

Gog and Magog in Prophecy

Evangelical Religious groups have for decades identified these Eurasian Powers as being the Soviet Union and its Asian allies. What they have failed to factor into their Emphatic Prophetic Scenarios is the intentions and the actual timeframe of these people's invasion of the Land of Israel.

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A recent visit from a relative, whose religious persuasion reflects that of my early upbringing, reminded me of the great significance placed by most evangelicals, fundamentalists and prophecy buffs on the identity of what is commonly regarded as two great regional end-time powers. I can recall the great emphasis placed on these identifications in sermons and Bible studies in past decades during the heating up of the Cold War as the old Soviet Union postured against the United States and its NATO allies.

WAR with Soviets!

We were very much obsessed back then with the prospect of war with totalitarian, atheistic Russia at the time, not forgetting the intense standoff of the Cuban Missile Crisis during the Kennedy administration. I can clearly recall my boss, bounding down the stairs from his office in late 1962, almost gleefully declaring, "Well, it looks like war with the Soviets!" (He was a retired WWII Army Colonel.) That really warmed the heart of a barely draft age teen who'd recently registered for the draft! Thankfully, Khrushchev blinked!

Prophecies involving Gog and Magog are found in just two places. The first is in Ezekiel 38 & 39, the second is Revelation 20.

In **Ezekiel 38**, we read in part: [1] "*And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*
[2] *Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him,*
[3] *And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:*
[4] *And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with*

bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:
[5] *Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:*

[6] *Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.*

[7] *Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.*

[8] *After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.*

[9] *Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.*

[10] *Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:*

[11] *And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwallled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,*

[12] *To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land...."*

Now, there are quite a number of interesting things revealed in this prophecy in Ezekiel, which continues on through to the end of chapter 39.

WHO These Peoples Are!

Among Evangelicals, there's a general consensus as to which peoples are being identified. These are the identities offered by one of their sources.

Gog: Considered to be a reference to the person heading the Russian peoples. ¹

Magog: Considered to be referring to the land of Gog.

Meshech: An alternate spelling, Musku, leads people to deduce that this is a reference to the city of Moscow. Meshech is shown to be an ally of Tubal and associated with Gog, the “prince of Rosh”.

Tubal: Thought to be the founder of the Tiberani, said by scholiasts to have been a Scythian tribe.” ² Others speculate that the name identifies Tobolsk, a town in Russia, located at the confluence of the Tobol and Irtysh Rivers, a historic capital of Siberia.

The overwhelming consensus of more recent date seems to be that it identifies the Russian peoples and their allies. This was of especial interest among churchgoers during the postwar era of the 1950’s, as relations between the NATO Allies and the Soviets deteriorated.

What has not been given adequate consideration by most in the evangelical world is the time-frame of these two references. This can have a huge impact on our prophetic assessments.

The Second Prophecy

This is found in **Revelation 20:** [7] “*And **when the thousand years are expired**, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

[8] *And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, **Gog and Magog**, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

[9] *And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”*

¹ “The prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal...who Ezekiel said would invade the restored land of Israel from the far distant northern lands by the appointment of God in the last times with a powerful army of numerous nations.” New Unger’s Bible Dictionary, 1988, Moody Press, page 490.

² New Unger’s Bible Dictionary, 1988, page 1310. [Comment: certain Scythians were of Israelite origin.]

While this prophecy describes what seems to be a similar invasion to that which we read of in Ezekiel 38-39, we’re forced to realize that the time-frame of this event is clearly AFTER the millennium. That would mean that the participants on this invasion of the Jerusalem area are people who have lived during the millennium, and aren’t necessarily the exact political entity referred to in Ezekiel 38-39. That’s IF they aren’t the same invasion.

A Repetition or Not?

What we need to consider is whether these are two different invasions separated by a span of some 1000 years or are they both describing the same events? If we are to conclude they both describe the same invasion, we are forced to work from the realization that the event we read of in Revelation 20:7-9 is clearly post-millennial.

What would be an important thing to do, with this question in mind, is to review Ezekiel 38-39 to identify what time-frame indicators we can find to establish when that prophecy is applicable.

The book of Ezekiel was written 1000+ years before anything resembling Russia came into being and some 3000 years before the Soviet Union grew into a world power. Then again, we could note that Imperial Rome was identified in Daniel 2 and 7 long before it came into being as a world empire of consequence.

Who were these nations at the time Ezekiel’s prophecy was written? Was Ezekiel writing about nations that were non-existent as far as he knew? If the identification is correct of Gog being Russia, then we’d be inclined to say yes.

Considering the Evidence

The Revelation 20 account is clearly identified as being 1000 years after the Second Coming, thus after the millennium as it’s under the deception of and leadership of the recently released Satan, who goes out to aggressively deceive the nations. (Certain ones in particular.) A huge number of those living at the end of the millennial age will find his deceptive pitch to be appealing and motivating.

Another distinction is to note the ethnicities of the allies listed in Ezekiel as opposed to those of the armies of the Beast Power who are to invade the

Levant just before Christ's coming, which some have assumed to be the event Ezekiel 38 is referring to. From this, we can establish that Gog and Magog are not the Beast's army.

We have also to consider the identity of the massive army which is to invade the homeland of the Beast Power during the Tribulation Era. Their stated purpose is to kill a third of humanity,³ but we aren't given their identity in the places where this particular force is identified. Out of consideration for the massive numbers to be killed, we must realize that their first attack will be against the homeland of the Beast Power, before moving toward the Beast's transplanted headquarters⁴ and his army which is by this time located in the Middle East, the Jerusalem area to be specific.

If we are to accept that the 'Gog and Magog' prophecies are dual in fulfilment, then it could be possible that their involvement at Armageddon would be its first fulfilment.

If they are not dual, then we're left to realize that this is not referring to any Tribulation era event.

An Ethnic Clue

We know that the Beast's forces (and homeland) is to be European, while the 200 million man army that ultimately intends to confront his forces on the Plains of Megiddo (Armageddon) are largely Asian and Middle Eastern, (if Ezekiel 38: is applicable then). Revelation 16:12-16 would also suggest an Asian origin of this force, being that they come from beyond the Euphrates, which is generally northeast of Megiddo and Jerusalem.

There is also the possibility that neither prophecy is applicable to this invasion of the Land of Israel in the "last days" (the Tribulation era). While some of the participants may be the same before the Tribulation and again after the millennium, it could

³ Revelation 9:13-15 "And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are **bound in the great river Euphrates**. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men."

⁴ Daniel 11:45 "And **he shall plant the tabernacles** of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."

be that neither of these prophecies refer to these events, though they possibly may involve some of the descendants of same original ethnicities. Perhaps that explains why a name isn't given to us in Revelation 9 or 16 while a name is given in Revelation 20.

Two Forces; One Pending Battle

You see, we have two battle situations prophesied. One is called the Battle of Armageddon occurring at the time of Christ's Second Coming. The other involves an invasion force marshalled by Satan after his release following the 1000 years. And, we might pose the consideration here, of whether or not this Gog/Magog force, thought by some to be among the assemblage at Armageddon, is that of the Beast power or is it that of the power from the 'north and east' that alarms him so greatly?⁵

There is another clue to help identify the particular battle seen in the manner in which these armies in the two battle situations are to be killed. One is 'with the sword of His mouth',⁶ the other is with fire from heaven.⁷ And these later dead are still in the flesh that raptors are called upon to eat, as opposed to the other situation where they're devoured by fire, leaving their remains as ashes underfoot.⁸ These facts also would suggest we're looking at two different situations occurring at different times. Armageddon is clearly NOT the event we read of in Revelation 20:9.

The basic question here is whether or not the evangelical / fundamentalist persuasion identification of Gog and Magog provides an accurate assessment of the timing of these prophecies. It was presented as being so certain back in the early 1950's, (and long before that) and it seems little has changed since.

⁵ Daniel 11:44 "But **tidings out of the east and out of the north** shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many."

⁶ Revelation 19:17-21 "...the remnant were **slain with the sword** of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh..."

⁷ Revelation 20:9 "...and **fire came down from God** out of heaven, and devoured them..."

⁸ Malachi 4:3 "And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be **ashes** under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts."

A HUGE Time Gap!

Where the Battle of Armageddon is at the Second Coming, before the millennial age, the account in Revelation 20 of the Gog/Magog attack against the un-walled city of Jerusalem, World Headquarters at the time, is clearly after the 1000 years has expired!

(We might note that the resurrected two houses of Israel (Ezekiel 37) awake after the millennium in their resurrection unaware (at first) of their national reunification that had occurred with survivors of the Tribulation after the Second Coming.)

Significant Indicators

The remaining question is whether or not there are any time references within the Ezekiel 38-39 prophecy? In fact, too many to ignore!

Verse 13 explains their intention: to take a great spoil. Verses 14 & 15 explain that this is in a time period when the peoples of Israel are dwelling safely; they come from the north with a vast armed company. Verse 18 shows that this invasion is specifically against the land of Israel; verse 20 shows that this will be an earth-shaking event!

In chapter 39 verse 2 we see that only one-sixth of this force will survive to return home. The remains of their fallen will be devoured by raptors (v. 17 similar to what happens in Revelation 19:17 with the Beast's army) and they will make assault on the mountains of Israel, where they are to fall, not the vast plains of Megiddo!

Numerous aspects of this 'invasion of the land' differ from the Battle of Armageddon account. Foremost is the intent: not to engage an already present military force, but to overwhelm long-demilitarized cities. What remains of the dead will be buried in various places in the land (v. 11). Residents will be seven years burning the remains of their weaponry and employed teams will take seven months burying their widely scattered dead (vs. 11 - 14).

But what is interesting is the narrative concluding the chapter. [25] *"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name;.."*

This gives us a clue as to the timeframe. At the beginning of the millennium Israel will be reunited and brought together in the land. That would involve the survivors of the Tribulation. It would not include those long dead of past generations, nor would it include those who died **in** the Tribulation. So far as they know, they all died prior to any reunification and restoration to their original land. For these to know of the conclusion of their exile and to become 'sanctified' in the sight of other nations, they must have been restored to a state of living consciousness! This brings us to the time of the second resurrection event, **after** the 1000 years, which we read of in Revelation 20:5 & Ezekiel 37.

Satisfying Their Debt With God

[26] *"After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, (committed) when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid.*


[27] *When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;.."*

Restored to Life and Sanctified

Continuing: [28] *"Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which cause them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.*

[29] *Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD."* (see chapter 37:12-14 for when this happens with these people.)

So, is Ezekiel's prophecy pre-Tribulation, as certain Evangelical 'scholars' have suggested? Are both prophecies in Revelation 20 and Ezekiel 38-39 referring to the same event? It would appear they are! If that is the case, then it's are at a point in time 1000 years after the Second Coming!

Are these forces raised by Satan the armies of the Beast Power? By the time setting and other factors given, that's highly unlikely. What is established is whether or not the two prophecies involving Gog and Magog (Rev. 19 and Ezek. 38-39) describe Russia of the modern era. That apparently is not the case! The following study should provide more information regarding this matter: 

Debunking the Russia / War of Gog and Magog Myth

by Christian Post Guest Voices

By Jeffrey Goodman, Ph.D.

One of the more popular topics among Christians today is the "end times." With each significant news story, a correlation between it and end times events prophesied in the Bible is sought. Because of recent military activities and tensions in Russia and Israel, the end times event prophesied in the Bible called "The War of Gog and Magog" is now a red hot topic. Ezekiel 38/39 tells how Gog, the powerful leader from the land of Magog, will lead a confederacy of nations to invade Israel during the end times and start a war of unprecedented size and devastation.

Many end times aficionados believe that Magog represents Russia and that Russia will soon come to invade Israel. However, the ancient Assyrians had dealings with Magog, and their Court records clearly identify Magog and it is not Russia. For decades Christians have been deceived and have been unwittingly deceiving others about who is to be involved in the prophesied invasion of Israel. Russia has absolutely nothing to do with Magog and being the nation that will lead an invasion of Israel.

While many may picture Russia as an "evil empire," personal opinions, traditional views, incomplete research, and current events cannot be the basis of the identification of Gog and Magog and the interpretation of Ezekiel 38/39. The correct identification and interpretation of Ezekiel 38/39 must be based on scripture, with the aid of the archeological and historical context of these scriptures.

While everyone is entitled to their own opinions, everyone is not entitled to their own set of facts. Although opinions may abound, there is not one verifiable fact or any primary evidence to support the belief that Magog represents Russia. Any interpretation of Ezekiel 38/39 requires recognition of the historical truth.

The brief report below explains the great deception about Russia and the War of Gog and Magog. Complete details about this topic and other end time events are available in my new book THE COMETS OF GOD.

Russia and the War of Gog and Magog

While most end times Bible prophecy authors have argued that Russia's origins trace back to the ancient nation of "Magog" described in Ezekiel 38-39, this is simply not true. This myth that traces back to the mid 1800's is built on historical statements that were deliberately altered, and on the assumption that the similarity of certain words could mean something else in another language. Although ancient records have been found that tell a different story about the identity of Magog and about Russia's origins, the "Russia is Magog" myth persists.

Assyrian Court Records

The popular identification of the nations of Ezekiel 38-39 is not correct. Despite the traditional viewpoint, professional archeologists know the identity of these nations from the Assyrian Royal Court records. The reliable, clear and detailed records of Assyrian Royal Court show they dealt directly with each of these nations about 100 years before Ezekiel wrote. These are the same records that are referred to in Ezra 4:15, 19 and 5:17-6:7. These passages tell how the Jews of the fifth century BC 538 BC-457 BC overcame opposition by the local Persian governor to the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem by referring to these same Assyrian cuneiform court records. They are also the same records Bible scholars now use to provide independent verification and edification of the Bible's historical accounts from about 805 BC to 530 BC.

The Assyrian Royal Court records provide direct evidence and represent an incontestable primary source on this subject, since they were written during the time period in question by people who were directly involved. Primary sources have greater value than secondary sources, which can include generalizations, speculation and interpretations made long after the occurrence of the events. On this particular subject, too often what has been written about these countries constitutes secondary evidence and is not based on facts. In some instances statements are the product of mischief, bias or not studying all of the available information.

The Assyrian Court records show dealings with Magog, Meshech, Tubal, and Togarmah (Ezekiel 38:3-6), the nations that stretched across ancient Asia Minor (modern Turkey) from west to east. From these records we also learn that the ancient nation of Gomer (Ezekiel 38:6), an enemy of the Assyrians invaded Asia Minor by coming down from an area around the northeast shore of the Black Sea. Archeologists know that the militant leader called "Gog" in Ezekiel 38/39 led a confederacy of these nations against invading Gomer.

Who and what are Gog and Magog?

Gog is a historical man who the Greeks called Gyges of Lydia. In Gyges of Lydia we have the leader the Assyrians called "Gugu, King of Ludu," and "Gugu of Magugu," who is referred to in the Bible as Gog of Magog. "Magog" simply means "the land of Gog." In Akkadian ma means land, so in Akkadian Ma- gugu means "the land of Gugu," which becomes our Ma-gog. (Just as the Assyrian eponym for the land of the leader called Zamua is rendered as

Ma-zamua). Magog is an eponym for the ancient nation of Lydia that was in the westernmost part of Asia Minor. The Assyrians often referred to a new land by the name of the first leader they learned of from this land. The Assyrians dealt with Lydia through Meshech, who were subsequently defeated by Gomer, and thus the Assyrians finally came to deal with Lydia directly. In the prophecy of Ezekiel 38/39 Gog is being used as a "historical type" of the "antichrist" who is prophesied to come during the end times, and Magog is being used as a "historical type" of "the land of the antichrist." **See comments below regarding this "antichrist".**

It has been mistakenly believed that the ancient nation of "Magog" in western Asia Minor was the ancient "tribal name" of the "Scythians," a group of Iranian speaking nomadic tribes from Central Asia (north of Iran) that traveled across the Russian steppes, and came to live in the territory north of the Black Sea. Then, in turn, and again in error, it has been believed that the ancient Scythians were the progenitors of the modern Russians. In Foes from the Northern Frontier Dr. Edwin Yamauchi, a professor of history at Miami University in Ohio emphatically explains that none of the ancient nations referred to in Ezekiel 38-39 can possibly be related to modern Russia. Further, Yamauchi says:

"Even if one were to transliterate the Hebrew rosh as a proper name (as does the NAS) rather than translate it as 'chief' (as does the KJV, NIV, and Hebrew Tanakh), it can have nothing to do with modern 'Russia.' This would be a gross anachronism for the modern name is based upon the name Rus, which was brought into the region of Kiev, north of the Black Sea, by the Vikings only in the Middle Ages."

Daniel I Block, a professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois in the Book of Ezekiel writes, "The popular identification of Tubal with Tubolsk in Russia (H. Lindsey, The Late Great Planet Earth 1970, p.53) is ludicrous...The popular identification of Meshech with Moscow (of Lindsey, The Late Great Planet Earth p.53) is absurd."

How did Russia become associated with Magog?

The erroneous belief that Russia is Magog can be traced back to a small group of 18th and 19th century theologians who wrote long before the primary evidence from the ancient Assyrian records was discovered, translated and made available to the public. Instead, they based their assertions on secondary sources, historical works written over 500 years after the time of Ezekiel, and to make matters worse some of these sources had come to be purposefully altered. These altered references include statements attributed to the first century AD Jewish historian Josephus, and first century AD Roman historian Pliny.

In his book The Antiquity of the Jews Josephus says that the Greeks called the "Magogites" the "Scythians" despite the fact that the Greeks did not call the Magogites the Scythians. In this same passage there are other errors in the identification of other ancient nations of Asia Minor. This passage shows that the author did not understand that Ashkenaz is the Hebrew word for the Scythians. (Interestingly, the Assyrian word for the Scythians, Ishkuza or Ashguza is similar to the Hebrew word for the Scythians – Ashkenaz.) This passage also comes into conflict with what the ancient Greek historian Herodotus who after living with each group wrote about the Scythians and the Lydians in his book The History. Since Josephus used Herodotus' book as a reference, one can only speculate how and why these obviously wrong statements are in Josephus' book. Were these inaccurate statements the products of Josephus' imagination, or were they the result of alterations to the few copies of Josephus' work that existed in medieval times? (Jews did not preserve the writings of Josephus because they considered him to be a traitor.) Beginning in the 11th century these surviving manuscripts were copied by Catholic monks, and obviously altered in some places to suit prevailing beliefs. Ecclesiastical acceptance of the erroneous connection between Magog and the Scythians traces back to Saint Jerome of the late fourth century AD. Unfortunately, the oft quoted statement that has Josephus connecting Magog with the Scythians is an act of document forgery.

Similarly, the oft quoted statement that has the ancient Roman historian Pliny in his work The Natural History that connects Magog with the Scythians is another forgery. Nineteenth century Scottish Reverend John Cumming is credited as being a leading promoter of the Bible interpretation that calls for Russia invading Israel. In his book "The Destiny of Nations" Cumming quotes a passage from Pliny's book about Magog which he purposefully altered.

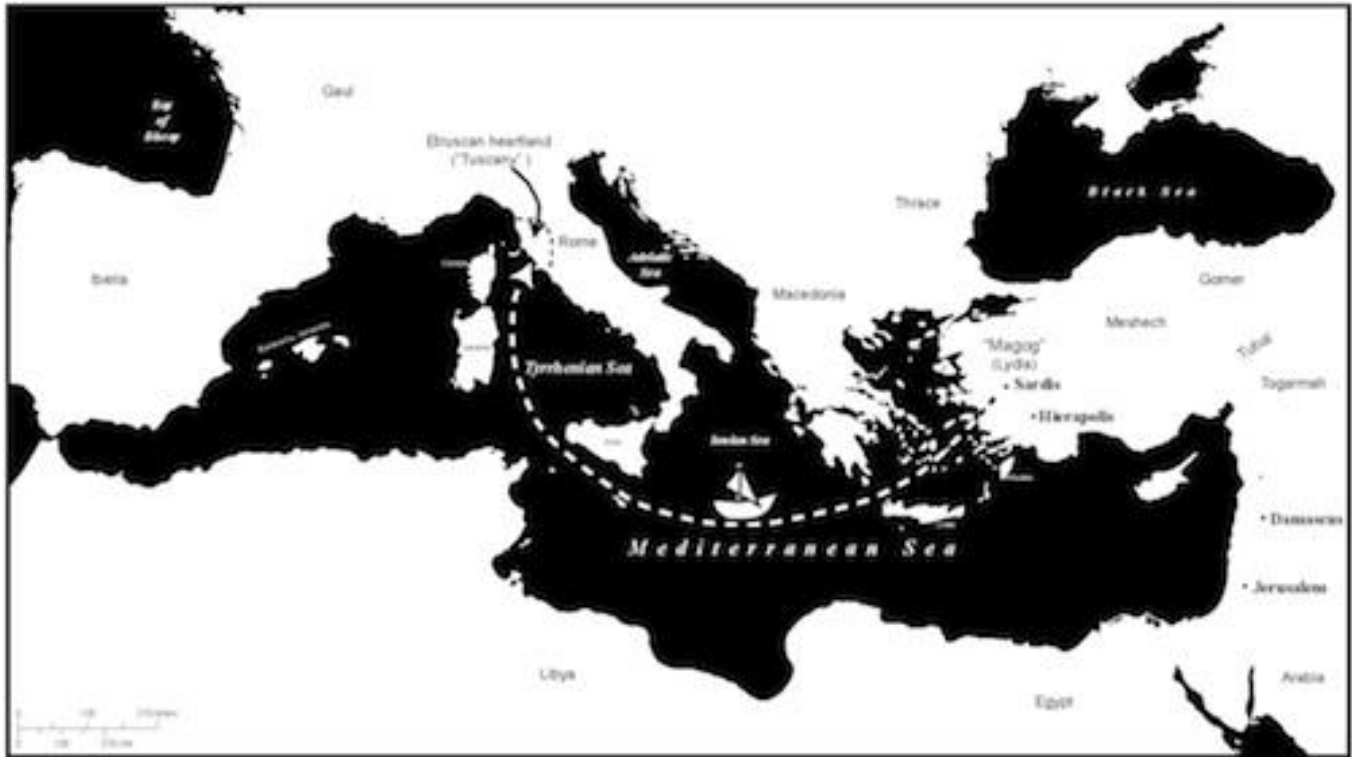
Reverend Cumming on page 126 wrote: "Pliny says 'Hierapolis taken by the Scythians was afterwards called Magog.'"

Pliny on page 439 actually wrote: "Bambyx (a part of Lydia) the other name of which is Hierapolis, but by the Syrians called Magog."

Pliny's statement has been misquoted by Cumming in a way that makes it seem that Magog was related to the Scythians rather than the Lydians. Unfortunately, this same misquote of Pliny has been carried forward in time and appears in Hal Lindsey's book "The Late Great Planet Earth" (page 53). This alteration is easily verified by going to a copy of Pliny's book and seeing how key words were changed and switched around. It is difficult to believe that none of the many authors of books that discuss Ezekiel 38/39 and the war of Gog and Magog have not discovered this sleight of hand and exposed the deception. (While many contemporary Evangelicals gave Cumming's books on

prophecy favorable reviews, an article in the Westminster Review in 1855 about Cumming attacked him for his "intellectual dishonesty, anti-Catholic bigotry, and moral and spiritual perversion.")

The correct identification of Magog with Lydia and not Scythia is consistent with the ancient texts of the Assyrians, who at various times were either the allies or the foes of the Scythians, but had peaceful dealings with the Lydians, who they also referred to as "Magog." Within academia today, no professional archeologists, historians or serious Bible researchers associate Magog with the Scythians or the Scythians with the Russians. The truth is that modern scholars have unequivocally documented that a group of Scandinavian Viking traders called the Rus began the Russian state during the mid AD 800's, and gave their name to Russia. Therefore there is no historical or factual basis for any connection of Russia to Magog.



ANCIENT NATIONS OF EZEKIEL 38/39. Ezekiel 38/39 makes reference to a group of ancient nations that are all found in Asia Minor: Magog (Lydia), Meshech, Tubal, Togarmah and Gomer. The correct identification of these nations comes from the "Royal Court Records of the Assyrians"; the primary source on this subject. These same Assyrian Court records are referred to in the Bible (Ezra 4:15, 19).

LYDIAN MIGRATION TO ITALY. An early Lydian dynasty experienced a prolonged famine which caused half of the Lydian population to migrate to the west coast of Italy, just north of Rome. The Romans called these Lydian migrants "Etruscans." The Etruscans settled in an area called Tuscany and they helped found the city of Rome and jump start the Roman civilization. Hundreds of years after this migration, the Lydian population in Asia Minor came to be ruled by a militant ruler whom the Greeks called "Gyges of Lydia." To the Assyrians this same leader was known as "Gugu King of Ludu," and "Gugu of Magugu." Ezekiel referred to this same leader as "Gog of Magog" where "Magog" means "the land of Gog."

Why understanding Gog and Magog is important

COMMENT: Here this author exhibits another common evangelical misconception, that of "the antichrist", which is not a biblical term. The person we identify as the antichrist is the leader of the Beast Power – acting in concert with the False Prophet – which will conquer the King of the South and establish his military headquarters in the land of Israel. (Daniel 11:45) These persons will be captured and consigned to the Lake of Fire at the Second Coming, (Rev. 19:20) and thus neither will be a factor after the outcome of the Battle of Armageddon. There will not be any 'second' antichrist. The major player in these Gog / Magog prophecies is Satan, as is made very clear in the Revelation 20 account. The author is correct in his Revelation 20 assessment with that event being post-millennial. The Ezekiel account is likely NOT a separate invasion as it also applies to the 'post-millennial age' by the internal evidence found in the prophecy. It more likely refers to the gathering of Satan's army when he is released after the millennium. Understanding why it is that Satan MUST BE released after the 1000 years helps explain why this second 'invasion' of the demilitarized land of Israel is important. Those hostile to God's rule must be removed from society before the second resurrection (also referenced in Revelation 20) can occur. RT

As for comparing Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38/39 to Gog and Magog of Revelation 20:7-10, **two different wars** are being referred to and the terms Gog and Magog are not being used literally but being used as "historical types." As referred to in Ezekiel 38-39, the historical Gog who was a "prince" of the nations of Magog, Meshech, and Tubal, serve as "historical types" of the "antichrist" and the multi-national confederacy over which the antichrist is to rule during the tribulation period. The Bible uses the historical leader Gog as a historical type of the antichrist to come in the exact same ways the Bible uses the historical King David as a type of Jesus' Second Coming (Ezekiel 34:23 and Ezekiel 37:22-24). Similarly, in Matthew 11:14 (also see Malachi 4:5) and Matthew 17:10-13 ("if you will receive it") Jesus in effect says that John is a historical type of Elijah. In other words, "Gog and Magog" (remember in Akkadian "Magog" means "the land of Gog") in their most basic meaning, are taken to be types or references to any "antichrist" and "the land of this antichrist;" just as I John 2:18, 22, 4:3, and II John 7 says "there are many antichrists." Thus, Revelation 20 tells of a **second and separate battle** involving another Gog and Magog, that is, a different battle involving another antichrist and the lands of this antichrist that takes place around 1,000 years after the battle of Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38/39. The Gog or antichrist of Ezekiel 38 is involved with one war that is to occur **before** Jesus returns, and the Gog or antichrist of Revelation 20 is involved with another war that is to occur **after** Jesus returns and dwells with mankind for one thousand years.

The bottom line for what is said in Ezekiel 38/39 is that just as a real person called Gog led a confederacy of nations around 660 B.C., Ezekiel is using Gog as a historical type of the antichrist, and Magog as a historical type of the nations the antichrist is to lead, for a war that Ezekiel is prophesying to occur during the end times. This could be fulfilled by the appearance of an antichrist and a confederacy of European nations representing a revived Roman Empire. Ecclesiastes 1:9 and 3:15 teach that which is to be hath already been and that there is nothing new under the sun. Has such an invasion of the Holy Land and effort to kill Jews by a confederacy of European nations ever occurred before? Yes, deadly invasions of Israel have taken place a number of times. These invasions are called the Crusades of the Middle Ages. A confederacy of European nations has invaded Israel before and according to scripture it seems that these nations will do so again. While Russia's anti-Israel actions regularly appear in the news, it is interesting to note the ever growing anti-Israel attitude and actions of the European Community. **Comment: the allies of the combined invasion force in Ezekiel are not European.**

End Notes

Recently, I published an overview, entitled "Christian Archeologist Exonerates Russia in the End Times," about the war of Gog and Magog. This overview (<http://christiannewswire.com/news/9509017871.html>) ties to two free downloads on my website (www.thecometsofgod.com) which give the evidence and explanations supporting this overview:

1-"Russia Is Not Magog" - <http://www.thecometsofgod.com/dwnlds/appndx-b.pdf>

2- "Armageddon, Magog, and the War of Ezekiel 38/39" - <http://www.thecometsofgod.com/dwnlds/chap9.pdf>

About the author:

An archeologist and a geologist, Dr. Goodman has devoted over twenty-five years to the study of the Bible. He holds a geological engineering degree from the Colorado School of Mines, a M.A. in anthropology from the University of Arizona, and a Ph.D. in anthropology from California Coast University. He also earned a M.B.A. from Columbia University Graduate School of Business. He was accredited by the former Society of Professional Archeologists. Goodman is a Messianic Jew who was saved in 1987.

The report is posted on my blog www.newscientificevidenceforgod.com

Comments: It might be insightful to consider the timeframe in which this identification gained traction. It was in my pre-teens that I first heard this theory, of Gog, Meshech and Tubal representing Russia. It was in the Baptist Church, and it was in the early 1950's, when the "Cold War" was waxing hotter. The alarm of Communist Russia (the USSR then) was at fever pitch, and this fell into the mood of the time nicely. We feared a nuclear war with the Soviets at the time, alleging that one was prophesied, and many in the US were building fallout shelters. The WCG picked-up on this identification, though we disputed the 'war with Russia' idea, instead, turning our focus onto the BEAST Power of United Europe. What the evangelical community doesn't realize – and would have made a huge difference back then – was that the only two places where Gog and Magog are mentioned, they BOTH are clearly post-millennial. One without doubt! The other mention is Revelation 20, during the time when Satan is released after the 1000 years imprisonment. What IS a fact is that this power – whoever they are – are a significant entity in the post-millennial age. Then again, considering the timeframe, are they typical or are they actual? RT