

# BLOOD ON THE MOUNTAINS

## EZEKIEL 38-39

The most perilous job in journalism is that of the war correspondent. This is a reporter who dodges bullets, and braves the front lines armed with nothing but a pen and pad. He travels to the battlefield to detail the welfare and progress of the troops... *And God also has His war reporters!* On occasion the Hebrew prophets donned military fatigues, and became immersed in a war zone...

But what's most amazing about God's war writers is often they were dispatched into the future to cover battles that had yet to take place. Imagine, being a war correspondent, and your editor tells you you're being sent to cover a battle that won't occur for 2600 years. **This was Ezekiel's assignment in chapters 38-39.**

Ezekiel was sent by a vision to cover a battle that has yet to occur. According to verse 8 it won't take place until "*the latter years*" - verse 16 reads "*the latter days*" - both are euphemisms for the end of this current age.

These events unfold after the Jews are regathered to the mountains of Israel, but before the Lord returns to re-establish God's kingdom. Chapter 36 outlined God's New Covenant to Israel. Chapter 37 recounted Ezekiel's vision of dry bones - how scattered Jews revive a nation.

Then in Chapters 40-48 Ezekiel will discuss the reign of Christ and the environmental changes it brings about on Earth. Israel will have new boundaries, and a Temple is built for worship. But between the Jews' regathering and the restoration of God's kingdom, **Ezekiel sees a clash of nations at war on the mountains of Israel.**

Russia and her allies fight, not only Israel (*as a matter of fact, Israel is the least of Russia's worries*) - for their alliance of nations picks a fight with God. The northern coalition is destroyed. And when the Jews witness God's hand of deliverance on their behalf, they repent, and God pours out His Spirit on His people. Israel will finally participate in the spiritual regeneration promised them.

Ezekiel 38-39 is NOT the Battle of Armageddon. It's NOT the battle in Revelation 20 that occurs at the end of Jesus' 1000 year reign. That battle goes by the same name, but it's characteristics are very different... No, this is another battle that occurs in "*the latter days.*" When exactly, we don't know, but I believe this battle sets the stage for God's final judgment, the Great Tribulation.

And amazingly, there are events happening today that parallel Ezekiel's 2600 year old prophecy. *A June 16th article in the secular Jerusalem Post describes how both Jews*

and Christians interpret the current war between Israel and Hamas as the early stages of Ezekiel 38-39.

Chapter 38 begins with the Prophet listing the players in this future battle... First, **the bad guys** - then, **the good guys** - then, **the extras** - and finally, **the hero!**

Verse 1, "Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.'" Ezekiel begins with the leader of this coming invasion. His name - or it could be a title like "Caesar" or "Czar" - is "Gog" from "Magog."

In Genesis 10 we have a genealogy known as "The Table Of Nations." The chapter tracks the formation of the nations following the global flood of Noah's day.

It lists Noah's descendants who settle the post-flood world. In fact, every ethnic group on Earth today can be traced to Genesis 10. As history rolls on names of people and places change, but not the tribal names of their ancestors. That's why Ezekiel uses ancestral labels to identify the players in the future events he prophesies.

For example, "Magog" referred to a people who settled north of the Caucasus mountains - *which has always been the natural border between the Middle East and Russia*. They were also known in antiquity as **Scythians**. And the Scythians were ancestors of modern Russians.

Josephus, the first century Jewish historian, also referred to the Scythians as Magog. As did the Chinese. In fact, the Arabs called the wall of China "the wall of Magog" since it was built to keep Russia out of China.

**Meshech** and **Tubal** were names given to the people north of the Black Sea, and are linked linguistically to two Russian cities **Moscow** and **Tobolsk** in Siberia.

"**Meshech**" was a name for European Russians, while "**Tubal**" was the name for Asiatic Russians. "**Rosh**" does not appear in Genesis 10, but it is mentioned in the Quran and refers to a people who dwelt among the Sycythians. It's probably a root for the word "Russia."

It's interesting, Russia is the only non-muslim country in the coalition prophesied in Chapter 38, but that's only if the invasion occurs in the near future. Today, Moscow has the largest muslim population of any city in Europe. By 2035 muslims will make-up 30% of Russians. By 2050 Russia will have a muslim majority. My point is the more Islamic Russia becomes the easier it will be for them to assemble and lead this coalition in Ezekiel 38.

Any doubt as to the identity of these invaders gets cleared up in verse 15, where they're identified as coming out of the "*far north*." Take a map, find Jerusalem, and move north along the same longitudinal line and it bisects with Moscow. All serious scholars agree the names in verses 2-3 refer to people of Russia.

And realize, how preposterous this sounded at the time of Ezekiel's writing. Russia was considered the fringes of civilization. At the time the Middle East was the world's cultural center. Russia was a land of nomads and barbarians. No one in Ezekiel's day would've dreamed they would become major players on the world stage!

Yet, God says in verse 4, "*I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.*" God will set a hook in Russia's jaw. Like a skilled fisherman who tugs his line and sets the hook, God will catch Russia and reel them into Israel. They are destined for judgment. God entices Russia and her allies with irresistible incentives to invade Israel.

It's no secret today that Russia has long coveted the land of Israel for many reasons... *its warm water ports, its strategic location, its mineral resources, its natural gas reserves - most vitally, its agricultural capabilities.*

Today's Russia's economy is in shambles. It struggles to feed its own people. Israel's fertile farmland could be the bread basket for the Russian motherland.

But perhaps the greatest incentive for Russia to invade Israel is religious. Today, Russia's muslim population is swelling. Her allies listed in the next few verses are *all* muslim and have a deep hatred for Israel.

Notice Russia's allies in verses 5-6, "*Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet...*" Until 1935 "*Persia*" was the official name of what is today, "*Iran*." On April 1, 1979, Iran became the world's first Islamic republic. Its western-style leader, the Shah, was ousted and an Islamic radical, the Ayatollah, took power. Amazingly, just 45 years ago Iran was Israel's ally. *But not now!* Today, Iran is run by Islamic clerics who believe the Mahdi, or muslim messiah, is on the horizon and it's up to them to pave his way by wiping Israel and the United States off the face of the Earth.

Just hours after Hamas' October 7th terrorist attack on Israel all 290 members of Iran's Parliament rose to their feet and shouted in unison, "*Death to Israel*." Iran and its proxies - Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis - want nothing less than to wipe Israel and America off the map. Today, Iran is the world's chief sponsor of terrorism.

Since the Jews have regathered to their land, their muslim and Arab neighbors have become angry and jealous. Even more so in light of Israel's military successes. In 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982 and now 2024, every time the Arabs attack, Israel gains territory.

This is what's given rise to the evil of terrorism. It's the war of choice for defeated people. Fear destabilizes. It creates chaos in countries. Iran supports terrorism, as it tries to develop a nuclear weapon. Iran believes only an Islamic bomb will level the playing field with Israel.

President Trump was right in putting sanctions on Iran, but that caused her to look north for help, and strengthen her ties to Russia. Today, Russia and Iran - Putin and the Ayatollah are fast friends. And these two countries will one day join military forces on the mountains of Israel.

Just weeks ago Iran lit up the Israeli sky with 300 drones and ballistic missiles. The attack mimicked the strategies Russia has used in Ukraine. It came right out of the Russian playbook. Cooperation between Israel's two largest enemies is growing daily. It's no surprise "*Pesia*" or "*Iran*" is part of this Russian alliance.

And along with Iran two more invading countries are mentioned... First is "*Ethiopia*" - at least, that's how it's translated. The actual Hebrew name is "*Cush*," which refers to the upper Nile region, or what is today "*Sudan*."

Modern *Sudan* is a radical Islamic Sunni state closely allied with Iran and Russia. Though Sudan participated in the Abraham Accords and normalized relations with Israel it remains a hot spot for terrorist training camps.

Another ally is "*Libya*" or in Hebrew, "*Put*." Biblical "*Put*" consists of a large swath of North Africa, including the countries of Libya and Algeria. Today this area is allied with Russia. It's muslim and extremely anti-Israel.

Russian hostility towards Israel runs deep. Mother Russia has a long record of anti-semitism. Since the birth of Israel, its been the staunchest supporter of Arab nations in their attempts to destroy Israel. Russia is the Arab's leading supplier of arms and military expertise.

On several occasions Russia has been on the verge of invading Israel herself... In 1973 during the Yom Kippur War, the Syrians using Russian tanks spilled over the border into the Golan Heights. Thanks to some gallant fighting by the IDF, and what many recognized as divine intervention, the Jews beat back the Syrian army.

When the Israelis won victories in the Sinai, and General Sharon was about to cross over into Egypt, the Soviet premier, Brezhnev, sent word to Washington that unless we call off the Israelis, Russia would invade. We now know that Russian paratroopers were

boarding planes for Cairo while Henry Kissinger was hammering out a ceasefire between the Arabs and Israel.

In 1982 when Israeli troops moved into Southern Lebanon to drive out the PLO, the IDF found Russian stockpiles of food and weapons, enough to support a half million troops. A Russian invasion was thwarted. They even found detailed attack plans for August 1982. Israelis troops beat them to the punch by two months.

Of course, in recent decades Russian expansion has been tempered. A long quagmire in Afghanistan, and war in Ukraine has slowed Russia down, but Russia's long game includes possessing the mountains of Israel. To make a long story short, **the Russians are coming!**

And they'll come with "**Gomer and all its troops.**" Some trace "**Gomer**" to **Turkey**. As a NATO member, Turkey should be an Israeli ally. But recently, radical Islamists have taken over Turkey. It's increasingly anti-western and pro-Russian. Hey, Ezekiel predicted this friendship: Russia's Putin, Iran's Raisi, and Turkey's Erdogan.

Ezekiel also mentions, "**the house of Togarmah.**" This name is attached to the Turkish-speaking people across the Caucasus - Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. As well as the nations of Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tadjikistan, Kyrgyzstan. *And what unites these countries?* They're muslim and hate Israel. They'll come to the mountains of Israel "**from the far north and all its troops - many people are with you.**"

And God speaks to these invaders, verse 7, "**Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them.**" The word "**guard**" can mean "**supplier.**" And how apropos, for today, Russia is the leading weapons supplier to all the nations of this coalition... Ezekiel continues, "**After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.**"

This coalition's invasion will occur at a time when the Jews are regathered and Israel dwells safely. At that time, "**You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.**" What a descriptive way to depict a massive military invasion - a "**storm or cloud**" of troops and weaponry and smoke will cover the land of Israel.

"**Thus says the Lord God: "On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling**

without walls, and having neither bars nor gates' - Recall, in this vision Ezekiel is paying a visit to the future. He's never seen "*unwalled villages.*" Ancient cities always had stone walls encircling them. Unwalled cities are a modern design.

Notice, Israel dwells "*safely.*" The Hebrew term isn't "*shalom*" or "*peace.*" It's "*batach,*" which can carry the sense of *cockiness* or *carelessness*... It could be this invasion occurs when Israel drops its collective guard.

Today, Israel has the best Air Force and defense system in the Middle East. The Arrow, David's Sling, the Patriot, the Iron Dome are systems that protect Israeli air space from missile attacks. Israeli military has the best intelligence in the world... *but could it make them over-confident? It did on October 7th! Will it happen again?*

Though we're not told when this battle occurs we know from Daniel 9 there is a final "*week,*" or seven year period of Great Tribulation. It begins when Israel signs a covenant with Antichrist. Perhaps it's this peace treaty that creates a false sense of security among Israelis.

This would place the Battle with Magog after the rapture, but at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. As we'll see, this battle terminates Russia's army and deals a severe blow to radical Islam. Once those forces are gone, there's nothing to stop the rise of the Antichrist.

No doubt, Israel today longs for peace. Over and over they've negotiated with doubtful partners. Realize, in the 2006 election of the Palestinian parliament the Hamas party - *avowed terrorists* - won 74 of the 132 seats. Obviously, the majority of Palestinians want the *destruction of Israel*, not *peace with Israel*. Yet Israelis keep going back to the negotiating table trying to hammer out some kind of workable, believable peace.

Sadly, there's a principle in Islam known as **Al-Taqiyya** which allows a muslim to lie to non-muslims with impunity - *if it advances the cause of Islam*. With that theology will there ever be a peace Israel can trust? They'll think so! But their partners will turn against them.

Verse 12 declares the invaders' ambitions, "*to take plunder and to take booty...*" Not the booty you shake. The term means "*plunder, stolen riches.*" Invaders will "*stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.*" The RSV translates the phrase, "*midst of the land*" to mean "*center of the earth.*" Literally, Jerusalem is "*the world's navel or belly-button.*"

The Midrash is a Jewish commentary on the Scriptures, and in it we read, "*As the navel is set in the centre of the human body, so is the land of Israel the navel of the world... situated in the centre of the world, and Jerusalem in the centre of the land of*

Israel, and the sanctuary in the centre of Jerusalem, and the holy place in the centre of the sanctuary, and the ark in the centre of the holy place, and the foundation stone before the holy place, because from it the world was founded.”

When we visit Israel it's thrilling to stand on the Temple Mount, on the spot that served as the foundation stone of the Holy of Holies, where the Ark rested. According to 38:12 there, you're literally at the center of the universe!

Verse 13 introduces four more characters, **“the good guys”** sort of... **“Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?’”**

**“Sheba”** and **“Dedan”** were tribes on the Arabian Peninsula. Their synonymous with today's Saudi Arabia.

**“Tarshish”** was a place in the western Mediterranean, perhaps Spain - possibly the British Isles. Ezekiel 27:12 identifies Tarshish as *a producer of tin*. **“Britannia”** means **“land of tin.”** Remember, when God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, he ran the opposite direction. He bought a ticket to Tarshish, the farthest west he could travel.

And if Tarshish does refer to Britain that means **“their young lions”** could be her offspring - *the United States, Canada, Australia*. If that's true, this would be the only place in the Bible where the United States is mentioned.

*And notice, what these young lions do...* In response to this naked aggression all they do to help Israel is scold the invaders. They talk and threaten. It's rhetoric not rifles. Their leader looks into the camera and says sternly, **“Don't,”** but refuses to back it up with his words.

*Sound familiar?* Biden's deterrence has done nothing to check Iran's aggression toward Israel. Perhaps, these nations co-sponsor a UN declaration. They slap Russia on the wrist, but don't lift a finger to help Israel.

To me the West's reluctant support of Israel may be the surest sign we're in the last days! Judeo-Christian values were once the driving factor in our loyalty to Israel. But today those values have disappeared. Given the Arab's vast oil reserves, *will sheer pragmatism be enough for America to maintain that support?* I doubt it.

The chief reason God has blessed the United States has been our loyalty toward Israel. He promised to bless those who bless Abram's descendants. Our support of Israel has gained God's blessing. But if we turn our back on Israel; no doubt, God will turn His back on us.

Verse 14, “Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army.” Those who insist on a literal interpretation, point out Armenia in the Caucasus mountains has always been home to Russian cossacks or calvary. On rugged terrain, like Afghanistan, horses are still used in combat. Though you’d think in an era of tanks and humvees a horse would be outdated, perhaps not, especially if an army faced an oil shortage.

But the Hebrew word “*horse*” literally means “*leaper*.” Which could broaden the interpretation of what Ezekiel is describing to a modern vehicle or an attack helicopter.

“You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.” Notice, God’s purpose for arranging this invasion, “*that the nations may know Me...*” God again sets up a David vs. Goliath scenario, Israel vs this northern alliance to reveal Himself to a world He created. God will show His *incredible might* and *amazing mercy*.

Verse 18, “And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,” says the Lord God, “that My fury will show in My face.” God’s fury - His anger - will show in His face. What vivid imagery! *God’s face will turn red*. He’ll be deeply infuriated by this unprovoked invasion against His special people, Israel.

“For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: ‘Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.’” God comes to His people’s defense to defeat their enemies. An earthquake will originate in Israel, of such magnitude, it’s shockwaves are felt around the globe. God will use this earthquake to get the attention of a stubborn world.

Verse 21, “I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,” says the Lord God. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother.” Thanks to God’s earthquake, the invading troops will be confused and discombobulated. They’ll turn on one another.

“*Every man’s sword will be against his brother*. And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.” *There’ll be blood on the mountains of Israel!*



Ezekiel sees the sky raining down hailstones, fire, and brimstone (or sulfur) - *it sounds like a thermonuclear explosion*. It could be Iran ultimately gets her Islamic bomb, but God turns it on this coalition of Russians and muslims, who dare to war with His people, Israel.

God will be revered (or hallowed) in the eyes of the world. After their defeat, everyone will recognize the existence and power of the God of Israel. And as we'll see later, this will be the event that'll wake up the Jews.

Chapter 39, "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel." The phrase "*lead you on*" in Hebrew can also be translated "*leave the sixth part*." Some interpreters see this as a body count - that five-sixths (or 85%) of this northern coalition is destroyed.

"Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand. You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken," says the Lord God. "And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the Lord."

We know Magog is Moscow, but who "*lives in security in the coastlands*"? The Hebrew phrase means "*distant lands*." Could Ezekiel be referring to a people living in the New World? Perhaps, America? If we fail to stand with Israel when invaded, would God pour out the same judgment on us that He uses on Israel's oppressors?

Verse 7, "So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. Surely it is coming, and it shall be done," says the Lord God. "This is the day of which I have spoken. Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years." The word "*arrow*" in Hebrew is "*khayts*." In modern Hebrew it refers to a *piercing missile*... "*Bow*" is the word "*keh-sheth*" or literally "*launcher*." The phrase "*bow and arrow*" can just as easily be translated, *missiles and rocket launchers*.

"They will not take wood from the field nor cut down any from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them," says the Lord God." Ezekiel says Israel will burn

weapons as fuel for seven years - which just happens to correspond with the duration of God's final judgment or Great Tribulation.

How these weapons will be burned is left to conjecture. But it could refer to nuclear weapons, and turning unused uranium into fuel for nuclear energy.

In 1993 at the end of the Cold War, Russia dismantled its nuclear warheads and sold the uranium to American reactors - one was the Savannah River Plant. At the time, 10% of US electricity came from uranium once on the tip of a Russian missile aimed at an American city. This is one of the best things that's happened in the world in the last 35 years, that you've never heard about.

And Ezekiel says it'll happen again after the Battle of Magog. The nuclear arsenal built to wipe the Jews off the map, will instead supply Israelis heat for their homes.

Verse 11, "It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog." "*Hamon Gog*" means "the multitude of Gog."

And "For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land." This sounds strange. How does burying the dead "*cleanse the land*"?

"Indeed all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified," says the Lord God. "They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search." Why does burying the dead require these special details - that actually earns them notoriety, or renown? And why wait seven months?

"The search party will pass through the land; and when anyone sees a man's bone, he shall set up a marker by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog. The name of the city will also be Hamonah (or *multitude*). Thus they shall cleanse the land."

Notice first of all, none of the corpses are buried for seven months after they're death. That indicates special circumstances. If a soldier died from normal battle wounds he'd be buried within days for sanitary reasons.

But not the dead in this battle... And professionals, *experts in disposal*, are hired for the task. One group locates the bones. Another group actually buries them. Apparently, these bodies require special precautions.

I believe we're reading about procedures used to dispose of bodies infected with nuclear poisoning. They were contaminated by the blast and became radioactive.

From verses 17-20 God invites vultures to dine on the corpses slain at the Battle of Magog. On one of our trips to Africa we did a safari, and we witnessed a wake of vultures eating a dead antelope. It's a gruesome sight. But this is what's seen on the mountains of Israel when God treats the birds of the land to a feast of flesh.

Verse 21, "I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them." The stunning victory of this tiny nation, Israel, over the mighty Russian/Muslim coalition will shock the world. Today, seven million Jews are staring down 465 million Arabs - *just think Russia will join the Arabs, and Israel will still win!*

In a sense, the Battle of Magog will be **the last jihad**. God will defeat the muslim armies, and their hatred of Israel. And there's only one explanation for their victory, **the true God is the God of Israel**. This won't just be recognized by Gentiles, but will also be a sign to Jews.

"So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward." This will be the turning point in the Jew's return to God. When God comes to His people's defense on the mountains of Israel, it'll soften their hearts and cause them to bow to Jesus!

Verses 23-24 remind the Gentiles that Israel's troubles were the result of their own sin. The Jews had turned their back on God, but their rebellion won't last forever.

For verse 25 tells us, **Thus says the Lord God: 'Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name - after they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, when they dwelt safely in their own land and no one made them afraid. When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, then they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer.'** Today, more than half of all Jews live outside Israel's borders. And even though many Jews have returned to Israel, many more haven't. There is still a final exodus of Jews to return to their homeland, and it's this stunning upset of Russia and the Jihadists that will be the impetus for their final return!

"And I will not hide My face from them anymore..." What a comfort. The Jews' sin caused God to turn His face from His people. But the day is coming when He'll end this estrangement. He'll no longer hide His face from Jewish hearts. He'll initiate a fresh work in His people.

Verse 29, "For I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," says the Lord God." *And what is God's condition for receiving His Spirit?* Always, it's believing in Jesus.

The outcome of this battle will bring Jews to faith in Messiah. Revelation 7 speaks of 144,000 Jews who are witnesses for Jesus in the last days. Perhaps, they come to know Him through God's victory over Gog.

Let me close with a fitting verse. Romans 8:31, "If God is for us who can be against us?" But the reverse is also true. If God is against you it doesn't matter who is for you - *just ask Gog and Magog*. Their army will cover the mountains of Israel like a cloud, but that isn't enough when you're fighting against God. He always prevails.

So why are you fighting against Him, today? Why do you resist Him? You only win by bowing your knee to His will, and surrendering your life to His Son, Jesus!