

The End Times and Last Days – “What to Expect and How to Prepare”

Lesson 22- **PART 2 “The Battle of Gog & Magog”**

2. When?

This is the most debated issue as to WHEN this battle will occur.

Ezek. 38:7-11, 14-16 provide some clues.

“Be prepared, prepare yourself, you and all your company gathered around you. Be a guard for them. ⁸After many days you will be summoned. In the latter years, you will come against the land that has been brought back from the sword and regathered from many peoples on the mountains of Israel, which had been a continual waste. But they were brought out from the peoples. When all of them are dwelling securely, ⁹you will come 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.’”

¹⁰Thus says *ADONAI Elohim*: “It will come to pass in that day that things will come into your heart, and you will devise an evil plan. ¹¹You will say, ‘I will go up against the land of unwallled villages. I will fall upon the quiet people who live securely, all of them living without walls, having no bars or gates, ¹²in order to seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places now inhabited and against the people gathered from the nations, who have been acquiring livestock and property, who live in the center of the world.’

¹⁴“Therefore, son of man, prophesy, say to Gog, thus says *ADONAI Elohim*: ‘In that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know? You will come from your place out of the extreme north—you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and mighty army. ¹⁶You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud covering the land. It will happen in the last days. I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me—when I am sanctified through you, Gog, before their eyes.’”

When? Some speculate that because of the mention of the use of swords, spears, horses, that the battle must have already occurred using these old war implements.

How does one account for the use of these types of weapons if this invasion is at the end of future events?

Two plausible answers:

1. These events could be that the nations will have to resort back to archaic weapons and means of transportation due to the depleted resources or a sweeping disarmament agreement between the nations.
 2. Ezekiel could be describing weapons in the language of his day the people could understand.
- The focus is not so much on the weapons as the point is the invaders will use weapons of destruction in an all-out warfare to attempt to destroy Israel.
 - There has never been such an event to have occurred in Israel's history – although the recent events of Gaza, the 12-day war with Iran can be viewed as a precursor to the end time battle.

In The Future:

When in the future is what Ezek 38-39 attempt to time the invasion.

There are several opinions as to when and all the views have problems with them.

Some scholars place the invasion at almost every point in the end times; either before the Rapture, between the Rapture and the Tribulation; in conjunction with the Battle of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation, at the end of the Millennium, the middle of the Tribulation.

Seven Views of the timing of Ezekiel 38-39

1. Before the Rapture
2. Between the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation
3. First half of the Tribulation or midpoint
4. End of the Tribulation – equates Ezek, 38-39 with Armageddon
5. Two phases: Ezek. 38 at the midpoint; Ezek. 39 at the end
6. Beginning of the Millennium
7. End of the Millennium

Are there any Theological clues as to the time of Ezk. 38-39?

1. Placement of the battle between the national and spiritual rebirths of Israel. – between the regathering of Israel of Ezek, 37 and the restoration of the Jewish people as they worship in the millennial Temple of Ezek. 40-48.
2. Places the battle at a time when Israel is at rest in its ancient homeland – Ezek. 38:8, 11, 14

“⁸A long time from now you will be called into action. In the distant future you will swoop down on the land of Israel, which will be enjoying peace after recovering from war and after its people have returned from many lands to the mountains of Israel. ¹¹You will say, ‘Israel is an unprotected land filled with unwallled villages! I will march against her and destroy these people who live in such confidence! “Therefore, son of man, prophesy against Gog. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: When my people are living in peace in their land, then you will rouse yourself.”

There have not been many times when Israel was at rest in its ancient homeland.

The Jewish people have been scattered over the face of the earth and persecuted in many places.

When will they be at Rest?

Israel has never had a time of rest in its existence.

There has always been a movement of the enemy to unseat and remove them from existence.

Most suggest Israel will only be at rest [although a temporary and false one] when the league is made with the Anti-Christ during the Tribulation.

This belief also places the prophecy of Gog & Magog with the final battle of Armageddon.

It equates this also with Rev. 19.

The similarities of these scriptures are found to favor this view because both mention the birds feeding on the carnage of the fallen warriors – Ezek. 39:17-19; Rev. 19:17-18.

¹⁷“Son of man, I have appointed you as a watchman for Israel. Whenever you receive a message from me, warn people immediately. ¹⁸If I warn the wicked, saying, ‘You are under the penalty of death,’ but you fail to deliver the warning, they will die in their sins. And I will hold you responsible for their deaths. ¹⁹If you

warn them and they refuse to repent and keep on sinning; they will die in their sins. But you will have saved yourself because you obeyed me.

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, shouting to the vultures flying high in the sky: “Come! Gather together for the great banquet God has prepared.

¹⁸ Come and eat the flesh of kings, generals, and strong warriors; of horses and their riders; and of all humanity, both free and slave, small and great.”

Though some believe this is the one and the same war, there are enough differences to suggest it is two separate wars:

<u>Gog & Magog</u>	<u>Armageddon</u>
Gog leads invasion	The Anti-Christ leads invasion
Gog is destroyed	The Anti-Christ and the false prophet are destroyed. No mention of Gog
Israel is at peace at the time of the invasion	There is no mention of Israel’s peace
Armies gather to plunder Israel	Armies gather to fight against Christ
Occurs during the first half of the Tribulation	Occurs at the end of the Tribulation
Russia and her allies invade Israel	All nations invade Israel
Occurs so that all the nations will know that He is God	Occurs to destroy the nations.

Israel will not be at rest during the Great Tribulation; Christ told them to flee to the mountains to escape the persecution – Matt. 24:15-16

It seems the best of the views is that this battle will happen in the last days for Israel before the Millennium while Israel is at rest just after the Rapture when they sign the agreement with Anti-Christ.

- This is known as the first half of the Tribulation or the 70th week of Danile 9 prophecy.
- The seven-year peace treaty will guarantee a time of peace for Israel to be able to relax and be in safety [temporarily].

3. Why? The Purpose Ezek. 38:9-12

The purpose of this invasion is the subject of Ezek. 38:9-12.

There are both divine and human reasons for the invasion with four main goals:

1. **The land** The invaders are desiring to acquire more territory – Ezek. 38:8
“A long time from now you will be called into action. In the distant future you will swoop down on the land of Israel, which will be enjoying peace after recovering from war and after its people have returned from many lands to the mountains of Israel.”
 - Any military invasion of this magnitude and scope always includes land.
2. **The money** The invaders will come to plunder Israel and amass wealth – Ezek 38:12 “² I will go to those formerly desolate cities that are now filled with people who have returned from exile in many nations. I will capture vast amounts of plunder, for the people are rich with livestock and other possessions now. They think the entire world revolves around them!”
 - Gas & oil reserves off the coast of Israel. Greed will be the motivation for the invasion.
3. **Racism** Motivated to destroy Israel just because of hatred – Ezek 38:10, 16
¹⁰ “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: At that time evil thoughts will come to your mind, and you will devise a wicked scheme. ¹⁶ and you will attack my people Israel, covering their land like a cloud. At that time in the distant future, I will bring you against my land as everyone watches, and my holiness will be displayed by what happens to you, Gog. Then all the nations will know that I am the LORD.”
4. **Power** The attack will be to unseat the Anti-Christ who is in world dominance and ally with Israel at this time.
Dan. 9:27 “²⁷ The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.”
 - This will be an attack against the Western Confederacy of nations ruling the world.

5. The evil invaders have their intentions, BUT GOD has His motivation.

Ezek. 38:16 “At that time in the distant future, I will bring you against my land as everyone watches, and my holiness will be displayed by what happens to you, Gog. Then all the nations will know that I am the LORD.”

- The Lord will be glorified through the attack and His defense of Israel, and the known world will know that He is God.