

The Gog invasion in Ezekiel 38 and 39

One of the more challenging prophecies concerns an invasion force that will attack Israel to take spoils. The armies from a confederation of nations will take part, led by a mighty king from the far north.

This prophecy is found in **Ezekiel 38:1-39:29**.

There are two major sticking points concerning this prophecy :

1. **Who** is Gog, where does he come from, and who are the nations that he gathers together for war? (Ezekiel 38)
2. **When** does this invasion take place? Where does it belong on the end-times timeline? (Ezekiel 39)

Let's examine the relevant facts that Ezekiel gives us.

First, the leader of the confederacy is Gog of the land of Magog.

Gog is a title, similar to king or emperor or Czar.

Gog is the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal (Eze 38:2).

His enormous army also includes the military forces of Persia, Ethiopia (Cush), Put, Gomer, and Beth-togarmah (Eze 38:5-6).

Second, at the time of the invasion, Israel will be:

- Restored from the sword (Eze 38:8)
- Gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel
- Living securely in the land of unwalled villages (Eze 38:11)
- Living without walls or bars or gates
- At rest

Third, the Lord GOD will bring this mighty army against Israel in the last days. He will do this so that the nations will know Him when He is sanctified – revealed as Holy -, and also so that He will make His holy name known in the midst of His people Israel. (Eze 38:8,16)

Fourth, in His anger and fury, the Lord GOD Himself will destroy Gog, the armies of his confederacy, and his people back home. These are the means He will use to accomplish this: (Eze 38:18-23, 39:3)

- A great earthquake
- Civil war: the armies will end up slaughtering one another
- Disease (pestilence)
- Blood
- Torrential rain with Hailstones
- Fire & Brimstone

The dead will become food to every kind of predatory bird and animal(Eze 39:4).

Fifth, the Lord will also set fire to Magog and the homelands of the other armies (Eze 39:6).

Sixth, the citizens of Israel will burn the weapons left by the dead soldiers. They will be making fires for **seven years**. During that time they will not need to gather firewood. (Eze 39:9-10)

They will also plunder and take the spoil of these destroyed armies (Eze 39:10).

Seventh, Israel will be burying the bodies of the dead soldiers in order to cleanse the land. It will take **seven months** to bury them all. (Eze 39:11-15)

All right. Now it is time to tackle those two sticking points

1. **Who** is Gog, where does he come from, and who are the nations that he gathers together for war?

Gog is of the land of Magog. Gog is a title, like king or emperor. Gog is the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. His military confederacy will also include Persia, Ethiopia, Put, Gomer, and Beth-togarmah.

These nations are found elsewhere in the Bible. In most cases, it is possible to identify their modern equivalents. Here is a good list:

Magog probably corresponds to **the former Soviet “-stan” republics: Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan; and perhaps northern Afghanistan.**

Rosh = **Russia**. Note: Moscow is almost due north of Jerusalem.

Meshech and Tubal lived in the area we know today as **Turkey**.

Persia is the country of **Iran**.

Ethiopia is the modern nation of **Sudan**.

Put is the modern country of **Libya**.

The descendants of *Gomer and Beth-togarmah* live in the central and western parts of **Turkey**.

Refer to the **map**.

With the exception of Russia (one of the most anti-Semitic countries in the world), the remaining nations are **Muslim -but not Arab**.

Countries **left out** of the alliance: Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. These are **Israel's closest neighbors and traditional enemies**.

Sheba, Dedan [both nations on the Arab peninsula), and Tarshish (Spain) are mentioned as observers, not combatants. And where's the **revived Roman empire**?

2. **When** does this invasion take place? Where does it belong on the end-times timeline?

Keep the *suggested timeline for the End Times* handy. For this exercise, we assume that this is a **future** event. It did not occur in the past.

There are five major views:

1. This invasion corresponds to the Gog and Magog invasion of Revelation 20:7-9 at the end of the 1,000-year reign of Christ.
2. This invasion occurs during the battle of Armageddon at the Second Coming of Christ: Zechariah 14:1-15, Revelation 16:13-16; 19:11-21.
3. This invasion occurs at the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week.
4. This invasion occurs at the start of Daniel's 70th week (Daniel 9:27).
5. This invasion occurs before the start of Daniel's 70th week.

Let's decide which of these best meets the requirements. Consider:

1. The nations who are (and are not) involved in the attack.
2. Israel's situation at the time of the invasion.
3. How the invaders are destroyed (military versus disasters).
4. Accounting for the 7 months and 7 years.
5. Who gathers the armies and sends them to invade Israel?

We will use the accompanying worksheet to figure this out.