

Handout: Ezekiel Lesson 14

These are the descendants of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, to whom sons were born after the flood: Japheth's sons: Gomer, Magog, the Medes, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, Tiras. Genesis 10:1-2

The 7th oracle in Chapters 38-39 divides into seven parts:

1. The enemy mobilizes to attack Israel (38:1-9).
2. Gog's plans and motives (38:10-13)
3. God's counterplan (38:14-16).
4. God's response to the attack (38:17-23).
5. God's victory over Gog (39:1-16).
6. The sacrificial victory banquet (39:17-20).
7. Israel and the nations acknowledge Yahweh and His final word (39:21-29).

According to 38:4-5, Gog's soldiers are a well-equipped force:

- They are mounted on horses.
- They are armed with the defensive weapons of shields, bucklers (small shields), and helmets, and they have swords for offensive weapons.

38:4-6 emphasizes Yahweh's direct and deliberate manipulation of Gog's army in three declarations:

1. "I will turn you about"
2. "I shall fix hooks in our jaws" (enforcing obedience)
3. "and bring you out with your entire army"

God's plan is to use the threat of the great invasion to reveal Himself to the chosen people and the other nations of the earth when He saves the elect from destruction.

Verses 7-9 announce the military strategy He intends to pursue in the three actions of God's divine plan:

1. God plans Gog's invasion according to His timetable in the future after God's people have been regathered from exile and have resettled in their homeland.
2. Gog's invasion occurs at the overt instigation of Yahweh and as His agent.
3. Yahweh's purpose in bringing Gog's army is to convince the nations surrounding His people of His Divine Presence and protection over His people.

38:17, *The Lord Yahweh says this: "It was of you that I spoke in the past through my servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days, foretelling your invasion.*

Some translations render this verse as a question. The verse causes us to ask to which prophets and prophecies does God refer? Several clues to the answer are in the passage:

1. Yahweh claims the prophets as His servants distinguishing them from false prophets. He affirms the authenticity of their message by referring to them as agents through whom He had spoken.
2. That they are "prophets of Israel" and rules out any prophecies given in the land of Magog.
3. They are prophets from the past which rules out Ezekiel.

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There are significant differences between the passages concerning Gog and Magog in Revelation 20:7-9 and Ezekiel 38-39:

1. The reason for Gog's invasion of Israel in the Ezekiel passage is to plunder her silver and gold and take her cattle (38:11-13).
 2. All of Gog's warriors are on horseback (38:15); there are no soldiers in motorized vehicles like trucks, jeeps, tanks, helicopters, or jets.
 3. All of Gog's warriors carry swords, wooden shields, and wooden bows (39:3, 9).
 4. The victorious Jews will burn their weapons for fuel for seven years (39:9-10).
- None of these details point to events taking place in the modern age.

In addition, the war of Gog and Magog in Revelation cannot be identical to the Gog prophesy in Ezekiel for these reasons:

1. In Ezekiel's account, the enemy is Gog from the land of Magog. In Revelation, Gog and Magog are one entity.
2. Ezekiel's Gog is a prince or chief ruler (Ez 38:2). In Revelation, Gog and Magog are a confederation of nations across the face of the earth (Rev 20:7).
3. In Ezekiel, God comes against Israel with people from various countries in the geographic region of Israel. In Revelation, Gog and Magog are nations beguiled by Satan from the four quarters of the earth and number as the sands of the sea.
4. In Ezekiel, Gog's warriors come against the covenant people who have recently returned from captivity and are dwelling in towns without walls. In Revelation, Gog and Magog come to encompass the city of the saints from the breadth of the earth.
5. In Ezekiel, when God's people defeat the army of Gog, they burn the enemy's wooden weapons. In Revelation, God destroys Gog and Magog with fire from Heaven, and nothing remains.

In Revelation, Gog and Magog (mentioned as one like the combination "Hitler and Germany") become a symbol for Gentile nations opposed to God and His Divine Plan for Israel (see Ps 2). It is a symbol like the other symbols in Revelation:

1. The Jezebel of Revelation (Rev 2:20) is not the same woman as in the Book of Kings (1 Kng 16:29-31; 18:3-4, 19; 19:1-18; 21:5-16; 2 Kng 9:30-37).
2. Sodom in Revelation (11:8) is not the same Sodom as in Genesis 19.
3. Babylon in Revelation (Rev 11:8; 18:8-9, 24) is not the Babylon of the Old Testament books.
4. The "new" Jerusalem in Revelation (Rev 3:12; 19:7-9; 21:1-22:5) cannot mean the old Jerusalem.

In each instance, the former serves as a Biblical type. Queen Jezebel had already died, the cities of Sodom and Babylon had already received God's judgment, and the battle of Ezekiel 38-39 had already met its fulfillment within the setting of the time before the Advent of the Christ.