

Gog Makes His Opening Chess Move!

Part 1

In the game of Chess, white makes the first move in a match. There are a total of 20 opening moves that can be played at the start of a chess game. Each pawn has a possibility of moving either one or two steps forward creating 16 possible first moves with a pawn. Both knights have two squares they can move to creating another 4 possible opening moves. Gog has made his opening chess move in Syria! **Fulfillment of Ezekiel 38/39 just ahead!**



On Sunday, August 5th, in my email was a post by Elijah Magnier, a 35-year war journalist who covers the Middle East. The headline read: ***“The Levant is now Russia's stage of influence and operations - And the US know it”*** The content of this report below is prophetic evidence of what lies just ahead in the Ezekiel 38/39 War of Gog and Magog. Iran, Russia, and Turkey are the verge of total economic collapse. This comes as a consequence of U.S. sanctions instituted against these three countries by the President Trump administration. The three countries have to react to the sanctions and they will not be good. They are in a corner with an economic noose around their necks. The situation has all the markings of an impending economic war becoming a shooting war. This post is longer than most but the relevance has profound implications. The biting sanctions have crippled the currencies of Iran Russia, and Turkey.

Ask yourself, how is it that these three countries happened to be central to the Ezekiel 38/39 War of Gog and Magog? How prophetic is that? The proverbial rubber band can only be

stretched so far and so long before it snaps! Everything is lined up perfectly for the War of Gog and Magog. God is about to bring to a close the culmination of the Ezekiel 38/39 prophecy. I am sharing three "at ground zero" reports by a seasoned war correspondent, an economist, and geopolitical analyst, and they speak to the lateness of the hour.

Russian military police forces have established eight static positions along the 1974 disengagement line and have registered a strong presence with UNDOF observer forces on the occupied Golan Heights line. Moreover, **a Russian force headed by a Russian General arrived, for the second time this year, at the Lebanese Hezbollah post at the Syrian-Lebanese borders at al-Jdeideh.** The Russians wanted to establish communication equipment, dishes, and electronics in the same area controlled by Hezbollah. The Lebanese organization maintains a substantial force in the area after defeating al-Qaeda and ISIS early this year. Hezbollah's presence is said to be focused on preventing the smuggling of weapons and jihadist Takfiris between the two countries. **It is clear that Russia is expanding its control, slowly but surely, over the Levant.** However, it is still unclear how far the Russian President Vladimir Putin is ready to go.

High ranking sources operating in Syria confirmed to me that "a Russian General arrived with a unit at al-Jdeideh asking to establish a communication system and dishes connecting the Russian forces deployed in the area with a military base in Hmeymim and with Moscow, considered to be the center of the entire Russian and Syria military operation since mid-2015. **The Russian unit wanted to use Hezbollah's location but was asked to choose another one much higher and further away. Following a quick inspection of the place, the Russian General accepted the offer and based his men at a distance from Hezbollah.**"

According to these sources, **there are tens of thousands of Russian troops spread all over Syria**, with the exception of the north, occupied by Turkey and the US.

There is no doubt that Russia has reached an understanding with the US that **the Levant has become its own operational stage and area of influence.** This will lead to an expansion of Russian forces all over Syrian territory without exception. This also means that Moscow won't accept the presence of al-Qaeda or "Hurras al-Deen" or whatever name the group hides behind, and therefore will work towards taking away the territory it is controlling to-date (even if eliminating the ideology is not possible.)

In the south, Syria's allies (Hezbollah and Iran) have pulled back their troops because the reason for their presence has come to an end following the liberation of all borders and the elimination of ISIS in the Quneitra pocket. These forces have taken up another position facing ISIS in the east of Suweida province and in al-Badiya to eliminate the last ISIS presence in the area. **The Idlib battle seems to have been halted to give the Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan time to regroup his proxies and move al-Qaeda away from the territory he controls in north-east Syria.**

The south of Syria has returned to the control of the Syrian government and only Syrian forces remain in Suweida, Daraa and Quneitra provinces, as was the case prior to 2011, the year the war on Syria began. The presence of Iranian advisors continues to be registered in every Syrian unit, offering advice and coordination with the central command and control in various provinces.

Russian forces are reaching distant territories in Syria, even areas that are not under threat.

The Russian command does not consider Hezbollah an enemy force; on the contrary, **as a Russian General told Hezbollah forces in al-Jdeideh: "You are our allies, we want to be next to you and we are not asking you to leave."**

This put the Hezbollah forces at ease and they asked their command for advice. Another location, not very far away from the one chosen by the General, was indicated to him. The General accepted the new location and based his men on higher ground to install his sophisticated equipment.

It is not clear if Russia will ever ask Hezbollah to leave Syria, or even to leave the Syrian-Lebanese borders. If Moscow does one day decide to take over the entire Syrian-Israeli dossier (securing a peace agreement and the return of occupied territory), it is most unlikely that such an audacious step will be successful. Israel is not ready for peace or to give back the wealthy and strategic Golan Heights to Syria. This will limit Russian president's freedom of action and confront him with the very complicated reality of the Middle Eastern dossier Russia has been absent from since 1990. Dealing with Hezbollah's presence in Syria in the near future is most unlikely even if the Lebanese organization has no intention of confronting Russia or nor of competing with Russia in the Levant.

Israel is not only unwilling to let go of the Syrian and Lebanese occupied territories but is even escalating its demands: During the Netanyahu-Lavrov meeting, **Israel requested the withdrawal of all Iranian forces, the removal of all long range and accurate missiles from Syria, and the cessation of all weapon shipments from Syria to Lebanon-Hezbollah.**

Russia can't and won't ask Iran to leave Syria because Tehran is a part of the strategic alliance with President Assad within the "Axis of Resistance." Moreover, it can't ask Syria to stop arming itself because it is the same Russia that is providing and equipping the Syrian army. It can't ask Damascus to stop the transit of weapons through its territory either, because Syria and Hezbollah are tied by a very strong bond. Indeed, the Syrian president Bashar al-Assad opened his warehouses to Hezbollah when the Israelis attacked Lebanon in 2006, and the organization rushed to support Assad in the war imposed on Syria in 2011.

Russia is also struggling with Israel's continuous bombing and violations of Syrian air space.

Moreover, Tel Aviv continues to say that it has the "right to defend itself" by bombing targets in Syria.

Even if the battle of Idlib has been postponed to allow Turkey to "cleanse" the city first from al-

Qaeda, **the battle against the vestiges of ISIS is ready and will aim to put an end to the group's control of all territory**, restoring it to Syrian army control. However, the final chapter of the war in the Middle East hasn't yet been written. The balance in the Levant is bigger than Middle Eastern players now that Russia has decided to continue its heavy involvement in Syria. The presence of tens of thousands of Russian troops is the best witness to this. Russia will manage to push the US away from Syria, but this doesn't mean it has become the only partner for Middle Eastern countries.

I choose not rely on U.S. media for any significant news coming out of the Middle East, preferring to get my news from veteran seasoned war zone correspondents. Mr. Magnier has over 35 years' experience covering the Middle East and acquiring in-depth experience, robust contacts, and political knowledge in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan and Syria. By the time the wire services are focused on the region details, a war could engulf the Levant. Even Mr. Magnier's details about thousands of Russian troops are based in Syria have been misrepresented by western news sources.

Two days later Elijah Magnier followed up with a second report that becomes alarming by the details he shared.

Russia is imposing new rules of engagement (ROE) on both Israel and the US in Syria, reflecting the way it preserves its national interests in the Levant and beyond the Middle East, mainly in Ukraine, where the US has **decided** to provide lethal weapons to the local authority and is aiming to attract Kiev to become part of NATO, a move considered by Moscow to be hostile.

Moscow's answer was clearly stated by the Russian Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov, who said that "Russian advisers, trainers, intelligence service officers, artillery personnel, and all other various Russian military units have been **integrated** into every single Syrian combat troops, brigades, units, and even small battalions". Gerasimov stressed that "all military and combat plans are agreed in partnership with the Syrian army. We are on the ground, working together for common strategic objectives and a common plan". Thus, the Russian politico-military player knows how to send his messages throughout the Syrian southern front every time the US moves against Moscow's interests in other parts of the world.

Russia, through its Chief of Staff (Russian), recognizes that the Syrian military operations are not unilateral Syrian decisions – with its ground forces and those of its partners, i.e. Iran, Hezbollah and other Iraqi and allies—but are also a product of Russian evaluation and planning. Thus, the liberation of Beit Jinn – the last stronghold of the militants in the western Ghouta and at the foot of the southern mountain of Jabal al Sheikh (Mount Hermon) confining the Israeli positions – is also a Russian decision.

The liberation of Beit Jinn from al Qaeda and their Syrian allies – supported, equipped and financed by Israel since 2015 – helped the Syrian army to break the imaginary Israeli “buffer zone”. Israel aimed to prevent Hezbollah and Iran from reaching the area to avoid contact with its forces. Following the US President Donald Trump’s decision to supply Ukraine with anti-tank laser missiles, adopting a more aggressive stand towards Russia, Moscow decided to move also on the Syrian front, widening the differences between Russia and the US.

The Syrian army, along with Hezbollah Ridwan Special Forces, carried out the ground attack on Beit Jinn and succeeded in recovering the surrounding hills and the city itself following a request by al-Qaeda to surrender (around 300 militants) and evacuated the area before the final assault to the northern city of Idlib and others to the southern city of Daraa. Thus, the Russian-Iranian-Syrian-Hezbollah forces’ coordination on the Syrian-Israeli front is designed to prevent any Israeli military intervention in defence of its proxies (al-Qaeda and its allies in the south of Syria Ittihad Qu’wat Jabal al-Sheikh). Russia is imposing a new rule of engagement on Israel: any Israeli attack may endanger a Russian or several Russian officers working side by side with the Syrian army, as the Russian Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov revealed. Israel won’t be able to bypass the new Russian equation because, if Israel hits the attacking forces, it may put Tel Aviv in conflict with a superpower, Russia, and draw it into the Hezbollah/Iran – Israeli conflict.

The Russian-Iranian-Syrian strike comes at a time when Israel is providing artillery and intelligence support for al-Qaeda and its allies in Beit Jinn. By recovering the area and the highlands around it, Russia is administering the first direct slap to US’s main ally (Israel) in the Middle East. Israel has long feared Iran and Hezbollah’s presence at its borders and did everything to stop the Syrian Army from reaching the Shebaa farms occupied by Israel, as is the case today following the liberation of Beit Jinn. However, there are still areas under indirect Israeli influence in occupied southern Syria (under al-Qaeda and its allies’ control), such as Quneitra area and the surrounding villages (Tarangah, Jab’bat al-Khashab, and Ain al-Baydah).

The US president redirected the compass of the “resistance” towards Jerusalem after years of negligence, damaged by the Takfiri organisations (ISIS and Al Qaeda) when these decided to target Muslims and non-Muslims in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and other parts of the Islamic world. When Trump “recognised” Jerusalem as being the capital of Israel, he united and focussed other ideologies organised under the aegis of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Syria (Syrian nationals) towards the Syrian-Israeli border and towards every occupied Syrian territory and Palestine.

The Syrian war failed in its objective to change the Syrian regime and produced groups who have benefitted from Iranian training (and ideology) and the Lebanese Hezbollah’s outstanding combat experience since 1982 to date. These are (to name but a few): “Hezbollah Syria”, “Al-Redha forces”, “Al-Mukhtar al-Thaqafi Brigade”, “Imam al-Baqir Brigade”, “Qamar Bani Hashem (Al-Abbas bin Ali)”, “Islamic Resistance Force 313”, “Zeyn El Abidine Brigade”, “Saraya Al-Waad”, “the Raad Al-Mahdi brigade”, “Al-Hussein Brigade”, “Al-Ghalaboon”, and other similar groups spread across the Syrian map.

Iran's biggest achievement in the outcome of the Syrian war is the new Syrian combat doctrine, which has changed from being a regular classical army to fighting with an ideology which will protect the country from the Takfiri's return to the Levant and will stand against Israel. They will also be directed to fight for the recovery of all occupied territory by Turkey and the US, in the north of Syria, if these decide to stay despite Damascus's demand for these to leave.

It is clear that the rules of the game in Syria have changed. They will continue to evolve to meet evolving interests: internal and regional changes, and development. For certain, a new resistance has been born from these six long years of war, and is ready to serve its own objectives- and also those of Syria, Iran, and Russia.

Putin does not want a war with the U.S.; he has gone to great lengths to not strike back at the United States, and even Israel in obstructing the Russian-Syrian pipeline contract project that was inked seven years ago. The American media has been Russia-bashing, inciting a war against Russia. The fact is, those provoking a war with Russia are carrying water for the Jesuit-controlled Vatican. The Roman Catholic Institution has been trying to destroy Russia for at least 200 years.

You don't hear about this in the media, but certain Catholic publications are out in the open when they call the CIA [Central Intelligence Agency] the Catholic Intelligence Agency. The Jesuits and the CIA are as thick as thieves. Their joined at the hip relations go back to the mid-1940. Putin recognizes the fact that a nuclear war is an extinction level event. He has stated such at his meetings with world leaders and press addresses. In a nuclear war, there can be no winners, only losers. None the less, the Vatican and CIA share common hatred for Russia, going back to the days of the Communist Soviet Union. Rome's contempt for Russia goes back further to the days of the Romanov Dynasty when the Jesuits were expelled from Russia, and actually being escorted to Russia's border with Poland.

In the meeting held between President Trump and Putin, Vladimir Putin provided President Trump several hundred terabytes of flash-drive data and facts on the U.S. "deep state" and "shadow government" seeking to depose President Trump. The "American Intelligence Media" posts daily news and audio posts at their web site, exposing the individuals and organizations working on behalf of the "Globalists" to remove President Trump. At the time of this writing, there have been a dozen attempts on the life of President Trump and his family. That Russian bashers are blatantly in the open, such as the *'New York Times'* and *'Washington Post'* conditioning public opinion against Russia is not a surprise, however, Vladimir Putin has to deal with a Russian "deep state" of his own. President Trump has a triple level of security: The Secret Service, the U.S. Military, and a third private security level paid for by the President himself. In the past fifteen months, I have had this uncanny thought that President Trump is a modern-day David going up against Goliath.

What I fear most is that détente between President Trump and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, will be obstructed by the CIA, in the form of a false flag event as to provoke a war

between the super-powers. Revelation 9:18 provides us the prophecy: ***“By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.”*** Our imagination leaves us no doubt this passage is a global war, most probably nuclear! A third of the world’s population is 2.5-billion. In this article I will do an exegesis of Ezekiel 38 and 39. But before going there I want us to get the insights of someone who understands the persona of Vladimir Putin. I have been fascinated with Putin for a very long time, and reading anything in print about him.

A potential scenario that might occur may explain why the United States is not found in the Ezekiel 38/39 scenario might play into Gog’s actions. Currently the country is facing a wide number of events portending of governmental collapse, dollar collapse, and economic collapse, societal collapse, being urged on by the “deep state” and its corrupt Department of Justice, CIA, FBI, IRS, and those working to overthrow the national election of Donald Trump. The “deep state” elements are facing a time factor as they have to achieve any success before the mid-term election in November. George Soros and his hundreds of globalist groups are tasked with the agenda of overthrowing the legitimate government through chaos, terrorism, and open warfare. The collective events in such a scenario could disable the ability of the government to come to the aide of Israel, thus, provide the opportunity for Putin to move against the Levant.

With the huge deposits of oil and natural gas discovered in the past decade, particularly the Golan Heights, where the pool of discovered oil has been verified and more than enough to meet Israel’s needs for 200 years. Even larger oil/gas discoveries have been made off the coast of Gaza by Israeli-licensed exploration this year as well. I have noted elsewhere previously that the Genie Energy find is the largest in the history of oil/gas exploration. Here is an article written in June of 2015 by F. William Engdhal for the *‘New Eastern Outlook’* just below:

The geopolitical stakes in the Middle East have just gotten higher by an order of magnitude. Take a little-known Newark, New Jersey oil company, the contested Golan Heights between Syria and Israel, add a reported major oil discovery there just as Russia’s bombing campaign in Syria goes into high gear, shake it vigorously and we have a potential detonator for World War III.

Initially—going back more than a decade when Washington neo-conservative think-tanks and the Bush-Cheney Administration were devising their Greater Middle East regime-change agenda—competing natural gas pipelines through Syria to Turkey or via Lebanon to the Mediterranean played a definite “supporting” role in Washington’s war on Syria’s Assad. Now oil, lots of oil, comes into the play, and Israel is claiming it’s theirs. The only problem is that it isn’t. The oil is in the Golan Heights which Israel illegally took from Syria in the 1967 Six Day War.

Genie in a stinky bottle

What do Dick Cheney, James Woolsey, Bill Richardson, Jacob Lord Rothschild, Rupert Murdoch, Larry Summers and Michael Steinhardt have in common? They all are members of the Strategic Advisory Board of a Newark, New Jersey-based oil and gas group with the name, Genie Energy. It's quite a collection of names.



Dick Cheney, before becoming George W. Bush's "shadow president" in 2001, was CEO of the world's largest oilfield services company, Halliburton, also reported to be a CIA-linked company tied to the Bush family cabal. James Woolsey, a neo-con former CIA Director under Bill Clinton, today sits as the chairman of the neo-con think-tank, Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and is a member of the pro-Likud Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP). He was a member of the infamous Project for a New American Century (PNAC), along with Cheney, Don Rumsfeld and a gaggle of neo-cons who later staffed the Bush-Cheney administration. After September 11, 2001 Woolsey referred to the Bush-Cheney War on Terror as "World War IV," counting the Cold War as World War III. Bill Richardson is a former US Secretary of Energy. Rupert Murdoch, owner of major US and UK media including the Wall Street Journal, is the major financier of the neo-conservative Weekly Standard of Bill Kristol, who founded the PNAC. Larry Summers was US Treasury Secretary and drafted the laws that deregulated US banks from

the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act, in effect opening the floodgates to the US financial crisis of 2007-2015. Michael Steinhardt the hedge-fund speculator is a philanthropic friend of Israel, of Marc Rich and a board member of Woolsey's neo-con Foundation for the Defense of Democracies. And Jacob Lord Rothschild is a former business partner of convicted Russian oil oligarch, Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Before his arrest Khodorkovsky secretly transferred his shares in Yukos Oil to Rothschild. Rothschild is a part-owner of Genie Energy which in 2013 was granted exclusive oil and gas exploration rights to a 153-square mile radius in the southern part of the Golan Heights by the Netanyahu government. In short, it's quite an eye-popping board.



Golan Heights and international law

The Israeli government gave the concession to Genie in the disputed Golan Heights in 2013 when the US-led destabilization of the Syrian Assad regime was in full force. Conveniently, Israel also began building fortifications at that time to seal off the illegally-occupied Golan Heights from Syria, knowing there was little Assad of Syria could do to stop it. In 2013, as Genie Energy began moving into Golan Heights, Israeli military engineers overhauled the forty-five mile border fence with Syria, replacing it with a steel barricade that includes barbed wire, touch sensors, motion detectors, infrared cameras, and ground radar, putting it on par with the Wall Israel has constructed in the West Bank.

Now, as Damascus fights for its life, apparently, Genie has discovered a huge oil field precisely there. The Golan Heights, however, are illegally occupied by Israel. In 1981, Israel passed the Golan Heights Law, imposing Israeli “laws, jurisdiction and administration” to the Golan Heights. In response the UN Security Council passed Resolution 242 which declared Israel must withdraw from all lands occupied in the 1967 war with Syria, including the Golan Heights. Again in 2008 a plenary session of the UN General Assembly passed a resolution 161–1 in favor of a motion on the Golan Heights that reaffirmed Security Council resolution 497, which was passed in 1981 after the Israeli de facto annexation, declaring the Golan Heights Law, “null and void and without international legal effect,” and called on Israel to desist from “changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and, in particular, to desist from the establishment of settlements...from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan and from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan.” Israel was the only nation to vote against the resolution. As recently as June 2007 Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert sent a secret communique to Syrian President Bashar Assad saying that Israel would concede the Golan Heights in exchange for a comprehensive peace agreement and the severing of Syria’s ties with Iran and militant groups in the region.

Genie claims huge discovery

On October 8, into the second week of Russian airstrikes against ISIS and other so-called “moderate” terrorists at the request of the Assad government, Yuval Bartov, chief geologist from Genie Energy’s Israeli subsidiary, Afek Oil & Gas, told Israel’s Channel 2 TV that his company had found a major oil reservoir on the Golan Heights: “We’ve found an oil stratum **350 meters thick** in the southern Golan Heights. On average worldwide, strata are 20 to 30 meters thick, and this is 10 times as large as that, so we are talking about significant quantities.” This oil find has now made the Golan Heights a strategic “prize” that clearly has the Netanyahu government more determined than ever to sow chaos and disorder in Damascus and use that to de facto create an Israeli irreversible occupation of Golan and its oil. A minister in the Netanyahu coalition government, Naftali Bennett, Minister of Education and Minister of Diaspora Affairs and leader of the right-wing religious party, The Jewish Home, has made a proposal that Israel settle 100,000 new Israeli settlers across the Golan in five years. He argues that with Syria “disintegrating” after years of civil war, it’s hard to imagine a stable state to which the Golan Heights could be returned. Further a growing chorus in Tel Aviv is arguing that

Netanyahu demand American recognition of Israel's 1981 annexation of the Golan as an "appropriate salve to Israeli security concerns in the wake of the nuclear deal with Iran." Energy war has been a significant component of US, Israeli, Qatari, Turkish, and, until recently, Saudi, strategy against Syria's Assad regime. Before the latest Golan Heights oil discovery, the focus on Assad pivoted on the huge regional natural gas resources of both Qatar and of Iran on opposite sides of the Persian Gulf, comprising the largest known gas discovery in the world to date.



The Washington Post

In 2009 the government of Qatar, today home to the Muslim Brotherhood and a major funder of ISIS in Syria and Iraq, met with Bashar al-Assad in Damascus.

Qatar proposed to Bashar that Syria join in an agreement to allow a transit gas pipeline from Qatar's huge North Field in the Persian Gulf adjacent to Iran's huge South Pars gas field. The Qatari pipeline would have gone through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and on to Turkey to supply European markets. Most crucially, it would bypass Russia. An Agence France-Presse report claimed Assad's rationale was "to protect the interests of his Russian ally, which is Europe's top supplier of natural gas." In 2010 Assad instead joined talks with Iran and Iraq for an alternative \$10 billion pipeline plan that would also potentially allow Iran to supply gas to Europe from its South Pars field in the Iranian waters of the Persian Gulf. The three countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding in July 2012 – just as Syria's civil war was spreading to Damascus and Aleppo.

Now an apparent discovery of huge volumes of oil by a New Jersey oil company whose board includes Iraq war architect, Dick Cheney, neo-con ex-CIA head James Woolsey, and Jacob Lord Rothschild, business partner of one of Vladimir Putin's most bitter critics, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, bring the stakes of the Russian intervention on behalf of Syria's Assad against ISIS, Al Qaeda and other CIA-backed "moderate" terrorists" to a new geopolitical dimension. The US coup in Ukraine in 2014, and its financing and training of ISIS and other "moderate" terrorist gangs in Syria all have one prime target—Russia and her network of allies, a network, ironically, which Washington and Israeli policies are expanding almost by the hour.

<https://journal-neo.org/2015/10/26/genies-and-genocide-syria-israel-russia-and-much-oil-2/>

The above report by F. William Engdhal notes the point the region is a strategic "prize", an understatement in my opinion, when you consider the fact that both Saudi Arabia oil is in the stages of exhaustion; Russia wants to prevent Israel from building its new planned pipeline to Cyprus, and the belly of Europe through Bulgaria and Italy. When President Trump met with NATO, he attacked Germany's Prime Minister Angela Merkel for signing a deal with Putin to purchase gas from Russia through the Nord Stream 2. Gazprom will have Nord Stream 2 operational in 2019, capable of delivering 55-billion cubic meters of gas per year. In April 2017, Nord Stream 2 AG signed the financing agreements for the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project with ENGIE, OMV, Royal Dutch Shell, Uniper, and Wintershall. These five European energy companies are providing long-term financing for 50 percent of the total cost of the project. The entry point of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline into the Baltic Sea will be the Ust-Luga area of the Leningrad Region. Then the pipeline will stretch across the Baltic Sea. Its exit point in Germany will be in the Greifswald area close to the exit point of Nord Stream, a distance of over 1,200 kilometers (745 miles). President Trump rightly so, called out Germany's deal with Russia at the NATO meeting earlier this summer. Russia provides Western Europe with all the energy they can buy, and they are not interested in Israel getting in getting a piece of the pie.

It should be noted that Ezekiel 38/39, from the school of Reformed/Covenant Theology, the War of Gog and Magog is ancient history, offering no evidence of a future event was held to by Dispensational Theology. Reformed/Covenant Theology rejects the idea of God dealing with

the Jews separately apart from the church; as does it reject Daniel's 70th Week; a thousand year reign; and a number of other doctrines and teachings. The Reformed/Covenant Theology camp bought into the Roman Catholic heresy, teaching that God is through with the Jews. Keep in mind, the Apostle Paul refuted this idea early on in his ministry. He was quite explicit in Romans 9, 10, and 11, that God was not through with the Jewish people referred to as the Apple of His Eye! The Apostle Paul therefore becomes a problem for Catholics, and most mainline Protestant churches that came out of the Reformation. Rather than face the teachings of the Apostle Paul, they largely errantly ignore his writings. I am saying this so that you will understand why the church is silent on the coming Ezekiel 38/39 War of Gog and Magog; and this would include the fulfillment of Isaiah 17:1-2.

The game of chess is a national pastime in Russia. And you might say that Vladimir Putin is playing a high-stakes game of geopolitical chess when it comes to the Ukraine. That became obvious when he grabbed the Crimea region. Western leaders are plotting how to counter Putin's latest moves with economic sanctions. So to get some insight into what might come next, I sought out what experts have had to say about Putin, one of which is an economist who knows Russia — who is also extremely good at chess.

Kenneth Rogoff is a world-renowned economist and professor at Harvard. He was also recognized as a chess prodigy when he was a teenager and became a chess grandmaster when he was 25. Back in his chess-playing days — and later as an economist — Rogoff made friends across Russia and Ukraine, including Gary Kasparov, the former world chess champion who also ran against Vladimir Putin for president.

"Putin is playing from a very weak position," Rogoff says of Putin's game plan. "But he's very good at it. That doesn't mean he's not going to win. A really strong chess player doesn't need a good position to win."

Putin's position is weak because Russia's economy is weak, Rogoff says: *"It's too dependent on oil exports, which aren't supporting a decent standard of living for most of the country. Corruption is rampant, and most industries are not competitive with the rest of the world. Most Russians live in near poverty by U.S. or European standards. Russia has a large military, but an actual war with the West is extremely unlikely."*

"It's going to be an economic war, [as] far as we're willing to push it," Rogoff says of this contest. In chess, you also want to know your opponent's style of play. So, what kind of player is Putin? Chess players draw a distinction between strategy and tactics, Rogoff says. Strategy is "where you're really looking far down the road: If I take the Ukraine, what does that really do for me? Does that make me better off?" he explains.

Tactics, on the other hand, *"are very short-term ways to gain pieces and positions," he says. "He's a master of the tactics. He sort of sees a few moves ahead and he's very good at it. But what is the long-term strategy? It's really hard to see."*

So far Putin's move to grab Crimea has helped and hurt him. It helped by making him more popular at home in the short term, the former grandmaster says. But longer term, taking Crimea is probably hurting, he says. Nervous investors are pulling tens of billions of dollars out of Russia. Russia now has to support Crimea, and it is a poor region. The West is imposing economic sanctions, and if they haven't been tough so far, they may get tougher. That leads Rogoff to think that Putin has not carved out a long-term strategy. *"I just don't see it," he says. "This definitely seems like they're flailing out, looking to try to grab some pieces, grab some territory, without thinking what they're going to do with it."*

So what is the ultimate goal behind his moves? Rogoff says, *"I think there's no question the endgame for him, what he's looking for, is pride."* Rogoff thinks Putin is most interested in returning some greatness to Russia. He says, *"I understand he has portraits of Peter the Great and Catherine the Great in his office, and I suppose he would like to have [himself] thought of in those terms — of restoring greatness to Russia."*

If Putin's weakness is the economy and his endgame is pride, Rogoff suggests the West should show Putin an opening, something bigger than a few pieces in Ukraine. *"The best thing for us is if Russia starts doing well and feels that they're benefiting from the world order,"* he says. What moves should the West make to push Russia in that direction? Rogoff says world leaders are still trying to figure that out.

I see Putin as an opportunist, and Ken Rogoff's comments were directed to the situation in the Ukraine, yet they apply equally with Israel as well. When Putin grabbed the Crimea that fact revealed his cunning. I believe that Ken Rogoff's analysis of Putin to be predictable. As such this predictable persona does mean that he has a blind side. For hundreds of years the Ukraine was the bread basket of Russia and the former Soviet Union. Putin's strategy and tactics are opportunist-based. As to any idea that Putin is interested in restoring Russia to the power of the late USSR, that will have to come about through energy supremacy. Russia supplies a regional market of nearly 2-billion people from Western Europe to China. It necessitates a large source of energy products, primarily oil and natural gas.

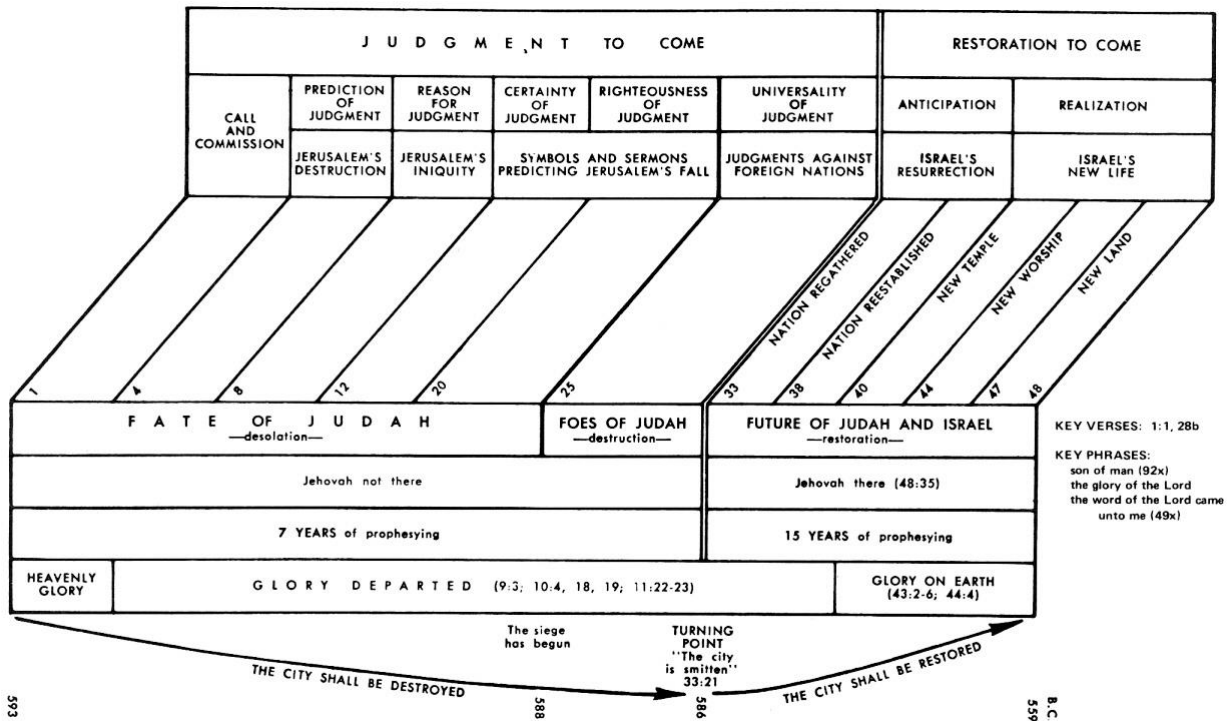
Turning to the Bible, our central focus will be that of Ezekiel 38/39. These two connected chapters whose apocalyptic prophecies picture the defeat of the final enemy of God's people, that is, Gog -(cf. Rev. 20:7-10). Their placement here following the trouble-free chapters of restoration -(Ezekiel 34-37) seems to underscore the teaching that Israel will have the protection of God. He would stand up for Israel in the face of Gog's threat while apparently Israel was peacefully absorbed in enjoying the blessings of the land.

The genre of Ezekiel 38-39 as an elaborate "proof-saying" The recognition formula's ***"Then they/you will know that I am the Lord"***; being found exactly "seven" times in these chapters emphasizes that Gog was the pawn for God's glorious self-revelation to the nations and to Israel. He is the Sovereign Lord Who protects His trusting people -(cf. Psalm 20:6).

Above all else, this complex divine speech expresses Yahweh’s determination once and for all to reveal to the nations His holiness, and to His own people, His covenant loyalty.

The structure of Ezekiel 38-39 is a complex matter. There are commands to Ezekiel to prophesy -(38:2; 39:1); “seven” instances of the messenger or citation formula, **“Thus says the Lord God”** -(38:3, 10, 14, 17; 39:1, 17, 25); signatory formula, **“says the Lord God”** -(38:18, 21; 39:5, 8, 10, 13, 20, 29); the “seven-time” occurrence of the recognition formula -(38:16, 23; 39:6, 22f, 28); logical connectives such as **“therefore”** -(38:14; 39:25); and time notices such as **“in that day”** -(38:8, 18; 39:11).

Taking a look at the larger picture, even a casual reader notices that Gog is defeated twice, once in each chapter! What we seem to have then is not two different events but the same event from two different perspectives. Ezekiel 38 focuses on the setting, motives and defeat of Gog. Ezekiel 39 dwells not so much on the defeat but the spoiling and burial of Gog. This produces a bi-fold type of structure in the account of one event (such bi-fold strategy for reading Scripture is increasingly becoming a focus of Ezekiel 38, it can be broken down into five units: verse 1-9, Gog’s enlistment; verses 10-13, Gog’s motives; verses 14ff, Gog’s invasion; verses 17-22, Gog’s defeat; verses. 23, an interpretive comment. Ezekiel 39 can also be broken down into five parts: verses 1-8, Gog’s defeat; verses 9ff, Gog’s spoiling; verses 11-16, Gog’s incomplete burial; verses 17-20, Gog as final feast; and verses 21-29, final interpretive comments.



Above: Ezekiel chart from Jensen’s Survey of the Old Testament, 1978.

One of the best Bible teaching resources available is 'Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament', 1978. It is part of a two-volume work showing structural charts for each book of the Bible. Volume 2 covers the New Testament books in chart form.

What should we make of Ezekiel 38-39? What is certain is that every generation of believers has looked on contemporary events as being the fulfillment for apocalyptic events such as Gog's defeat. While such attempts at reading Scripture in light of the latest newsflash from the flashpoints of the world keep the believer looking upward for Christ's return and the end of history, it goes without saying that we are to urge caution. The end will come. That is certain. When the end will come is not as defined. Therefore, we live each day as the last in a manner consistent with eternal values.

The value of Ezekiel 38-39 is that it shows that God is in control of history. His program of redemption for the world is on track. His care for His people is constant. The defeat of Gog signals that the final enemy of God's people, Satan, will be defeated. Christ is Victor! If in doubt read the back of the book, i.e., Revelation.

38:1. The revelation formula used in Ezekiel is to begin a new prophetic section. Verses 1-9 introduce the reader to the theme of Ezekiel 38-39, the threat by Gog in the future to the people of Israel.

38:2. *"Son of man set your face against"* is a phrase used in Ezekiel to express God's anger toward a nation. Gog is an apparent leader of a coalition of nations. Magog is a yet unidentified location likely in the Anatolia region. Some scholars suggest it is ancient Lydia. The name "Magog" comes from the sons of Japheth in Genesis 10:2 and 1st Chronicles 1:5 along with Gomer, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech and Tiras. These descendants of Japheth settled originally in lands bordering the Mediterranean and Black Seas and became founders of peoples who took their names. Meshech and Tubal were nations with whom Tyre traded -(see Ezekiel 27:13).

Some interpreters take the phrase, *"chief prince,"* to refer to the name of a person, *"prince of Rosh."* The motive for this translation seems to be more political than exegetical in that *"Rosh"* is said to be an ancient reference to Russia. Surprisingly so, no major translation and few interpreters follow that line of reasoning today. Not to be overlooked is the fact ancient maps from as early as the eighth century A.D. support the notion it is referring to Russia.

38:3. God announces His opposition to Gog. *"I am against you"* is the same language God used against His own people -(5:8), Tyre -(26:3), Sidon -(28:22), Pharaoh -(29:3) and Edom -(35:3). The phrase was part of the verbal weaponry of the prophet to be used against people who had earned God's wrath.

38:4. The imagery of *"hooks in your jaw"* is a vivid one that had a literal reality in the way captives were treated as they were taken away to the land of their captors -(e.g., Ezekiel 19:4, Jehoiachaz to Egypt, and Ezekiel. 19:9, Jehoiachin to Babylon).

Ezekiel describes Gog's army in terms meant to impress the reader with its size and preparedness. Cavalry was not the natural component of Hebrew armies who had to face on more than one occasion a disadvantage of being without mounted troops and chariots -(cf. Exodus 14:9; Judges. 4:13).

38:5. The three allies of Gog can be identified: Persia is modern Iran, Cush is the southern Egyptian and Sudan region of the Nile River valley, and Put is modern Libya.

38:6. Gomer is likely in Anatolia near the Black Sea. Beth Togarmah may be located in the Armenian region southeast of the Black Sea and may have traded with Tyre -(see 27:14). Looking at all the allies of Gog in verses 2-6 brings out several points. Their number is "seven", implying a significant force coming against Israel. Their geographic distribution implies universality: Meshech, Tubal, Gomer and Beth Togarmah came from the north, and Persia, Cush and Put came from the east and south.

38:7. God calls Gog to get itself and its allies ready for battle. Their foe is to be the Lord Himself and not the vulnerable people of Israel.

38:8. Two phrases, "*after many days*" -(cf. Isaiah 24:22) and "*in the latter years,*" push the prophecy into a distant future. Later verses in Ezekiel 38-39 include similar phrases.

The verse describes Israel as being in a restored state, at peace and safely enjoying the bounty of the land. This makes Gog's invasion a sequel to the divine acts of recovery described in Ezekiel 34-37. A sense of wrong results from this picture of a non-belligerent and seemingly unprotected people.

38:9. The similes of cloud and storm communicate the power and size of Gog's advancing hordes. Isaiah 10:3 is a source of Ezekiel's imagery, "***What will you do in the day of visitation and in the desolation*** [literally, 'storm'] ***which shall come from far?***"

38:10. "***Thus says the Lord God***" marks the next section, verses 10-13, Gog's motives for attacking Israel. Though God has said that He is the One Who is bringing Gog to attack -(see vs. 4), Gog is a very willing agent and acts without external compulsion. The plan to attack is called an evil thought—evil because of Gog's desire to invade a helpless people.

38:11. More emphasis on the unsuspecting and innocent state of Israel about to be attacked by the wicked forces of Gog. Jeremiah 49:31 pictures an attack by Babylon upon an Arabian town in similar terms, "***The wealthy nation that dwells without care... which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone.***"

38:12. Gog's primary motive for attacking Israel is to loot and plunder a future prosperous country. Ezekiel 36:33-36 describes the future restoration of Israel in terms of a new Garden of Eden. Its reputation of prosperity will have spread abroad to the nations around Israel. The reference to Israel being in the middle of the land is earlier found in Ezekiel 5:5. In Ezekiel 5, the

context is that Israel's wickedness has been broadcast abroad. But in the future, God's work of conversion will have brought changes in both land and people.

38:13. Sheba is located on the southwest corner of the Arabian peninsula. Dedan is up the western coast of Arabia on the Red Sea. Tarshish is a location somewhere in the Mediterranean Sea; suggestions have ranged from Sardinia to Spain. These locations represent trading nations on an east to west axis who would be interested in Gog's attack. Likely, their interests were to take some of the plunder themselves. Many prophecy teachers want to link Sheba and Dedan with the United States, but I content this is errantly grasping at straws.

38:14. The next section, verses 14ff, describes the attack itself upon Israel. In characteristic Ezekiel style, the action does not proceed immediately. Rather, there are introductory formulas and a recital of previously mentioned material -(cf. vs. 8). The new twist is the use of a question to drive home Gog's wicked designs upon an unprotected people.

38:15. Gog and many of its allies are located in the region of Anatolia (modern Turkey). A rudimentary look at a map reveals the obvious fact that Meshech, Tubal, Gomer and Beth Togarmah are to the north of Israel. Invasion from this point of the compass was a frequent direction for destructive forces -(cf. Isaiah 41:25; Jeremiah 1:13; 4:6; Ezekiel 26:7). In the Old Testament period, Assyrian, Scythian and Babylonian armies all swept down from the north. As in vs. 4, the description of Gog's forces is made more fierce by the piling of phrases, ***"riding upon horses," "a great company," "a mighty army."***

38:16. The cloud imagery is repeated from vs. 9. The identification of God with the land and its people is brought out in verses 14 and 16 with the phrases, ***"my people"*** and ***"my land."*** This brings out divine patronage of Israel. He will watch over whom and what is His. God's motive for allowing Gog to attack His land and His people was the divine revelation of His holiness to the entire world. Gog would be God's willing vehicle to reveal the divine character.

38:17. The opening formula again signals a new section, verses 17-22, Gog's defeat. This verse has raised many questions about which pre-exilic prophetic text which speaks about Gog is in view. Gog was not the long-prophesied foe from the north. Such prophecies were fulfilled by the Assyrians and Babylonians. Gog may try to view his invasion as being prophesied by God's spokespersons, but he would be misapplying them to himself.

38:18. While the pre-exilic warnings about a foe from the north coming to judge God's people did in fact take place, Gog's attack from the north would fail. This time God would be opposed to the attacker -(contrast Lamentations 2:5). No longer would His ***"My fury"*** be directed against Israel (as in 5:13 or 6:12), but it would be directed to Israel's enemy.

38:19. More words of strong emotion, ***"My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath,"*** describe the Lord's aroused opposition to Gog's evil intentions. Divine anger is associated in the Old Testament with earthquakes -(cf. Isaiah 24:17-20; 29:6). Ezekiel employs a number of natural

phenomena throughout the Book to display God's wrath: rainstorm -(13:11ff); ocean tempest -(27:26); Nile drying up -(30:12); and the sun, moon and stars darkening -(32:7f).

38:20. The list of living creatures to be affected by God's earthquake against Gog reads like the creation account in Genesis 1. An even better parallel is the effect of Noah's flood which killed every type of land creature -(Genesis 7:23).

The listing of nonliving things (mountains, cliffs and walls) adds to the magnitude of the quake. The effects of earthquakes upon land formations and buildings were a common experience for the ancients. Amos 1:1 dates his prophetic Book by one such event. Ezekiel uses the verb "**to tear down,**" "**to overturn,**" to describe the fall of the mountains; elsewhere he uses the verb to describe the fall of walls -(13:14), high places of pagan worship -(16:39) and foundations of buildings -(30:4).

38:21. "**Sword**" is a common metaphor, or symbol, for God's use of warfare to bring destruction (e.g., Ezekiel 21 is dominated by "**the sword of the Lord,**" the coming of the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar against Jerusalem). The picture of Gog's forces turning against themselves can be compared to the confusion that Gideon caused against the Midianites -(Judges 7:22) or that Jonathan created with his attack on the Philistines -(1st Samuel 14:20). Today, death by one's own military forces is referred to being caused by "friendly fire." Such would be the case with Gog—death by "friendly fire."

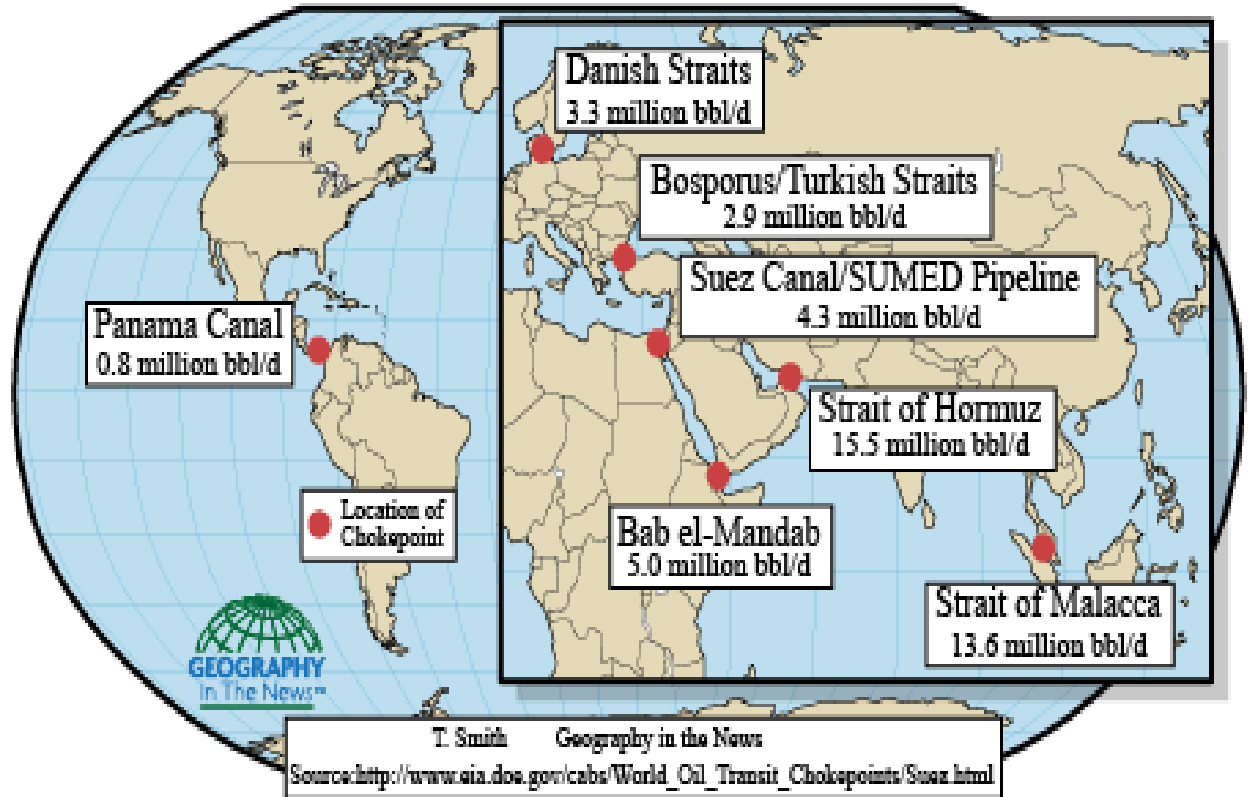
38:22. This verse returns to the theme of vs. 20, divinely generated natural disasters that would strike Gog's armies. The list of God's weapons (plagues, bloodshed, rain, hailstones and burning Sulphur) is a verbal crescendo of destruction that anticipates the levels of judgments seen in the Book of Revelation -(cf. the seven bowls of wrath in Revelation 16). The word for "hailstones," ironically is a composite word from "**pearls of God**" and is found only in the Old Testament in Ezekiel (here and in 13:11, 13).

38:23. The last verse of the chapter is an interpretive comment that picks up the purpose for Gog's defeat that is mentioned in vs. 16—the revelation of God's greatness and holiness to the world. The closing line is the recognition formula used throughout Ezekiel (see comments on 5:13). Gog's defeat would be a horrendous display of the acts of God's wrath against an evil invader seeking easy wealth from a prosperous people.

A word of caution should be noted in trying to apply theological interpretations to contemporary natural disasters. We do believe that God is Lord of the earth. He made it with all its weather patterns, earthquakes and volcanoes. What is less clear is to label a particular natural disaster as occurring as the result of God's wrath against some people, city or nation. In Luke 13:4, Jesus refers to the fall of a tower at Siloam that killed eighteen people. Jesus noted that those people did not die because they were the most wicked people in the city. Apart from divine revelation, such events remain a mystery to our human understanding. The U.S. Air Force publicly declared that it would own the weather by 2025. Evidence to the effect,

supports the U.S. military has controlled the weather for many years and weaponized nature to inflict its damage.

Oil Transit Chokepoints



The above map covers the major choke points of oil transportation around the world, note that two of the most critical are in the region that is the focus of the Ezekiel 38/39 War of Gog and Magog. I noted at the beginning of this article what is happening consequential to the President Trump sanctions against Iran, Russia, and Turkey.

Any war that begins in this region will engulf the entire world, the stakes are that high, and the “prize” of the Levant is too valuable for Russia to merely stand-by and do nothing. This being said, a sober and serious analysis of the region leaves little doubt that the regional conflict between the aforementioned blocs is already underway, and has been for some time. As far back as the Obama administration, in the years leading up to the Iran Deal in 2015, Washington was doing its utmost to neuter Iran's nuclear research program by nefarious means. US author and historian, Perry Anderson, reveals how the Obama administration "launched a massive joint US-Israeli assault on Iranian computer networks to cripple the development of its nuclear program. A blatant violation of what passes for international law, the projection of the Stuxnet virus was personally supervised by Obama.

The uptick in aggressive rhetoric against Iran that we have seen, set alongside the celebratory scenes on the Korean Peninsula as peace and denuclearization beckons after many-

many decades, it is entirely conceivable that if not before the Iranians now will be minded to actively embark on the pursuit of a nuclear deterrent, one that the Israelis already have in their arsenal. What is abundantly clear is that something somewhere has to give. Iran is being backed into a corner for no other reason than it refuses to bow to US hegemony, along with the fact that it acts as the main bulwark of opposition to Israeli and Saudi regional ambitions.

It's important to recognize that Israel is not quite intervening in the Syrian civil war, in the sense that a great power intervenes in a conflict to tilt it in favor of one side or another. Israel has no preferred winner in Syria: While a continuation of the Assad regime would be troublesome, so too would be a neighbor ruled by Islamist militants. It does, however, have a preferred loser: namely, Iran.



There is a matter that should be interjected and addressed here, and that is the Isaiah 17:1-3 destruction of Damascus, and perhaps this is a good time to ask the question, “When?”

“The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. The cities of Aroer are forsaken: they shall be for flocks, which shall lie down, and none shall make them afraid. The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria: they shall be as the glory of the children of Israel, saith the LORD of hosts.” We need to ask another related question, does this occur

before, concurrently, or after the Ezekiel 38/39 scenario? In expanding this picture, we should be asking ourselves, does the Rapture occur before, simultaneous, or after the War of Gog and Magog. Ponder these two questions while I resume with an exegesis of Ezekiel 39. We will come back to the issue of Isaiah 17:1-3 in part 2.

Chapter 39

39:1. This verse begins the second half of the two chapters -(Ezekiel 38-39), which present an apocalyptic account of a future invasion of Israel by a coalition of armies led by Gog. Ezekiel 38 deals with the composition, motives and defeat of Gog's armies by God's intervention. Ezekiel 39:1-8 also describes Gog's fall, but the subsequent verses present the aftermath of this failed invasion. Like Ezekiel 38, this chapter begins with opening formulas commonly found in Ezekiel (see comments on 38:1).

39:2. There is a compression in Ezekiel 38:3-16 of references to God's role in bringing Gog to Israel from the far north where Gog and most of his allies are from (see verses 2-6). The phrase, "**mountains of Israel,**" appears in Ezekiel from different perspectives: a place of God's judgment against Israel for their idolatry (e.g., 6:2f) and a place where God would bring back His people to restore them -(34:13f; 36:1ff.). Here, God would finally display His power and holiness to the watching world -(see 38:16, 23). The Golan Heights, captured from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War are likely the "**mountains of Israel**" referred to here. From the peaks, one can see in the distant south the night light of Tel Aviv after dark.

39:3. Referring to the way in which right-handed warriors use bow and arrows, the Lord metaphorically prophesied the defeat of Gog's forces. Bows and arrows stand for military might and capabilities. Similarly, in Psalm 76:3 the psalmist sings the praises of God Who has disarmed the bows and arrows arrayed against Jerusalem; in Jeremiah 49:35 the prophet prophesies that the "bow" of Elam will be broken.

39:4. Gog's vast number of troops -(see 38:9) would not prevail against the Lord. Their fallen bodies would become the source of food for carrion-eating animals. Verses 17-20 expand this matter.

39:5. There would be no safe haven for Gog's troops. Death would occur on the mountains of Israel -(vs. 4) and on the open plain. God's own spoken words are a form of oath-taking that the matter is assured. "**Lord God**" (see comments on 37:3).

39:6. Burning Sulphur/brimstone is mentioned in Ezekiel 38:22. Here the word for fire, is a more common term that could apply to lightning as well =(cf. Genesis 19:24; Exodus 9:23). "Magog" -(see comments on 38:2). Coastlands/isles refer to lands bordering or islands in the Mediterranean Sea -(Ezekiel 26:15, 18; 27:3, 6f). The point seems to be that God's destruction of Gog would spread to the lands from which the armies of Gog came.

39:7. Similar emphasis to the holiness of God is found in 38:16, 23. Also in Ezekiel 36:20-23, the concern for the holiness of God's name/reputation motivates God to promise to bring His people back from captivity. His defeat of Gog would have an impact upon both His people and the nations. The language of *"knowing"* God is a variation of the recognition formula that is found throughout Ezekiel (see comments on 5:13).

39:8. The tone is one of urgent warning. This defeat of Gog would happen. Ezekiel 7 is filled with similar language of the coming day of the Lord's judgment of Judah. It happened as prophesied. So too would this day of Gog's judgment.

39:9-10. The next two verses describe the plundering of Gog's fallen forces. However literally or symbolically an interpreter understands Ezekiel 38-39, Ezekiel must be viewed from the perspective of his times. Most ancient weaponry was made of or incorporated wood into their construction: bows, arrows, spears, spear throwers, clubs, chariots, sword/knife handles and shields. That the wood from these implements would provide seven years of fuel emphasizes the vast number of troops fallen in battle. The use of "seven" in the number of weapons and the length of years they provided Israel's fuel connote completeness and also refer to a sabbatical rest given to the trees and forests of Israel. The would-be plunderer would be plundered instead.

39:11. Verses 11-16 envision the massive work of the burial parties who after Gog's defeat would be employed for years. The bodies of the dead would be buried in an area to the east of a sea (Mediterranean?) and given a new name to commemorate the vast numbers of the dead. This area or valley would be dedicated to those killed in the battle.

39:12. We have another instance of the number "seven". It communicates the idea that the job of purifying the land would be accomplished. The dead bodies of the invaders must be taken care of before the people could resume their normal lives free from ceremonial pollution caused by the dead. As a reminder, the recurring reference to the number "seven" is God's Self-Authenticating Signature. We know this is God's "Heptadic" Design Feature. You can read more about this in my eBook *'The Inspired Word of God – Mathematically Proven True'*. A dozen chapters are already posted at <http://jesusisthewaythetruththelife.com/node/22> .

39:13. The whole population would be involved in the task. This would reinforce to them that God had acted on their behalf to save them from disaster. A new holiday would be added to the religious calendar.

39:14. Even with the entire population employed in the task, the job of burying the dead would require a contingent of people to continue. These burial squads would canvass the land for the dead.

39:15. Some of the burial squads would act as spotters to mark the location of human remains, others as gravediggers to take the remains to the designated valley for official burial. Such a task could take an extended period of time.

To be continued in part 2.
Blessings,

Pastor Bob Reid
EvanTeachr@aol.com