of 2001. It is entitled “A New Look at Prophecy” and it may be accessed at: [www.israelite.info](http://www.israelite.info) or [www.biblestudy.org/prophecy/main](http://www.biblestudy.org/prophecy/main). This previous research report also contains a specific scenario re: how the attack of Russia, China, Iran, etc. could take place and unfold against the USA, the NATO nations, etc.

In April, 2005, there were media reports that Iran was threatening to cripple the USA via the use of an EMP (electro-magnetic pulse) nuclear weapon. These weapons could be aimed against the USA and the West on cruise missiles launched from ships located off our coasts. This report was on FOX-News, national talk radio and the internet. One report on this possibility can likely be found at: [www.worldnetdaily.com](http://www.worldnetdaily.com) (see archives for an article on 4-25-05 by Joseph Farah entitled “Iran plans to knock out U.S. with one nuclear bomb”). The earlier prophecy report written by this author in 2001 proposed a scenario where Russia, China, Iran, etc. could cooperate by attacking the USA with an EMP nuclear bomb coupled with volleys of cruise missiles from ships located off our coasts. I encourage the reader to look for the recent media report at [www.worldnetdaily.com](http://www.worldnetdaily.com) and then to read this author’s earlier research report (“A New Look at Prophecy”) found at the prophecy links of [www.biblestudy.org](http://www.biblestudy.org). This author still regards the scenario presented in the earlier report to be consistent with biblical prophecies and modern events.

Many media articles have also indicated that China is engaged in a rapid expansion of its military forces, and that it is cooperating closely in this effort with the Russians. Seeing the advance of NATO, the EU, and, of the democratic governments that were once ruled by Russia in the old Soviet Union become nations, Russia is becoming increasingly angry and resentful at the USA, Europe and the Western bloc of nations. As Ezekiel 38-39 approaches its inevitable fulfillment, the reader should expect Russia, China and Iran to mask their hostile intentions with peaceful gestures, disarmament agreements, etc. This may deceive gullible western governments, but Ezekiel 38-39 will still be fulfilled. Indeed, since Ezekiel 38-39 reveal that the western nations will not expect the surprise attack launched by Russia and its allies, western blindness to the dangers posed by Russia, China and Iran is to be expected. God states in Ezekiel 38:10 that he will put in the minds of the Russian, Chinese and Iranian leaders the decision to attack the nations of the modern tribes of Israel at the time of his divine choosing. When God decides this event should occur, no force in heaven or earth will stop it from occurring.

Most readers will already realize that modern Jews/Israelis constitute the “house of Judah,” but many will find the concept that the “house of Israel” (i.e. “the ten tribes of Israel”) can be found among the modern nations of North America, Europe, Scandinavia, etc. to be a new one.

For abundant evidence and documentation about this assertion, the reader is referred to the author’s books on this subject, which can be previewed and/or ordered at: [www.bibleblessings.net](http://www.bibleblessings.net). Articles by the author about the history and migrations about the ten tribes of Israel may also be accessed without charge at: [www.israelite.info](http://www.israelite.info).

### **Could The Prophecy Fail?**

It is worth noting that God has sometimes uttered prophecies which he later decided to cancel or delay. One famous example is the prophecy about the doom of Nineveh in the book of Jonah (Jonah 1:2, 3:4) which did not come to pass because the King of Assyria and the people of Nineveh humbled themselves before the Creator God (Jonah 3:4-10). Another is a pronouncement of doom upon the dynasty of wicked King Ahab of ancient Israel (I Kings 21:21-22) which was delayed for a generation because Ahab humbled himself before God (I Kings 21:27-29). We must always remember that God is utterly sovereign and responsible only to himself; there is no higher authority requiring God to do or not do something. In both the above-cited cases, simply “humbling oneself” before God altered the fate of nations and national leaders.

While it is possible that modern nations could “humble themselves” before God, it is unlikely because modern nations have been duped by the theory of evolution into thinking there is no real Creator Being who monitors and directs human affairs. The above-cited biblical examples also involved short-

term prophecies which were intended for fulfillment within the lifetime of the prophet and the national leaders involved in the prophecies. There was no great alteration of God's overall plan for mankind's history involved with reversing or delaying such prophecies which had limited application (for one nation or one human king). However, Ezekiel 38-39 was given during the 6th century BC and it is a very critical prophecy about the fates of many nations on earth in the time frame just prior to the return of Jesus Christ (i.e. "coming of the Messiah") to the earth. This period of time is called "the latter days," and (as we have seen) there are many prophecies about this pre-millennial period of time throughout the Bible. Because this prophecy involves the destinies of many nations who will be involved in the climactic, global events on the earth at the end of this age, this prophecy represents a major aspect of God's overall plan for mankind. Therefore, it is highly likely to come to pass as originally inspired. Based on the prayers of God's people, however, the timing or details of events in this prophecy could be altered even as the overall fabric of the prophecy is preserved. The prophecy in Joel 2 illustrates this point as it indicates God's intervention in human affairs will occur only *after* his priests and people pray fervently to him for that intervention.

The prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39 is also the most divinely affirmed prophecy in the entire Bible! The phrase "thus saith the Lord God" is a particularly strong one when found in prophecies in the *King James Version* of the Bible. The prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39 contains this strong divine affirmation seven times (38:3, 10, 14, 17 and 39:1, 17 and 25). No other prophecy in the Bible is so divinely "stamped with God's personal affirmation" than Ezekiel 38-39. The fact that Ezekiel 38-39 is "sevenfold affirmed by God" indicates it is very likely that this prophecy will be fulfilled in its entirety.

### **When Will Ezekiel 38-39 Be Fulfilled?**

This author offers no prediction for any specific year for the fulfillment of the prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39 as no year is identified in the prophecy itself. However, world events confirm that this prophecy is heading inexorably toward fulfillment. There are some biblically-based guidelines which do describe some benchmark events which will indicate the fulfillment is near.

Revelation 11 includes a prophecy that just prior to the end of this age, God will send two great prophets, called "the Two Witnesses," which will give a final warning to mankind about the climactic events about to be fulfilled before this age ends. Revelation 11:3 reveals their mission will last three and half years ("1260 days"), which coincides with the time allotted to the final rule of a figure called "the beast" in Revelation 13:4-5. This author believes the two time periods will be simultaneously fulfilled. Revelation 11:5-6 indicate that the Two Witnesses will be given unprecedented divine power to work miracles and smite the nations with plagues "as often as they will." The Beast will be allied to a second figure, called the "false prophet" or "son of perdition" in some prophecies, and the beast and false prophet will also do great miracles by the power of Satan, the dragon (Revelation 13, II Thessalonians 2:3-11). Biblical prophecies indicate that the nations and most people will follow the beast and false prophet. After 3 and ½ years, the Two Witnesses will be killed by the forces of the Beast and false prophet, and the nations declare a great celebration (Revelation 11:7-10), thinking the beast and false prophet have won and an era of peace and safety has begun. However, their joy is short-lived. I Thessalonians 5:3 prophesies this declared time of "peace and safety" is quickly replaced by a time of "sudden destruction" and the arrival of "the day of the lord" (the time of divine intervention at the end of this age).

Ezekiel 38-39, Joel 2, Jeremiah 30, Zechariah 14, etc. (examined above) all describe portions of the divine intervention which occurs at the end of this age (i.e. "the day of the Lord."), and all of them conclude with God's personal intervention in man's affairs. Therefore, they can all be quickly fulfilled

right after the death of the Two Witnesses. This indicates that the attack of Russia, China and Iran will occur soon after two events: the death of the Two Witnesses, and, the global party which will occur after their deaths. Indeed, it is highly likely that the miracle-working power of the Two Witnesses is the only thing holding back this attack, and, that Russia, China and Iran launch this attack quickly after their deaths.

Revelation 11:9 reveals that the Two Witnesses will be dead for only “three and 1/2 days” before they are resurrected, so the resurrection of the dead which accompanies God’s divine intervention (i.e. the return of Jesus Christ) occurs three and ½ days after the Two Witnesses die. Many Christians expect a “seven year tribulation” divided into two distinct three and ½ year portions. However, scriptural fulfillment does not require so much time. Revelation 11 indicates there will be a 3 and ½ *year* period of time followed by a three and ½ *day* period of time. Matthew 25:1-13 includes a parable that at the end of this age, the Lord will return much earlier than most Christians expect. A mistaken assumption that there must be a seven-year tribulation period could easily foster such a false impression. Scripture indicates there will be a three and ½ year period of time during which the Two Witnesses will contend with the Beast and False Prophet. However, Revelation 11 reveals this will be followed by a 3 and ½ *day* period of time, not a second three and ½ *year* period of time before the Lord’s return.

If the reader can determine who the Two Witnesses are, they can be reasonably sure that the attack of Russia, China, and Iran will be launched within the three and ½ day period of time between the death of the Two Witnesses and the end of this age. It is the surprise attack of Ezekiel 38 which will be the “sudden destruction” prophesied by I Thessalonians 5:3. Once this attack begins, a vast number of latter-day prophecies are fulfilled and the day of the Lord concludes this 3 and ½ day period of time. Also, a great earthquake will strike the earth (Ezekiel 38:20, Revelation 13:18). Given the lethality of nuclear weapons, it is not surprising that a nuclear World War III would quickly threaten the existence of mankind on the earth, triggering divine intervention (Matthew 24:21-22). However, unless the Two Witnesses start doing miracles on the very first day of their ministry, it may not be easy to determine when their 3 and ½ year mission has begun. Once they die though, the war of Ezekiel 38-39 will begin (perhaps within hours of the deaths of the Two Witnesses) and the end of this age will occur within three and ½ days of their deaths.

### **THE GREAT HOAX OF EVOLUTION:**

It was mentioned earlier that modern nations have been so deceived by evolutionary theories that they have lost sight of the fact that a very real Creator Being exists and that he can intervene in human affairs whenever he wishes to do so to fulfill his biblical prophecies. Even readers of this research report may have difficulty with their faith in a Creator God due to the fact that students have been “force fed” the theory of evolution for decades in modern public school systems. For this reason, the fallacy of evolutionary thought must be addressed directly.

Even though evolution is only a weak and unproven theory, those who control the educational and scientific communities have taught evolution as if it were an established fact. To be scientifically verifiable, all theories must be conclusively demonstrated as factual in empirical evidence which is confirmable, predictable and observable. This is the essence of the scientific method. Evolution fails all these tests. Indeed, it can be shown via the scientific method that evolution is a complete hoax.

If all life truly “evolved” from non-living things, then there must be powerful forces in the universe which inexorably reshape matter (A) from simple forms into complex new ones, and (B) from chaotic into orderly new forms. No such forces exist. Indeed, it is easy to prove that the opposite is true:

That without outside intelligence acting upon it, matter inexorably deteriorates (A) from complex into simple forms and (B) from orderly into chaotic forms.

If a prairie farmstead is abandoned and untouched by any outside intelligent actions, does it (A) spontaneously evolve into a brand new strip mall or an office complex or (B) inexorably deteriorate back into its simpler component elements? Obviously, the latter is true, but for evolution to be true, option “A” above must occur. Indeed, given enough time, an abandoned farmstead will eventually deteriorate so completely that there will be no evidence it ever existed! It is a scientifically predictable, observable, and confirmable fact that matter, left to itself, will inexorably deteriorate into ever-simpler forms. Evolution cannot be true, based on this scientific fact. Also, if a well-tended garden is abandoned and it is untouched by outside intelligent actions upon it, will it (A) spontaneously evolve into an ever-more beautiful and well-ordered garden, or will it (B) deteriorate into a chaotic, disorganized weed patch? Everyone knows that answer “B” is the correct one. It is totally observable, predictable and confirmable that matter, if left to itself, will not evolve into more orderly forms. Only if an abandoned garden spontaneously “evolves” into an ever-more beautiful and orderly garden can evolution be seriously considered, but anyone who has ever tended a garden knows such an option is laughable and ridiculous! These examples utilizing the scientific method will allow any observer to confirm that there are no evolutionary forces in the physical universe.

Another reason why the evolution of life forms is impossible involves what some scientists have called “irreducible complexity.” Stated simply, it means that all life forms have internal systems which are so interdependent that unless ALL the component systems of any and all life forms came into existence *at precisely the same instant in time*, the life form itself cannot ever live. This is a true scientific principle, and it verifies that the theory of evolution is a complete hoax. Let’s consider human beings, mammals, reptiles, birds, etc. No such creature can live at all unless it comes into existence *at a specific point in time* with functioning circulatory, nervous, digestive, skeleton-muscular, respiratory, and other systems! If any of these systems are not fully developed, the organism cannot live. *There is no possibility of life unless it comes into existence at a specific point in time with all internal systems fully developed and functional.*

It is a logical and scientific impossibility for an organism to live if it has one internal system “ready to go” but the other systems are only partially formed. Indeed, no living organism can propagate itself unless it comes into existence with the capacity for a fully-developed reproductive system as well! A creature also needs to come into existence *at the same point in time and in the same geographical location* as a member of its own species with the opposite gender! If this does not occur, there can be no mating or reproduction of the species. Given these logical facts, the account of the beginning of life in the biblical book of Genesis is the only logical, scientific explanation for the existence of all life forms. Most Americans are logical enough thinkers to see this fact. An NBC poll released on the evening news on 3-25-05 reported that 57% of respondents believed the biblical account of creation and only 33% believed in evolution. However, some will say that that the biblical account of creation can’t be true because it says “the earth is only 6000 years old” and science has shown that the physical universe is much older (perhaps millions or billions of years old). *A careful reading of Genesis 1 reveals the Bible actually is consistent with the scientific evidence that the earth is much older than 6000 years!*

When one carefully reads Genesis 1, it can be seen the “Genesis Week” creation account does not begin until Genesis 1:3. However, before anything happens in this Genesis Week account of creation, Genesis 1:2 states the “earth” was already present and that “darkness was upon the face of the deep (the oceans).” In other words, the book of Genesis states that earth and its oceans already existed and that they were shrouded in a darkened atmosphere *before* “Creation Week” ever began! The conditions of the

earth in Genesis 1:2 echo what scientists call a nuclear winter, which could occur in the aftermath of a comet or large meteor striking the earth and causing an “extinct level event.”

The Creation Week account which begins in verse 3 actually tells the story of God *recreating* life on the earth after a mass extinction has destroyed life on the earth. Science has confirmed the existence of mass extinctions in the earth’s history and Genesis 1:1-2 has an account of one of those extinctions. Another near-extinction is found in Genesis 6-8’s account of the Deluge in the time of Noah when mankind came close to extinction and many mammalian subspecies disappeared. The Bible is actually in agreement with the scientists that the earth is far older than 6000 years; however, the Bible does assert that our current species on the earth came into existence in a literal 7-day Creation Week.

This digression about evolution was deemed necessary because the illogical theory of evolution permeates our entire culture and it acts as an inhibition to faith in the Bible and the prophecies contained in the Bible. Readers should realize that the apostles of evolution actually have no logic or solid science to support their case. No matter how many times it is repeated in word or print, evolution will always be illogical and unscientific. This author believes the apostles of evolution actually know this is true, and that is why they vehemently oppose the teaching of true creation science in the schools. They realize that if true scientific creationism is taught side by side with evolution in schools, the theory of evolution will be the loser.

Once evolution is exposed to be the hoax it is, the only alternative for the cosmos and the stunning complexity of life on earth is a divine creation. For this reason, you can be sure that the Bible is the word of a Creator God and that his prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39 will come to pass. If the reader desires further evidence that biblical prophecies have been fulfilled throughout world history, much more evidence will be found in the author’s book which can be previewed and/or ordered at: [www.bibleblessings.net](http://www.bibleblessings.net).

### **Conclusion:**

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<sup>1</sup> *Young’s Analytical Concordance to the Bible*, October, 1978 Edition, see word “Magog,” subheading 2, p. 627

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, see “Libya,” p. 601

<sup>3</sup> Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, XI, V, 2

<sup>4</sup> *Young’s Analytical Concordance to the Bible*, see word “Safely,” p. 830 and see word “betach,” Hebrew Lexicon Section, p. 8

<sup>5</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1943 Ed., Vol. 12, pp. 706-707, *Encyclopedia Americana*, 1988 Ed., Vol. 15, p. 489, and *Collier’s Encyclopedia*, 1957 Ed., Vol. 11, pp. 183-184.