

Russia in Prophecy

Introduction

- The notes are a summary of the information from the sermon on February 27, 2022, at Faith Baptist Church in Decatur, TX.
- Text – Ezekiel 38:1-7
- On February 24, 2022, Russian military forces invaded Ukraine after weeks of tension and build up.
- If you know your Bible and what it says about the End Times, then you know why it is important to keep an eye on Russia.
- Introductory statements:
 - Bible Prophecy revolves around the nation of Israel.
 - I simply do not see America in Bible prophecy whatsoever.
 - When we interpret Bible prophecy about the End Times, we do so through the lens of our understanding and our present world.
 - I do not know when the End Times will begin.

Russia is mentioned in Bible Prophecy

- Names in Ezekiel 38:2
 - **Gog**
 - A title. Like President, Caesar, or Czar.
 - **Magog**
 - Descendants of Magog, one of Japheth's sons in Genesis 10:2.
 - They settled in the region of the Caspian Sea and the Caucasus Mountains.
 - **Meshech**
 - Descendants of Meshech, another of Japheth's sons in Genesis 10:2.
 - They settled in the modern region of Georgia.
 - **Tubal**
 - Descendants of Tubal, another of Japheth's sons in Genesis 10:2.
 - They are also settled in the region of modern Georgia.
- Historical notes on these names:
 - The Greek Historian Herodotus wrote about the Moshoi and the Tibarenoi as being allies of the Persians.
 - Assyrian monuments speak of the Muski and Tabali as powerful military states.
 - Many associate Magog with the ancient Scythian people.
 - Josephus places all these people in that region of the Caucasus Mountains.
- Positions I disagree with:
 - Meshech refers to Moscow and Tubal to Tobolsk. I do not see it.
 - Translation of the Hebrew word *rosh* ([Strong's H7218](#)).
 - *Rosh* means head, chief, top, or first.

- Some argue it is a proper name – Rosh – referring to a tribe that became the Russians.
 - I simply do not see it as proper name in the text.
- Both points I believe came from the work of German scholar Wilhelm Gesenius in the early 1800's. (see quote in *Things to Come*, p. 328)
- Modern nations in the region and their ties to Russia.
 - **Russia**
 - **Georgia**
 - Part of Soviet Union but broke away in 1991.
 - Pro-western right now and have a rocky relationship with Russia.
 - In 2008 Russia took control of the territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.
 - Georgia refers to these as “occupied territories”
 - No doubt based on their actions so far that Russia would readily take over Georgia.
 - **Armenia**
 - Part of the Soviet Union until breaking away in 1991.
 - Their military cooperates with Russia and they have strong economic ties with them.
 - The current president may be more pro-western and has caused their relationship to sour some.
 - **Azerbaijan**
 - Broke away from the Soviet Union in 1991.
 - They have strong military and economic ties to Russia.
 - To understand them, just know that the current president has been in power since 2003... and his wife is the vice-president.
- The Bible points to that region of the world, it points to the “chief prince” or ruler of those peoples. It must be Russia.

Russia will be a major power in the Tribulation

- Russia's rise to prominence
 - Probably start with the reigns of Ivan the Great in the 1400's or Ivan the Terrible in the 1500's.
 - Became an empire under Peter the Great in the 1700's and his wife Catherine the Great.
 - The socialists overthrew the government in 1917 and Vladimir Lenin led in forming the Soviet Union.
 - Cooperation with the Allied powers in WWII put the Soviets on the world stage like never before.
 - The Cold War period saw the Soviets pressing their dominance into new regions.
 - Economic struggles and nationalist movements brought an end to the Soviet Union in 1991.

- Vladimir Putin came into power when Boris Yeltsin resigned on December 31, 1999.
- Recent actions under Putin:
 - In January of 2008, the Russian navy held major exercises in the Mediterranean.
 - In 2008, they invaded and claimed territory in Georgia.
 - In 2014, they invaded and annexed Crimea from Ukraine.
 - In 2015, they intervened in the Syrian civil war.
 - In 2020, they sent troops into the Central African Republic.
 - Just last week, they invaded Ukraine.
 - We could speak also of Russian espionage and cyber-attacks.
- Nations of Russia's coalition in Ezekiel 38:5-6 and their Russian ties:
 - **Persia** - modern **Iran**.
 - The ties between Iran and Russia grow stronger every day.
 - In January, Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi visited Russia with a proposal for a 20-year cooperation agreement. [\[LINK\]](#)
 - [Wikipedia Article](#)
 - **Ethiopia** - ancient Kush, the modern **Sudan**.
 - Sudan attempts to have relations with both the US and Russia.
 - But its military arms are 87 percent Russian.
 - In 2019, Sudan signed an agreement allowing Russian access to their ports.
 - A deal is still being worked out to allow Russia to establish a naval base there.
 - [Wikipedia Article](#)
 - **Libya** - ancient Put, the modern **Libya**.
 - Libya had strong ties to Russia under Qaddafi
 - They were involved in the recent civil war there.
 - [Wikipedia Article](#)
 - **Gomer** – modern **Turkey**
 - The descendants of the eldest son of Japheth on Genesis 10:2
 - These are believed to have settled in Asia Minor in modern Turkey
 - Turkey is caught between the West and Russia and tries to stay somewhat neutral.
 - However, in recent years Turkey has sided more often with Russia
 - [Wikipedia Article](#)
 - **Togarmah** – **Turkey/Armenia**
 - the son of Gomer in Genesis 10:3.
 - Believed to have settled in Cappadocia or Armenia.
 - That places it within Turkey or Armenia, both of which we have proven to be with Russia.
 - All of these nations/regions have Russian ties.
 - Much of these relations are relatively new.
 - I am not sure that in 1900 these verses were plausible.

- Russia's End Times Campaign
 - The attack on Israel in Ezekiel 38
 - We see a great military host described in vs. 4-7.
 - We see them target the regathered Israel in vs. 8
 - We see them coming in speed and fury to take Israel in vs. 9-17.
 - Time of the attack
 - It will be in the End Times
 - "Last days" or "latter days" (vs. 16) or "latter years" (vs. 8)
 - That means End times, usually referring to the Tribulation.
 - There is no parallel to these events in history.
 - Israel must be regathered
 - This wasn't possible until 1948 and the Jews are still gathering there.
 - Israel will be at peace
 - vs. 8 – "dwell safely"
 - vs. 11 – they have no walls, bars, or gates
 - vs. 14 – "dwelleth safely"
 - This has never happened in the modern history of the state of Israel.
 - The Antichrist will have a peace treat with Israel at the start of the Tribulation. – Daniel 9:27
 - This is not Armageddon.
 - The details do not match and this appears to be earlier.
 - God's intervention to Russia's attack
 - vs. 19-20 – God sends a great earthquake.
 - vs. 21 – infighting amongst the invaders
 - vs. 22 – pestilence, disease
 - vs. 22 – rain, hail, fire, brimstone.
 - vs. 23 – GOD GETS THE GLORY!
 - The Aftermath – Ezekiel 39
 - vs. 4-5 – the scavenger birds will feast on the dead.
 - vs. 9-10 – Israel will use the discarded weapons and machinery for fuel for seven years.
 - vs. 12-16 – they will take 7 months to gather and bury the dead.

What about Russia today?

- In light of current events, in light of historic evidence, in light of Bible prophecy – could we be seeing the preparation for these future events?
- The Russia of today fits the bill for the Russia of Ezekiel 38 and 39.
 - The other nations mentioned all have ties to Russia.
 - It fits the character of Russia.
- Russia has a record of hatred against the Jews

- In the last decades of czarist Russia there was increased violence against Jews.
 - Jews were expelled from their cities or regions.
- Riots, called pogroms, would be incited.
 - One in the Russian town of Kishinev in 1903
- The rise of Bolshevism simply accelerated the Anti-Semitism.
- Estimates say 60,000 Jews were killed in pogroms between 1917-1921.
- Stalin, Lenin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and other Soviet leaders would often put on a show of antisemitism, but their actions spoke louder than their words as they continually oppressed and opposed the Jews.
- In the early 1900's Russia had at times over 5 million Jews within its borders. Today, it is less than 250,000.
 - Why? I ask, why would they want to stay where they are not wanted?
- The prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39 is plausible today

God is not finished with Israel!

- The promise to Abraham – Genesis 12:3
- Christ said “Salvation is of the Jews” – John 4:22
- Paul said God had not cast away the Jews – Romans 11:1
- Isaiah promised a restored Israel – Isaiah 27:6
- Ezekiel's prophecy – Ezekiel 36:22-32
- Don't Mess With Israel!

Russia in the Millennial Kingdom

- “Gog and Magog” are mentioned again in Revelation 20:8
- This is not the same as the events of Ezekiel 38-39
- This is the final rebellion led by Satan at the end of the Millennial Kingdom.
- Perhaps it is the long remembrance of their earlier humiliation that helps the people/nation/region to be catalyst of Satan's revolt.
- Pentecost's theory is that it “bears the same name in that they purpose is identical in these two satanically motivated movements: to destroy the seat of theocratic power and the subjects of the theocracy.” – *Things to Come*, p. 550-551
- Walvoord in his [commentary on Revelation](#): “While many explanations have been made, one of the intriguing ones is that Gog refers to the ruler and Magog to the people as in Ezekiel 38. Hence, what the passage means is that the nations of the world follow Satan, including the rulers (Gog) and the people (Magog) under the rulers. Another plausible explanation is that the expression is used much as we use the term “Waterloo” to express a disastrous battle, but one not related to the historic origination of the term”



Map Source - https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Geopolitical-map-of-the-Caucasus-region-with-study-area-delimited-by-a-thick-line_fig1_320961941