

The Possible Prophetic Fulfillments of Russia's War on Ukraine

OPENING LESSON TEXT: Ezekiel 38:1-23 (*Entire Chapter*)

LESSON INTRODUCTION:

- The events of the past several months, especially the last Week had brought to the forefront again the Prophetic realities of the End-Times.
- It is growing more and more obvious that we are now in the Last of the Last-Days, and the End-Time prophecies of the Bible are coming to pass right before our eyes
- The Olivet Discourse, given by Jesus on Tuesday of Passion Week, has been magnified and coming to pass in an obvious fulfillment right before our eyes since 2020.
- Now, President Vladimir Putin of Russian has declared an unprovoked war on the Sovereign country of Ukraine, without provocation.
- The question is now being posed all throughout the Body of Christ---“What role does all of this play in Biblical End-Time Prophecy?”
- To the discussion of that, this lesson is dedicated.....

LESSON TRANSITION:

- In order to do this, we are going to have to do 2-very important things:
 - First, unpack some Eschatological (End-Times) realities.
 - Second, exegete some “key” Biblical/Theological truths.
- Both of these will be done simultaneously in the following points.....

I. A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF BIBLICAL PROPHECY.

- a. There are 2-important things we have to keep in mind when we are exegeting (interpreting) Biblical Prophecy:
 - i. **First**, Bible Prophecy, can have a “Duality” or “*Dual-Fulfillment*” to the prophecy.
 1. It has a type of “*Now-and-Not-Yet*” element to it in its fulfillment

Dual Fulfillment



*Dual Fulfillment is a term in Theology → Hermeneutics, that Biblical Prophecies can have a Dual Fulfillment. A more immediate fulfillment, and an End-Time fulfillment. In a number of instances in Scripture an event is declared by a prophet of God to address an immediate issue, which also applies to a future issue. For example, Jesus' prophecy in the Olivet Discourse in (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). He describes the tribulation of Israel (A.D. 70) **and** the Great Tribulation which is yet to come (Revelation 6 - 19).*

ii. **Second**, There are 9-subjects within the study of Systematic Theology.

1. They are.....

- a. Theology Proper---The study of God
- b. Christology---The study of Jesus Christ
- c. Pneumatology---The study of the Holy Spirit
- d. Anthropology---The study of Humanity
- e. Hamartiology---The study of Sin
- f. Angelology---The study of Angels/demons
- g. Bibliology---The study of the Bible
- h. Ecclesiology---The study of the Church
- i. Eschatology---The study of the End Times

2. Of all of these categories, only concerning **ESCHATOLOGY** are we **NOT** given ALL of the details!

- a. Instead, we are given *JUST* enough to be Ready for the End-Times, commonly referred to as the Last of the Last-Days!

Matthew 24:36

"However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows."

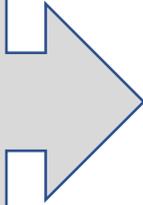
Acts 1:6-11

"So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" ⁷ He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

Matthew 24:42-44

"So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."

What Jesus taught us concerning the Last of the Last-Days before His Return!



Jesus is Coming Back Soon!
The animosity between the Church and the World will increase as we get closer to the End!
He is coming back with reward for the Righteous
He is coming back with punishment for the Wicked!
Evil will increase/The Gospel will be preached to all People Groups/Revival will break out!
Various Prophetic Signs will precede the Return of Jesus!
Be prepared at ALL times, for we do not know when our Lord will return!

II. UNDERSTANDING WHO THESE ANCIENT COUNTRIES ARE IN OUR MODERN WORLD.

a. Here is a list of the Ancient Locations in Ezekiel 38 and their Modern Names:

Gog	The Leader of Magog
Magog	Russia (Former Soviet Union)
Meshek	Moscow---Or the people north of the Black Sea (<i>the area of southern Russia and Ukraine</i>)
Tubal	A city in Siberia or an area in central Turkey. It is always listed with Meshek in Scripture
Persia	Iran
Cush (Kush)	Sudan
Put	Libya
Gomer	Turkey
Beth Togarmah	Armenia

b. The website GotQuestions.com adds some very interesting additional information we need to investigate what is going on Prophetically.....

So, yes, the Bible does mention Russia, although not by that name, in connection with the end times. Ezekiel 38—39 definitely refer to a nation coming from northern Asia to attack Israel. After the Cold War, Russia lost its superpower status, making the fulfillment of Ezekiel’s prophecy seem unlikely in some people’s eyes.

However, recent events have shown that Russia is gaining strength, and many believe that the invasion of Ukraine is just a first step in Russia's plan to restore its dominance in that hemisphere. It is also interesting to note that, in the Soviet era, Moscow was solidly aligned with several Muslim countries in opposition to Israel.

Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, Russia has continued to make overtures to the Muslim world.

According to the Bible, there will come a time when Russia, in alliance with several other countries, will amass a huge army against Israel, with a view to plunder the Jews' land. Ezekiel says that, when the aggressors move against Israel, a few other nations ("Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish") will remonstrate → (Protest Against), as will "all her villages" — possibly colonies (Ezekiel 38:13). Sheba and Dedan are associated with areas of northern Africa. Tarshish could be a reference to Spain (which colonized much of South America), Britain (which colonized the United States), or somewhere in eastern Africa. The objections to Magog's aggression will fall on deaf ears, however, and the invasion will continue. (*These Objectors could possibly those of NATO → Emphasis Mine.*)

Some commentators believe this war is one of the events leading up to beginning of the Great Tribulation Period. However, it is important to keep in mind, that this battle is distinct from the Battle of Armageddon, which occurs at the end of the tribulation.

God promises to destroy Gog's army: "I will execute judgment on him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him" (Ezekiel 38:22). The bodies of the fallen army of Magog will be buried, but it will take over seven months to complete the macabre task (Ezekiel 39:12, 14). This supernatural judgment will have the effect of preserving Israel and turning many hearts to God: "And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord" (Ezekiel 38:23). Many will be saved during the tribulation (Revelation 7), and the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38—39 will be one means by which God will bring people to a knowledge of Himself.

~::~THE REVIVAL OF THE LAST OF THE LAST-DAYS!~::~

There is much we do not know for certain about Ezekiel's prophecy, including the timing of these events. However, it is clear that Russia will be involved and will in fact lead an end-times league of nations to seize Israel's land. The prophet Ezekiel comforts Israel in much the same way as Moses had centuries ago: "***The LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory***" (Deuteronomy 20:4).¹

III. POSSIBLE PROPHETIC FORWARD "STEPS" AS WE MOVE FORWARD FROM HERE!

- a. Here is the "STEPS" that I personally Prophetically see the "**POTENTIAL**" of happening as we go forward from this invasion of Ukraine from Russia.

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/Russia-end-times.html>

<p>Prophetic Step #1 <i>(Putin continues on to Baltic States and Poland)</i></p>	<p>President Putin and Russia continue to try to reconstitute the Former Soviet Union Territory lines, and move into the Baltic States and Poland, thus triggering a reaction from NATO...We move forward...</p>
<p>Prophetic Step #2 <i>(NATO's Article 5 is instituted)</i></p>	<p>NATO, including the United States, MUST step in to fight against Russia, if they move into NATO countries...We move forward...</p>
<p>Prophetic Step #3 <i>(NATO Article 5---An attack against one NATO nation, is an attack against ALL NATO Countries!)</i></p>	<p>All 30 Countries of NATO will and MUST fight against Russia. This will open up the possibility of Russia's removal from SWIFT Banking.</p>
<p>Prophetic Step #4 <i>(All-out WAR!)</i></p>	<p>This will then trigger World War III. NATO Nations will be fighting against Russia and those aligned with Russia.</p>
<p>Prophetic Step #5 <i>(Russia will suffer deep and serious financial distress along with severe economic crisis)</i></p>	<p>This could possibly "TRIGGER" the Prophetic Fulfillment of the Prophet Ezekiel's prophecy in Ezekiel 38-39.</p>
<p>Prophetic Step #6 <i>(Russia and some of her Muslim allies see the rich resources of Israel and align to attack)</i></p>	<p>NATO objects to this attack and warns against it! There is protests in the streets of America and other NATO Countries but to NO avail.</p>
<p>Prophetic Step #7 <i>(God Himself steps in and fights for Israel)</i></p>	<p>Israel is defended by God Himself, and utterly destroys the ungodly unjust alliance of Russia and other Countries against Israel.</p>
<p>Prophetic Step #8 <i>(With all this chaos and fighting in the world, a Man of "Peace" will step on the scene; rise to power; and lead the world)</i></p>	<p>This so-called "Man of Peace" will be the final personification of the spirit of antichrist. He will be a human, fully possessed by satan,...THE BEAST→The Antichrist!</p>

IV. THE TASK OF THE BODY OF CHRIST!

a. The Church's "TASK" is 4-fold:

- i. **First**, KEEP OUR FOCUS ON WHAT GOD IS DOING, AND NOT WHAT THE DEVIL OR MANKIND IS DOING!
- ii. **Second**, WORSHIP GOD!
- iii. **Third**, KEEP OUR "GARMENTS" WHITE→Live and Walk in HOLINESS!
- iv. **Fourth**, ADVANCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD THROUGH.....
 1. Declaring the Gospel of Jesus Christ→Evangelism!
 2. Demonstrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ→Gifts of the Charismata!