

"God's Prophetic Calendar"

Ezekiel 38-39

Introduction: I am sure you are aware of what happened in Israel on October 7th. Here we are now almost a month later and Israel is in a war against terrorism. Many pastors have been preaching about the events and some are using certain passages of Scripture to explain what is happening. One such passage is recorded in Ezekiel 38-39. In our message today I want to help you to understand Ezekiel 38-39 and to help you to see what could possibly happen because of the war in the Middle East.

But let me first of all say that the war in the Middle East today is NOT the war we read about in Ezekiel 38-39.

I. Who is involved?

The first thing we need to see is who is involved in this battle.

Notice Ezekiel 38:1-3

There are many who will teach that this is a reference to Russia. Let me show you that ESV translation.

Ezekiel 38:1-3

And the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying,

² *Son of man, set thy face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the¹prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,*

³ *and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, [^b]prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal:*

There are those who say;

Rosh = Russia

Meshech = Moscow

Tubal = Tobolsk.

But there is no proof of this. This very well could take in Russia but we cannot be dogmatic because things change. Walvoord says that Ezekiel had historical places of his day in mind not modern-day names.

Notice Ezekiel 38:4-6

Persia = Iran

Ethiopia

Libya

Gomer = Turkey

Togarmah = Armenian people to the north of Israel.

Application:

I am not going to go deep into who these names refer to I just want you to see that in this battle with Gog Israel will be against surrounding nations. That is not the case today because they are in a war with Hamas and Hezbollah. But it could very well turn into a war with these nations.

Listen to what was written in the **Wall Street Journal on October 30, 2023.**

"This weekend hundreds of rioters in Dagestan, Russia, stormed an airport in search of Jewish travelers. Mobs raided hotels in other parts of the North Caucasus looking for Jews, and a Jewish community center under construction in the city of Nalchik was the target of an apparent attack.

Germany has witnessed a spate of anti-Semitic incidents, including an attack with Molotov cocktails against a synagogue in Berlin on Oct. 18. Some Jews found Stars of David painted on their homes, an echo of the Nazi persecution. German politicians have been forceful in their denunciations, but apparently not forceful enough in their policing.

Two Jewish schools in London closed for a period over safety concerns, and some British Jews no longer feel safe wearing visible symbols of their faith. They're probably right to worry the state can't protect them. Tens of thousands of protesters in London over three successive weekends called for "jihad" and chanted "from the river to the sea," a demand for the erasure of Israel. A crowd in Sydney, Australia, chanted "gas the Jews" after the Hamas attack.

Americans like to believe such things couldn't happen in the U.S. They have. The Anti-Defamation League last week reported a 388% increase in anti-Semitic incidents from Oct. 7-23 compared with the same period a year ago. The 312 incidents the ADL recorded include a car carrying individuals with Palestinian flags allegedly swerving toward a Jewish family and several alleged assaults by pro-Palestinian protesters. The ADL tally counts 109 anti-Israel rallies that featured support for Hamas or violence against Jews in Israel.

These and too many other incidents to count put paid to the notion that one can distinguish anti-Zionism from anti-Semitism since Oct. 7. If protesters wanted to burn Israeli flags in a fit of wrong-headed pique about a two-state solution, that is one thing. Only anti-Jewish hate can explain how synagogues, children and airports are targets of this outrage."

Now let me show you how this is the fulfillment of Prophecy.

Zechariah 12:3

³ *And in that day will **I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people**: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.*

Zechariah 14:1-2

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

² *For **I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle**; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

From these verses I want you to see that the Bible predicts a rise in antisemitism as the world races toward the Tribulation and we are seeing that happen right before our eyes. Our own White House is turning against the nation of Israel.

II. When will this Battle Happen?

There are many thoughts on when this battle will happen but I believe we can narrow it down fairly close with a look at a few verses. There are 2 points to see here.

1. It will take place when Israel is at peace.

Notice Ezekiel 38:11, 14

Most likely the peace referred to here will be a false peace under the promised protection of the Anti-Christ.

Daniel 9:27

²⁷ *And **he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week**: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

I believe this will be a counterfeit of what God promised to Israel and that is why they will accept it.

Ezekiel 34:25-26

²⁵ And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods.

²⁶ And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

Application:

With the growing antisemitism today and the talk of all the nations turning against Israel it is setting the stage for the anti-Christ to step into the picture to promise them protection and peace. The Jews rejected Jesus because they were looking for a King that would bring political peace so when the anti-Christ comes with that offer, they will be more than happy to accept it. This is the very kind of peace they are looking for today. Peace from the missiles and the rockets.

Before this covenant can happen there **MUST** be the rapture. Do you see how close we are? Let me emphasize this even more.

2. It will happen when Israel is gathered into their land.

There is something we need to be reminded of concerning the regathering.

Isaiah 11:11

¹¹ And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

¹² And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

¹³ The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.

There are only 2 national gatherings of the Jews. The one spoken of here in Isaiah 11 is the 2nd and it is the gathering in belief at the end of the Tribulation. The other is a gathering in unbelief to prepare for the Tribulation.

Notice Ezekiel 38:10-12

This battle in Ezekiel 38 takes place after the first gathering. There are only two and one is taking place even today.

Application:

Again, I remind you of how close we might be to the rapture.

Notice the words of Walvoord.

"Of the many peculiar phenomena which characterize the present generation, few events can claim equal significance as far as Biblical prophecy is concerned with that of the return of Israel to their land. It constitutes a preparation for the end of the age, the setting for the coming of the Lord for His church, and the fulfillment of Israel's prophetic destiny."

"The third and final dispersion began in A.D. 70, with the destruction of Jerusalem and the desecration of the entire land which followed the next century. From this dispersion, Israel has begun to return in the twentieth-century as witnessed in the establishment of the nation Israel. Two million of these people are now established in their ancient land. The present regathering being witnessed by our generation is the largest movement of the people of Israel since the days of Moses, and may be understood to be the beginning of that which will be completed subsequent to the second coming of Christ and the establishment of His earthly Kingdom on this earth."

III. What is the Purpose of the Battle?

1. To turn Israel back to God.

Notice Ezekiel 38:1-16

God brings the nations against Israel and it is for the purpose of disciplining them.

Zechariah 13:9

⁹ And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

Two thirds of the nation will die in the tribulation. What happened on October 7th is nothing compared to what is coming. Let us keep in mind that God will bring the nation to the point where they will turn to Him. They must be saved and they must accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah and it will be then that the Kingdom will be established. It must happen on the earth where it was lost otherwise God is defeated.

Notice Ezekiel 39:27-29

Here is the second regathering in faith when they turn to the Lord. This is the purpose of the battle.

2. To bring judgment upon the nations.

Notice Ezekiel 38:17-39:1

Let us notice how many will die.

Notice Ezekiel 39:12

It will take 7 months to bury the dead.

Notice Ezekiel 39:9

It will take 7 years to burn the weapons.

Conclusion:

The war in the Middle East today is not this battle but it could very well be setting the stage for this battle. Which means the rapture must happen first.

Are you ready?

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.