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The Father Knows Best

School of the Bible Class

Isaiah

Isaiah Ezekiel 38-39

Prophecy Pt 4

042

April 16, 2023

Donald L Goertzen Presenter

Indian Hills Community Church

Ezekiel 38-39

Now for the War

Ezekiel 38

- ¹And the word of the Lord came to me saying,
- ²“Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of **Rosh, Meshech and Tubal**, and prophesy against him. Ezekiel 38:1–2



General encirclement of Israel by warring nations

Ezekiel 38

- ³and say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of **Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.** ⁴"I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords; Ezekiel 38:3-4



General encirclement of Israel
by warring nations

Ezekiel 38

- **5** **Persia, Ethiopia and Put** with them, all of them with shield and helmet; **6** Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah **from the remote parts of the north with all its troops**—many peoples with you. **7** “Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are **assembled about you, and be a guard for them.** **Ezekiel 38:5–7**



General encirclement of Israel by warring nations

Ezekiel 38

- 8“After [1] **many days** you will be summoned;
in the **latter years** (!) you will come into the
- **land that is restored** [2] **from the sword**,
- whose inhabitants have been [3] **gathered**
from **many nations** to the mountains of Israel—
- which had been a [4] **continual waste**;
- but its **people** were brought out [3] **from the**
nations, and
- **they are** [5] **living securely**, all of them.

Ezekiel 38:8



- 8“After **many days** you will be summoned; in the **latter years** you will come into the
- **land that is restored from the sword,**
- **whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel**
- **which had been a continual waste;**
- **but its people were brought out from the nations, and**
- **they are living securely, all of them. Ezekiel 38:8**



- **It would take a severely prejudiced reader not to recognize that this describes Israel in its present state—**
- **Lining up the prophecies: Land restored, people gathered into a waste land, restored from sword, people come from the nations of the world—and they are living securely in the Land**

- 8“After **many days** you will be summoned; in the **latter years** you will come into the
- **land that is restored from the sword,**
- **whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel**
- **which had been a continual waste;**
- **but its people were brought out from the nations, and**
- **they are living securely, all of them.** Ezekiel 38:8



- **Living securely is relative:** The city has approved the construction of high-rise builds of 30 stories— next to the new rapid transit railroad from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem—are being expanded to four more lines.
- **These high rise builds provide efficient housing for the burgeoning population that continues to grow.**

Immigration the Key Ingredient

- In ten years, over a quarter million immigrants moved to Israel from **150 (of 195) countries**—
- **2019 is decade's record-breaking year for Aliyah, With arrival of more than 34,000 immigrants.**





“In another sign of the operation’s Divine intervention, on the week that the operation was revealed, Jews across the world read the chapters of Isaiah 40-41 as the Haftara portion on that Sabbath.”

Low
Yemen
40K
1948
 High

Immigration to Israel

Source Jewish Virtual Library

Post Covid

1954	18,491
1953	11,575
1952	24,610
1951	175,279
1950	170,563
1949	239,954
1948	101,828

2022	73,000*
2021	27,050
2020	19,713
2019	34,000
2018	30,300
2017	28,598
2016	25,977
2015	27,908
2014	24,120
2013	16,929
2012	16,560

Ros is Russia?

- However if Ros is Russia (a cognate?) she is not Muslim (1%), nor is she Catholic or Reformed—but is Eastern Orthodoxy.

The Largest Ethnic Group Apart From Russians By Russia's Federal Subject
(according to the 2010 population census)

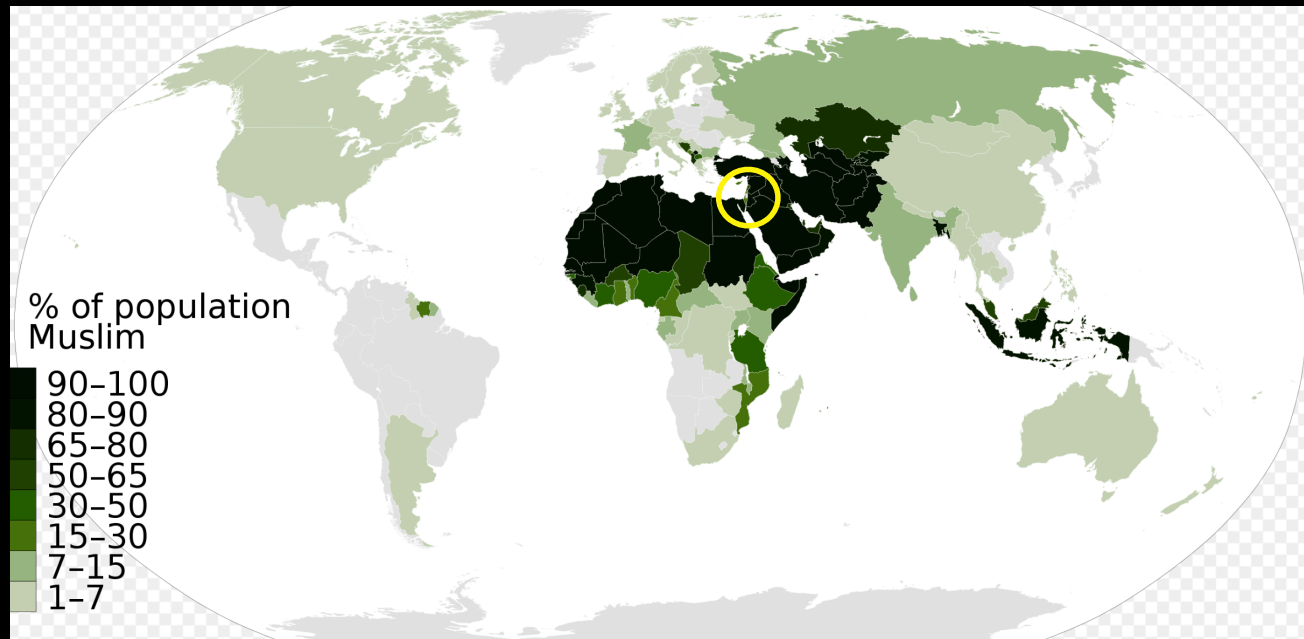



Ros is Russia?

- After Constantinople fell 1453 a. d. the Eastern Head moved to Moscow Russia.
- Russia, had/have many Jews in the pale. The last Czar Nicholas was severely anti-Semitic blamed his country's ill on Jewish conspiracies. (1894-1917)
- Yet Russia recognized Israel (Stalin 1948) as a new nation — she has never directly attacked it.
- Connection? USSR's hegemony included adjacent Muslim nations sharing borders. Russia and the Muslims have a mutual history of hostility yet they can be friendly in face of a common enemy.

Muslims

An estimated 2 of 7.8 billion or more than 24% of the world population identify themselves as Muslims. Islam is the official religion in 26 countries in Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, and the Middle East.



 Russia	144,350,000– 146,750,000	14,000,000– 16,000,000	10–12	1.7 ^[A]
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Russia

Muslims In Russia

Muslims % in Russia

Russia and Muslim Alliances

It is hard from our vantage point to see this alliance clearly—but then **we are blind to the international conditions that follow the Rapture when the realignments can happen quickly.**

But by deduction we conclude that the Muslim religion, its “heart,” will be swamped in the Gog and Magog war. (Circumstantial evidence)

The Unwilling Willing!

- The hook in the jaw figure may be the clue that the conditions have changed for Ros and are not ordinary.
- It seems— against the normal order or common sense that Gog is drawn to the war like a moth to the flame.
- It appears that some situation offers the opportunity of the life-time—to gain spoil and/or global advantage.
- Gog determines to use war to “strike iron while it is hot.”

The Amalgamation of Nations

- So far God has summoned the leader of a nation intent on invading the Land— He and a circle of nations will join him—yet there must be **some hesitance because his summons** is given again as a hook in the jaw. Unwilling ‘at this time” but the ripe opportunity forces his hand. Repeated in next chapter.
- **The hook will guarantee the deliverance of an amalgamation of nations that attack Israel.**
- Since all the nations surrounding Israel are Muslim who have an irrational hatred for Israel, we assume that their religion will solidify the effort—and join Ros (who ever he is).

Muslim Next to Israel are not Listed As Belligerents in the War

Muslim Regions Territory



Muslim Nations Adjacent Israel



The Hook in the Jaw

A Scenario

- The **hook in the jaw** question is intriguing. I have thought that after the Rapture the support for Israel from the United State will disappear, since the evangelicals have had a positive influence on foreign policy.
- The Rapture will remove Holy Spirit support—and fresh hostility will erupt against Israel. The common antisemitic posture.
- This may look to Ros (say Russia) as the grand opportunity to have **warm water access to the Atlantic, to be counted with the great nations of the west** and even more “satisfying” to stamp out the Jews.
- The hook may be the **irresistible opportunity of the moment, that is move before Arab/Muslims claim the Land.**

A large number of military parachutes are seen descending from a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The parachutes are dark in color and are at various stages of descent, some appearing as small silhouettes and others as larger, more detailed shapes. The overall scene suggests a large-scale military operation or a mass parachute drop.

The Battle Engaged

Ezekiel 38

- (The Action) ⁹“You will **go up** (Jerusalem is always up), you will come **like a storm**; you will be like a **cloud covering the land**, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you.”
- **[Air invasion? At least the adjacent nations are not involved. This would necessitate air dropped infantry.]**
- (The Plan) ¹⁰“Thus says the Lord God, “It will come about on **that day**, that thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil plan, Ezekiel 38:9–10

- (The Plan) ¹¹and you will say, 'I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates, [At least that is how he sees it.]
- (The Objective) ¹²to capture spoil and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against [destroy] the waste places which are now inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired cattle and goods, who live at the center of the world.' Ezekiel 38:11–12

Only the Blind Miss This Truth

- The Plan and the Objective can only be fulfilled in the time when Israel is back in the land and prosperous!
- So striking is the engagement of the Lord in this battle that it can easily be seen inside the Day of the Lord.
- We have had two “in that day” (of 8x) expressions in our text, more to come. (They will know, it is God who acts.) It is impossible to find another set of circumstances more agreeable than the present Israel.
- Again a highly prejudiced Bible reader is forced not to see present Israel as God’s work.

All is not Agreeable in the World

- (A Push Back from the Nations) ¹³“Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish (European) with all its villages will say to you, ‘Have you **come (to our western space?)** to capture spoil? Have you assembled your company to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to capture great spoil?’ ”
- (Gog ignores the concern) ¹⁴“Therefore prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “On **that day** when My people Israel are living securely, will you not know it? (The facts of Israel are certain and confidence is 100%) Ezekiel 38:13–14

Ezekiel 38

- (Best argument for Ros as Russia) ¹⁵“You will come from your place out of the **remote parts of the north**, you and many peoples with you, **all of them riding on horses**, (?) a great assembly and a **mighty army**; [This may be a euphemistic expression. As it works out does not the army even engage the Jews(?)]
- ¹⁶and you will come up against My people Israel like a **cloud to cover the land**. It shall come about **in the last days** that I will bring you against **My land**, (Theme=) so that the nations may know Me when I am sanctified (recognized) through you (Gog) before their (nations) eyes, **O Gog.**” Ezekiel 38:15–16

Ezekiel 38

- Rhetorically: ¹⁷Thus says the Lord God, “Are you the one [of those] of whom I spoke in former days **through My servants the prophets** of Israel, who prophesied in those days for many years that I would bring you against them?”
- ¹⁸“It will come about on **that day** [DOL], when Gog comes against the land of Israel,” declares the Lord God, “**that My fury will mount up in My anger.** Ezekiel 38:17–18

Former “prophets” cannot be identified with certainty.

The text concerning the wars with the Anti-Christ and the war of Gog may be confusing to us.

We will not try to pick out the prophecy that Ezekiel is referring to but accept it as embedded in those that we see in the general prophecy of the end times.

Ezekiel 38

- (The War using nature.) ¹⁹“In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on **that day** there will surely be a **great earthquake in the land of Israel.** (**Not tribulation talk.**)
- ²⁰“The fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and **all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence;** the **mountains** also will be **thrown down,** the **steep pathways will collapse** and **every wall will fall to the ground.** Ezekiel 38:19–20

Ezekiel 38

- (The War using nature.) 19“In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land.
- 20““The fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the earth and all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse and every wall will fall to the ground. Ezekiel 38:19–20

This happens in Israel
But it is an international event

Israel Suffers Material Loss

- The destruction of the land and the improvements on it may (are) seem negative towards Israel—and they are.
- The promise to Israel is not that their way of life will be preserved but that the life of the people will be preserved.
- Remember that the destructive war is a wake up call to Israel and the nations that God will defend His word/His people.
- Israel may suffer from this war but the Kingdom is yet some years away. **Israel is once more called to repent.**

Ezekiel 38

- 21 “I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains,” declares the Lord God. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother.
- [This argues for a land engagement of troops.]
- 22 “With pestilence [diseases] and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone. [Weather related to Volcanoes.] Ezekiel 38:21–22

Ezekiel 38

- It is clear that the war event is one sided. No one can touch God and the enemy cannot touch His people. But the destruction of “modern Israel” is a warning that God is working for Israel but they need to repent! This will be the final warning before the time of Jacob’s trouble begins.
- End of all this—is—
- ²³“I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the Lord.” ’Ezekiel 38:23

An After Thought

- If this war is also the destruction of Israel defenses and infrastructure (as we have indicted) it is possible that as the Anti-Christ surveys the scene — he concludes that Israel's enemy has been defeated so they may be open to outside help for their defense and agree to the protection of the anti-Christ rather than rebuild their own which was destroyed. Food for thought.

Ezekiel 39

Ezekiel 39 Additional Information

- **1“And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal; 2and I will turn you around, drive you on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the mountains of Israel. Ezekiel 39:1–2**

The Mechanics of the War

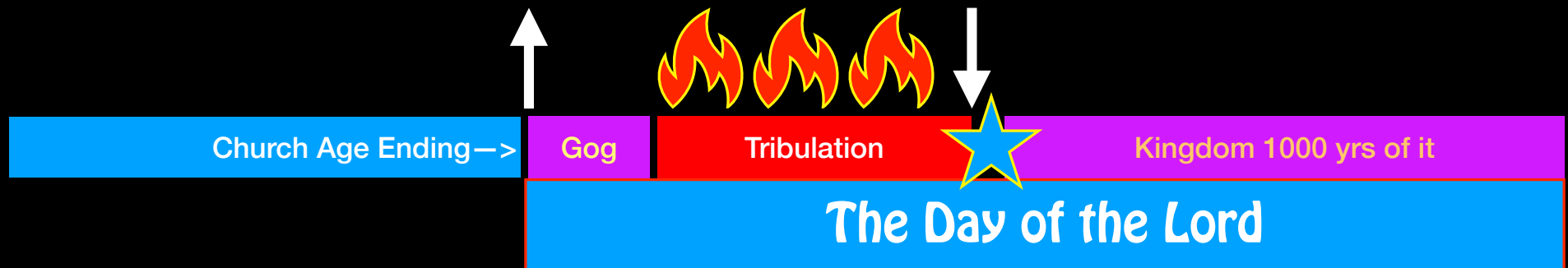
- 3“**I will strike your bow from your left hand and dash down your arrows from your right hand.**
4“**You will fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field.** 5“**You will fall on the open field; for it is I who have spoken,” declares the Lord God. Ezekiel 39:3–5**

Destruction Beyond the Land

- 6“And I will send fire upon Magog and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety; and they will know that I am the Lord. (Precursor of things to come.)
- 7“My holy name I will make known in the midst of My people Israel; and I will not let My holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. Ezekiel 39:6–7

8“Behold, it is coming and it shall be done,”
declares the Lord God.

“That is the day of which I have
spoken.”



Disposal of War Machinery

Bury the Dead and Use the Spoils of War

Ezekiel 39 Additional Information

- 9“Then those who inhabit the cities of Israel will go out and make fires with the weapons and burn them, both shields and bucklers, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears, and for **seven years they will make fires of them.** Ezekiel 39:8–9

Ezekiel 39 Additional Information

- ¹⁰“They will not take wood from the field or gather firewood from the forests, **for they will make fires with the weapons; and they will take the spoil of those who despoiled them and seize the plunder of those who plundered them,**” declares the Lord God. Ezekiel 39:10

Ezekiel 39 Additional Information

- 11“On that day I will give Gog a burial ground there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea, and it will block off those who would pass by. So they will bury Gog there with all his horde, and they will call it the valley of Hamon-gog. Ezekiel 39:11

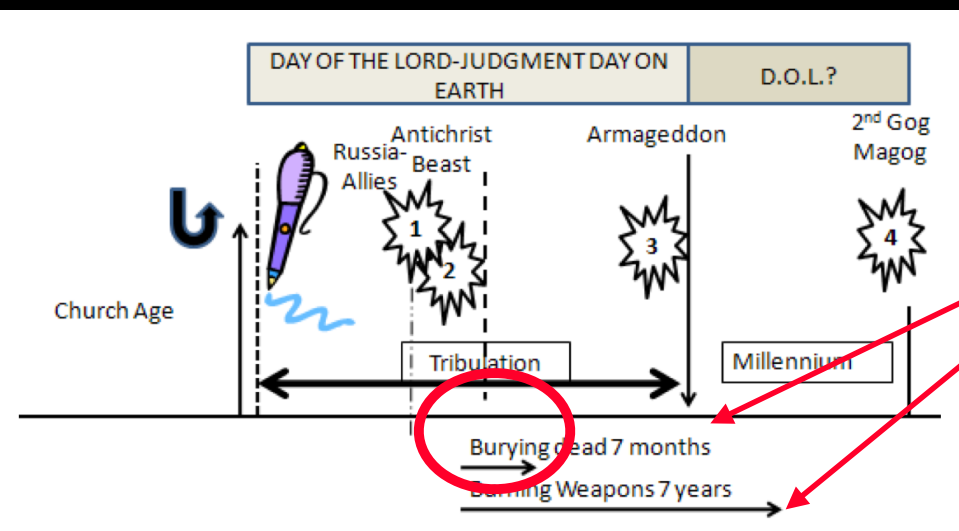
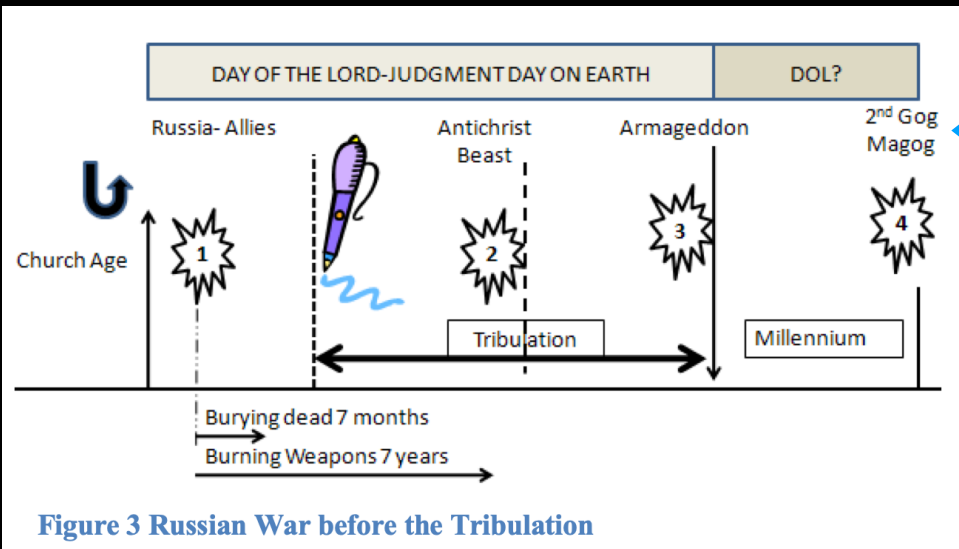


Ezekiel 39 Additional Information

- **12**“For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land.
13“Even all the people of the land will bury them; and it will be to their renown on the day that I glorify Myself,” declares the Lord God. Ezekiel 39:13

Ezekiel 39 Additional Information

- ¹⁴“They will set apart men who will constantly pass through the land, burying those who were passing through, even those left on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search.
¹⁵“As those who pass through the land pass through and anyone sees a man’s bone, then he will set up a marker by it until the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamon-gog.
¹⁶“And even the name of the city will be Hammond. So they will cleanse the land.” ’Ezekiel 39:14–16



Alternative View

- The problem with the traditional view point is that the soils of war continue into the Kingdom when all things are made new.
- Rev. 21 ff.

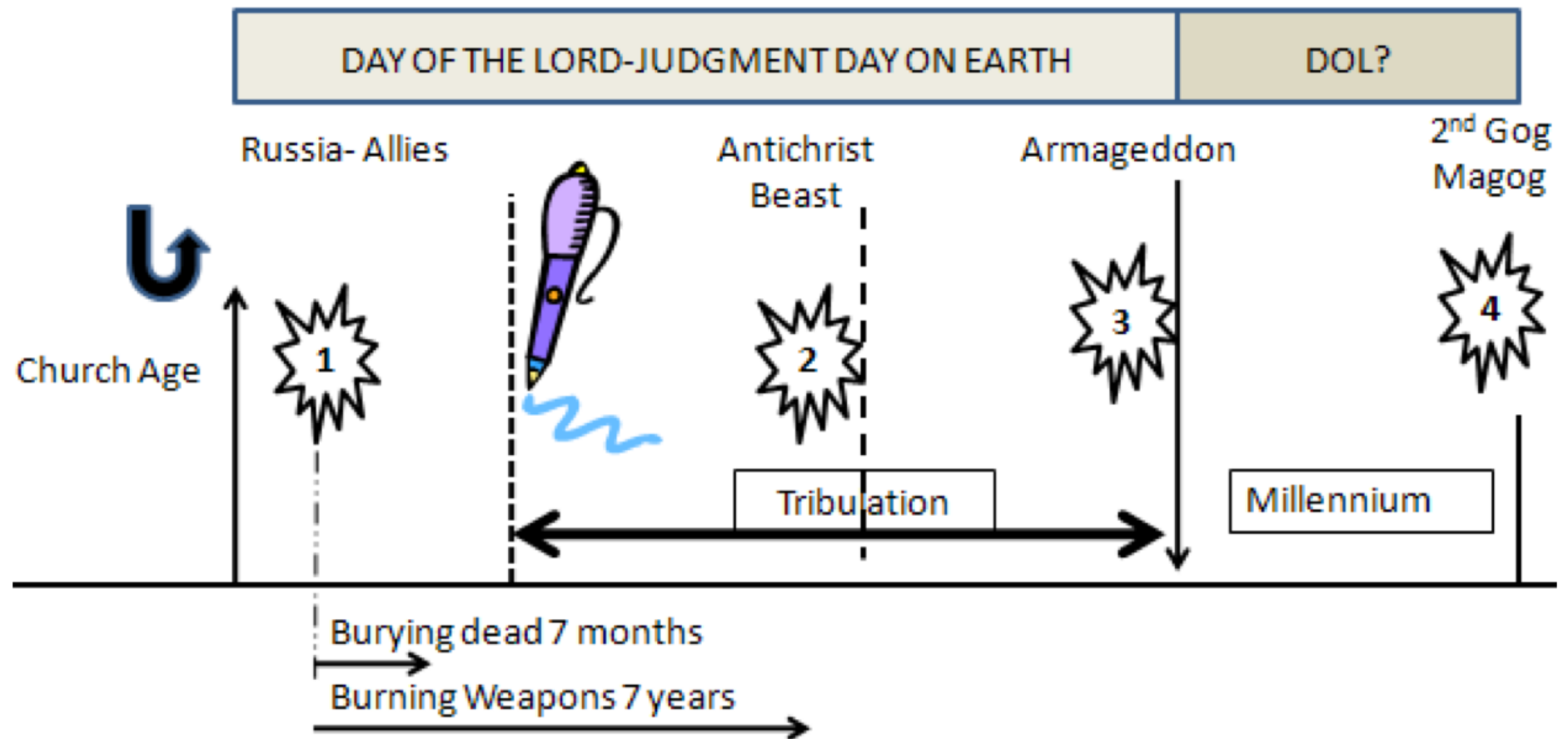


Figure 3 Russian War before the Tribulation

Ezekiel 39 Additional Information

- **17**“As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord God, ‘Speak to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field, **“Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood.** **18**“You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, as though they were rams, lambs, goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. Ezekiel 39:17–19

Ezekiel 39 Additional Information

- **19**“So you will eat fat until you are gluttoned, and drink blood until you are drunk, from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. **20**“You will be gluttoned at My table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war,” declares the Lord God. **Ezekiel 39:19–20**

One Last Time the Purpose of the War

- 21“And I will set My glory [Israel’s deliverance] among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed and My hand [of grace] which I have laid on them.
- ➡ 22“ And the house of Israel will know that I am the Lord their God from that day onward.
- ➡ 23“ The nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile for their iniquity because they acted treacherously against Me, and I hid My face from them; so I gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and all of them fell by the sword. Ezekiel 39:21–23

The Purpose of the War

- [Their history is remembered]
24“According to their
uncleanness and according to
their transgressions I dealt with
them, and I hid My face from
them.” ’ ’ Ezekiel 39:24

Atheism will
disappear from
Israel from the
Gog war forward.
The Nations will
see God as the
Enemy not the
Christians.

The Glorious Kingdom

- [Now the final and only restoration]
- ²⁵Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel [this generation]; and I will be jealous for My holy name. ²⁶“They will forget their disgrace and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely [Kingdom life] on their own land with no one to make them afraid. Ezekiel 39:25–26

Acts 3:¹⁹“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

²⁰and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,

²¹whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

The Glorious Restoration

The Last Word before the Kingdom

- 27“When I bring them back from the peoples [nations] and gather them from the lands of their enemies, **then I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations.**
- ➡ 28“**Then they will know that I am the Lord their God** because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them again (Isaiah 11:11 2nd time) to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer. 29“**I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,**” declares the Lord God. Ezekiel 39:27–29

One More Thing—

- **Finally the timing of the war must be before the Tribulation which targets Israel (and nations) in judgement.**
- **If God is disciplining Israel in the Tribulation how is it possible that the nation and nations will be able to sort out God's glory protecting Israel in the midst of His judgment? That is putting Israel into a persecution war with the Anti-Christ.**
- **Better leave the war outside the Tribulation where God's intention can be clearly seen—protecting Israel.**

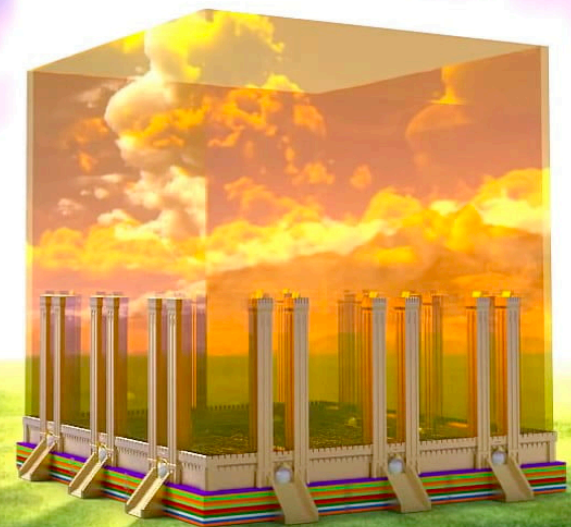
A watercolor illustration of a red double door with a teal base and yellow background. The door is made of two panels with vertical lines and small dots. It is set in a yellow frame with decorative carvings. The background is a mix of yellow and teal washes. The text "Ezekiel 40-48" is written in white over the door.

Ezekiel 40-48

New Kingdom Section

Skipping the 2nd Advent and Regenerating the earth

- ¹In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was taken, on that same day the hand of the Lord was upon me and He brought me there. ²In the visions of God He brought me into the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain, and on it to the south there was a structure like a city. Ezekiel 40:1–2



Thus far—