

The Gog invasion in Ezekiel 38 and 39

One of the more difficult prophecies to understand concerns an invasion force that will attack Israel in order to take war 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 38:1-39:16**.

We will first read the prophecy together.

Note: Ezekiel 39:1-16 follows the law of recurrence. It covers the same events as Ezekiel 38 does and gives additional details about them.

There are two major sticking points concerning this prophecy of the Gog invasion.

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

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.

His enormous army also includes the military forces of Persia, Ethiopia, Put, Gomer, and Beth-togarmah.

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

- Restored from the sword
- Gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel
- Living securely
- The land of unwalled villages
- 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 that He will make His holy name known in the midst of His people Israel.

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:

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

The dead will become food to every kind of predatory bird and animal.

Fifth, the Lord will also set fire to Magog and the homelands of the other armies.

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.

They will also plunder and take the spoil of these destroyed armies.

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.

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, similar to 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, 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**. **Israel will be surrounded by nations from her north, east, south, and west.**

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: Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. 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 possibilities:

1. This invasion corresponds to the Gog and Magog invasion of Revelation 20:7-9.
2. This invasion occurs during the battle of Armageddon: Zechariah 14:1-15, Revelation 16:13-16; 19:11-21.
3. This invasion occurs at the start of Daniel's 70th week (Daniel 9:27).
4. This invasion occurs at the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week.
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 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. Accounting for the beast (and satan).