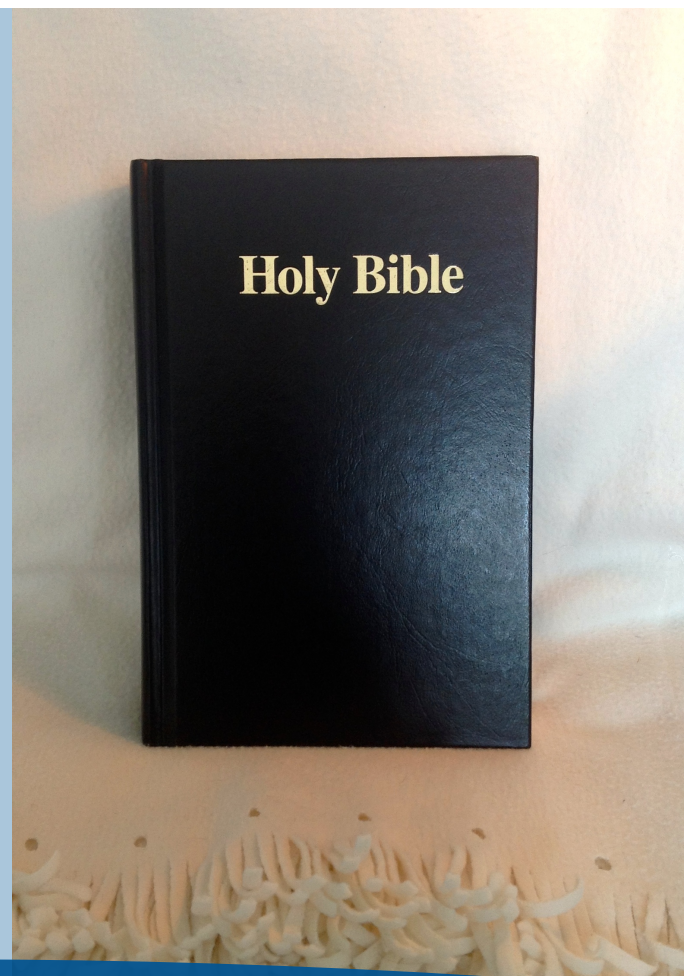


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Learn to Read the Bible More Effectively

HOW TO
SEARCH THE
SCRIPTURES
subject:
Signs of our
times show
Christ's near
return



Page 1



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Bible Lightstand

Today we wish to focus on an End-time prophecy in the Old Testament, particularly Ezekiel 38, and compare this with developments in present day world events. In this way we can see any Signs of Our Times that indicate the nearness of the coming fulfilment of End-Time prophecies.

Ezekiel's prophecy was given at the time of the Babylonian captivity (6th Cent. BC) -nothing like it happened then nor has anything it foretells happened since then. It is a prophecy which sounds like Armageddon, a northern despot leading a host of nations against the land of Israel. The name of "Israel" had been extinct for 100 years by the time of Ezekiel and was not revived until 1948 when the Zionists declared the independent State of Israel; which in itself is a sign of the times.

Let us now begin our consideration of the prophecy of:-

Ezekiel 38

14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto **Gog**, Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of **Israel** dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

16 And thou shalt come up against my people of **Israel**, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the **latter days**, and I will bring thee **against my land**, that the heathen[Gentiles] may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O **Gog**, before their eyes.

17 Thus saith the Lord God; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?" [ie they foretold the End-times]

"Gog" signifies Dynamic Leader; it is a biblical title given to a future leading ruler of the Gentiles who will bring their armies against the latter day Israel. Gog is unlikely to be his actual name.

A principal meaning of "Gog" in ancient Hebrew, is "to blaze like fire", but later usage as it passed into Greek etc., relates to leadership. eg. Synagogue which is made up of "syn" - things brought together, and "gog" - to lead or bring. So a Synagogue leads or brings people together. So this Gog is to be a dynamic world leader bringing nations together to wage war. We are introduced to Gog's territory in the following terms:

Ezekiel 38:2 YLT

"Son of man, set thy face unto **Gog**, of the land of **Magog**, prince of **Rosh**, **Meshech**, and **Tubal**, and prophesy concerning him"

Rosh, is acknowledged to be the ancient name for the settlers of **Russia**. Even today, in Scandinavian and Germanic languages they say "Russland" ie the land of the Russ or Rosh people

Meshech, Easton's Bible Dictionary says: it refers to the Moschi, ie **Muscovites**

Tubal Easton's Bible Dictionary says: Tibareni, Tartars, **Siberian** tribes [historic capital Tobolsk]

Magog = Germanic tribes-northern Europe (north of the Celts) It seems that many descendants of Magog (grandson of Noah) and those of his nephew Ashkenaz, migrated north west, and became known as the Scythians, a name derived from A-**ske**-naz (**Ske**-thians)



We can see from the map that Russia already contains “Meshech”, that is Muscovy, which approximate to the European part of Russia. Also “Tubal” which relates to Siberia which is the Asian part of Russia stretching from the Urals to the Pacific. But Ezekiel 38:2 says Gog is also “of the land of Magog” which would signify that Russia is going to invade “Magog” that is; **northern Europe (north of where the Celts originally settled) comprising: Holland, north Germany, Denmark, Poland, The Baltic states, also Finland, Norway and Sweden.**

Is such an invasion by Russia possible? Well NATO thinks so, as we see from the following news article:-

Telegraph 26/10/18 By Alec Luhn in Moscow

“NATO has begun its largest military exercises since the Cold War as the West tries to keep up with Russia’s growing military presence.

About 50,000 soldiers, 250 aircraft, 65 ships and 10,000 tanks will take part in the Trident Juncture war games that began at locations across **northern Europe** yesterday.”

“With 31 countries involved...The fact these exercises are even taking place shows that a new Cold War has started. A Russian deputy foreign minister said yesterday the exercises were ‘anti-Russian’ and would be ‘taken into account in our military planning.’” [more of Russia’s military planning later]

“They follow the massive Vostok drills Russia held along its eastern borders last month. The defence ministry claimed that they included 300,000 troops, the country’s largest ever war games. Norway shares an Arctic border with Russia and has hosted a permanent deployment of US marines following Moscow’s annexation of Crimea and its involvement in Ukraine. Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the exercises would show that the organisation was ready to defend its allies amid a ‘significantly deteriorated’ security environment in Europe.” [Thus this is a sign of our times]

Those exercises were conducted 26/10/18. but it doesn't stop there. This region of "Magog" ie north west Europe and Scandinavia, is so vulnerable that British lead exercises have been in process from May to July (2019) as:-

Telegraph 01/07/19

By Dominic Nicholls

"A RUSSIAN spy ship has been tracking British-led military exercises in **the Baltic Sea**.. More than 4,000 troops, including 1,100 Royal Marines, and 44 ships from seven countries conducted war games in recent weeks."

"The Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF), a new nine-nation defence organisation, has been in the Baltic since May, close to the sensitive Russian enclave of Kaliningrad. It ends this month.

The UK-led JEF also includes forces from the **Netherlands, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. (all these nations are within "Magog")**

Cdre Parkin said it was "filling a hole in the security architecture of northern Europe between a national force and a Nato force. I've got a full-fat war fighting capability,' he added"

Does this response to Russia inspire confidence? Read on:-

Telegraph 14/1/19

"The German military is 'not equipped to meet the tasks before it', Hans-Peter Bartels, the German parliamentary commissioner for the armed forces said as he presented his annual report.

Operational readiness is "dangerously low".. The damning report described how only 95 of the German army's 244 battle tanks are currently operational...None of the German navy's six submarines were operational.. and only nine of a planned 15 frigates are in service. None of the Luftwaffe's 14 transport aircraft were airworthy on several occasions last year.

There is also a serious shortage of personnel, and 21,000 junior officer and NCO positions are currently unfilled.

Germany is supposed to take command of Nato's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF), a key unit tasked with deterring Russian aggression"

So the following is what NATO and the West are afraid might happen:-

Daily Express 16/07/19 By CARLY READ

"Former **NATO Secretary General Mr Brauss** told **Welt am Sonntag**: "At a time when our political attention is shrouded in climate change, migration crisis, the EU crisis and many others, **Russia is preparing regional wars in Europe**, which they want to end with **nuclear weapons threats**." Mr Brauss and **Joachim Krause, director of the Institute for Security Policy** at Kiel University, said the aim of Russia's strategy is to seek confrontation with the West and undermine the unity of the Western alliance. Mr Brauss and Mr Krause said Russia could try to launch a '**limited-scale surprise attack backed by a nuclear threat before NATO can respond effectively**' They have predicted this would most likely take place on the **Black Sea region and the Baltic states**. The warnings come weeks after Moscow officially suspended the INF treaty, sparking fears of a conflict that could escalate to

World War 3. Military experts are even more alarmed by the fact Russia continues to arm itself with super and hypersonic missiles. **External Representative Federica Mogherini said on behalf of the EU** she was deeply concerned and warned of a new arms race. Referring to the development of a chillingly advanced missile."(by Russia)

As well as a empire of conquered lands, Russia will have allies (mostly under duress) as we read:-

Ezekiel 38:5

"**Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya** with them; all of them with shield and helmet:" ie fully armed.

"**Persia**" or as we now know it **Iran**

"**Ethiopia**" (In Hebrew Cush) of which Online Bible Lexicon says: "The land occupied by the descendants of Cush located around the southern parts of the Nile (The **Sudan & Ethiopia**)"

"**Libya**" (In Hebrew Put) Easton's Bible Dictionary says: "Libya the country of the Ludim Northern Africa, a large tract lying along the Mediterranean [relating to all north Africa], to the west of Egypt."

(We note Egypt is not to be on Russia's side, they will be allied to The West)

Persia/Iran. Ethiopia/Sudan. Libya/North Africa to be allies of Russia

29/11/18 Press TV

"Moscow-led regional economic bloc....The EEU is comprised of Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan... Putin said last August that Moscow wanted Iran (**Persia**) to join the EEU – a move that was seen as crucial in bringing the two countries closer in their plans to form a strategic partnership."

12/06/19 'Representatively'

"Documents obtained by the Dossier Centre show plans to expand Russian influence in 13 countries across the [African] continent.. The Daily Telegraph reported in March that companies linked to Mr Prigozhin [who works closely with Putin] had developed business interests in several African countries including **Libya, Sudan**, the Central African Republic (CAR), Zimbabwe, and Madagascar, over the past two years

More future allies of Russia are listed as follows:

Ezekiel 38:6

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

Togarmah: Relates to land between the Black and Caspian seas; Russia has most of this territory now and will gain the rest by alliance or force.

This map shows GOG'S ALLIES plus some nations to be conquered by Russia
(take note of: Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Bulgaria.)



Telegraph Con Conlan 01/05/19

“Moscow has embarked on a well-coordinated effort to establish a network of alliances in eastern and central Europe, with the aim of creating a pro-Russian bloc in the next European parliament. Moscow already enjoys good relations with **Hungary and Bulgaria**, two former Soviet satellites that appear to prefer maintaining good links with Russia over their support for the EU.. **Slovakia**, another of the EU’s recent acquisitions, also declined to support Brussels’ request for member states to demonstrate diplomatic solidarity against Moscow. Russia’s latest focus is the **Czech Republic**, where the Kremlin is seeking to deepen its ties with the country’s pro-Russian president, Miloš Zeman, as well as Andrej Babiš, the controversial prime minister.. Mr Zeman has been described as “the most influential Kremlin ally in central Europe” because of his avowed support for Russia’s military intervention in Syria”

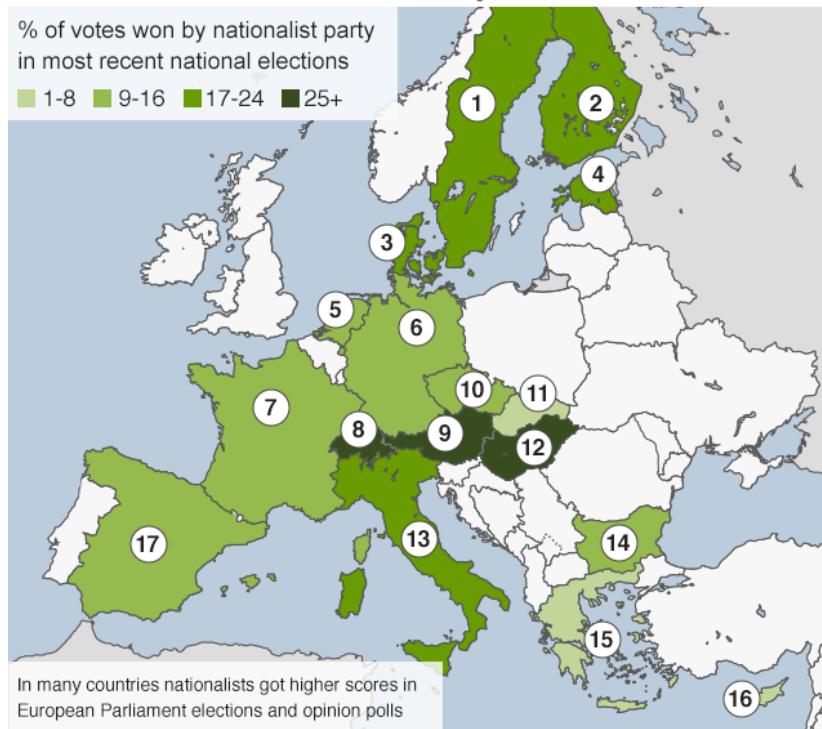
Also southern EU nations are also inclining towards Russia, as the following article shows:-

Telegraph 11/7/19

By James Rothwell,

ITALY’S far-Right League party sought tens of millions of euros in funding from Russian investors.. The transcript of the talks.. is the latest evidence of high-level **collusion between far-Right populist movements and Moscow** Mr Salvini’s aide, Gianluca Savoini, is heard saying: “We want to change Europe ... a new Europe has to be close to Russia.. Last week Mr Savoini attended a Russian government dinner in Moscow with Vladimir Putin, the Russian president.

Rise of nationalism in Europe



"collusion between far-Right European populist movements and Moscow" as stated in the above article, is gaining ground in the EU countries as the Map of voting trends here shows.

Latvia, a close ally of Britain in the EU is very concerned about this Pro Russian trend, as the following article shows:-

The Telegraph 14/07/19

"Latvian Foreign Minister Mr Rinkevics said it was widely acknowledged that there will be a **"change in dynamic"** in the formation of **EU foreign policy after Britain leaves**, but said it was too early to predict how it would develop. "There are some member states that could raise [lifting sanctions on Russia]," said Mr Rinkēvičs. "In that case I believe the consequences are going to be really damaging for the credibility of the European Union," he said. "If we give in, the implications for the **security and stability will be quite grave"**

But the broader picture of the Russian threat can be seen from the following:-

Telegraph 05/06/19

"Of greater concern is the growing **rift between the United States and the Europeans in terms of their global outlook.**

The most obvious dispute concerns defence spending, where the Trump administration has just signed off a massive increase in the Pentagon's budget, taking it to a thumping \$750 billion (£591 billion), or around 4 per cent of GDP.

By contrast, most European members of Nato are struggling to meet the basic requirement of 2 per cent, leaving US officials to question why, if Europeans will not pay for their own defence, American taxpayers should do so on their behalf.

Then there are contentious issues such as Iran, Huawei and climate change, where the **Europeans seem to delight in adopting a contrary position to the US"**

Let us now return to the Prophecy under our consideration. Regarding Gog Prince of Rosh we read:-

Ezekiel 38

: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.

Ezekiel 38:13

Sheba, and Dedan, and the **merchants of Tarshish**, with all **the young lions thereof**, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?



“MY BOYS!”

The above political cartoon of over 100 years ago is only one of very many that use **the Lion symbol to represent Britain**. The lion could be said to be the most prominent emblem of Britain, it is prominent in the royal coat of arms. The cartoon (above) is one of many that depict Britain as the parent of the younger English speaking nations, which have always been military allies of Britain, such as Canada, Australia New Zealand, not forgetting that The USA, though much bigger and more powerful than its parent is the offspring of Britain, (**which makes for a special relationship as Donald Trump and Boris Johnson keep reminding us of**).

So as we read in v13 (Ezekiel 38) "**Sheba, and Dedan**" (which are in **Saudi Arabia**) "and the **merchants of Tarshish**" (the seafaring merchant power of **Britain**- The 'far away' Isles of tin) "with all the **young lions** thereof;" (**USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand**) "shall say" (shall challenge Russia) "Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey?"

Being so challenged, Gog and his forces will turn aside and invade Israel Instead. But we see signs of this coming Middle East conflict when the above 5 allies will be the defenders of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Arab states:-

Telegraph 07/05/19

"The US is sending an aircraft carrier strike group and a fleet of bombers to the Middle East in response to 'troubling and escalatory indications' of Iranian activity in the region as 'a clear and unmistakable message to the Iranian regime that any attack on US interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force'. While Washington's key Middle Eastern allies - **Israel and Saudi Arabia** - may be applauding from the sidelines, Mr Trump's **European partners are uneasy** at the way things are heading. Spain, Germany and the Netherlands have all taken steps **to suspend military activities in the region** alongside the Americans, citing the rising tensions.. It could set the whole region ablaze. With the **revival of great power competition, when the US is seeking to re-orientate its deployments and to bolster its armed forces to face a rising China and an emboldened Russia.**"

Also the following:

Telegraph 24/5/19

"Donald Trump invoked the threat from Iran to declare a **national security-related emergency** that would clear the sale of billions of dollars' worth of **weapons to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates** and other countries without congressional approval. It follows decisions to speed up the deployment of an aircraft carrier strike group as well as to send bombers and additional Patriot missiles **to the Middle East** "

Saudi Arabia have also just agreed to have USA forces station in their country. Britain also supplies Arms to the region and has a military presence in the Gulf. But then Gog turns with his forces to fight against Israel:-

Ezekiel 38:

18 "And it shall come to pass at the same time **when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face.**

19 For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;

20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the **earth, shall shake at my presence**, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

22 And **I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.**

23 Thus will I **magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord.**" (Yahweh)

This is the same event as foretold also in:-

Revelation 16

:14 "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue **Armageddon.**"

This event, which is foretold in many Old Testament Prophecies, is when CHRIST AND THE SAINTS (glorified believers) SAVE JERUSALEM, as:-

Zechariah 12

"9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that **I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.**

10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and **they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

Yes this speaks of the return of Christ. When he saves Jerusalem from the coming invasion, the Jews will see him as the glorious Messiah they have always waited for; but to their shock, they will see in the marks of his crucifixion, that the Messiah is Jesus of Nazareth!!! The signs of his near return as here