

RUSSIA & ISLAM



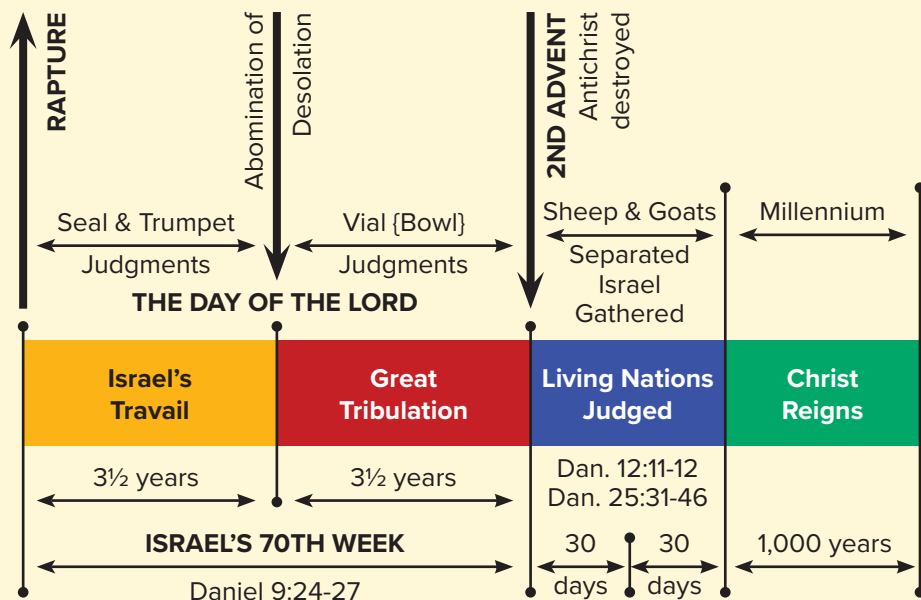
by John R. Ecob DD

PROPHECY SERIES - STUDY NO 6 FOR THE HERALD OF HOPE

The Church Age to Eternity



The Pretribulational Rapture



RUSSIA & ISLAM IN BIBLE PROPHECY

**BY
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FOR HERALD OF HOPE INC.**

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Preface

The seven years of Great Tribulation are divided into two periods of 1,260 days and in the first period, Russia led by Gog will invade Israel and be destroyed. Even the land of Russia will be burned. In the second 1,260 days Rome at the head of the revived Roman Empire led by the Beast (Antichrist), will be burned.

Throughout history these two nations, Russia and Rome, have persecuted God's people and have engaged in violence on a scale that is hard for the human mind to comprehend. Paul wrote:

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Rom. 12:19).

And to Abraham God promised:

"I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3).

In the first four centuries of the Christian era the **Pagan** Roman Empire led ten periods of great violence against Christians and Jews. The **Papal** Roman Empire continued the slaughter from the 7th century and in the Last Days, the final leader of the Roman Empire, the Beast, will again go on a rampage of slaughter during the second 1,260-days of the Tribulation.

GOG THE CHIEF PRINCE OF MESHECH AND TUBAL

History records the persecution of Jews and Christians by Russia on a massive scale. In the days of the Tsars, Pogroms were organised against Jews and under Communism, Christians and Jews suffered greatly. Christians in Russia have been tortured and sent to Siberian slave camps simply for being Christians. Children were asked to wipe their feet on doormats to school classrooms on which were printed the face of Jesus.

After WWII Russian communists planned world conquest and scheduled the fall of all Western countries in what was known as the Domino Theory; China fell to communism as part of that plan.

Russian Communists have infiltrated the Western Nations and established left-wing political parties bent on destroying democracy and installing communist dictatorships. Today Communists and their lackeys dominate the

Western Media opposing every good and moral value that comes from the Bible. The Green's Party with its climate-change agenda and push for global government, is the latest move.

The Labor Union Movement may have a reduced influence in 2018 but it has been dominated by Russian communists, both Trotskyites and Stalinists. During WWII the Russian Communists used the Unionists on the wharfs and Railroads to frustrate Australia's war effort. Few people realise how serious was Communist resistance to our war effort during WWII. Hal G.P.Colebatch in his book *Australia's Secret War*, has done a masterful job documenting the activities of wharfies who were responsible for the deaths of many of our soldiers and airmen at the battle front in WWII.

Throughout the entire war these Communists, directed from Russia, persisted in every way to hamper our war effort and were directly responsible for many deaths. Radar systems were immobilised by wharfies, so that planes arriving from the US crashed with the loss of all crews. Such anger was generated among our soldiers that returning servicemen had to be disarmed before they were allowed to leave ship in case they killed the wharfies for their subversive activities.

Every harbour in Australia from Freemantle to Sydney, Brisbane, Townsville and Darwin were controlled by these Russian agents and the miracle is that we were still able to win the war. Without the help of the US military we might not have won. On occasions US soldiers threw the wharfies into the harbour and took over their duties.

Russia has been the major supplier of arms to insurgent groups bent on destabilising governments and has promoted revolution as a means of installing communist anti-God dictatorships.

In 2016 we saw how Russia sought to interfere with elections in the United States of America. Hillary Clinton received \$145 million from Russia paid into her Charity Fund.

Since the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia has aligned herself with Islam. The communists see Islam's propensity for violence as an asset to destroy Israel and Western influence in the Middle East. New alliances are being established with Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Egypt and Central Asian countries.

The *Shanghai Cooperation Organisation* has been formed to bring Muslim and Communist nations together in a Pact to work against democratic governments and overthrow the Western Nations.

It is not surprising therefore that when Ezekiel gave his prophecy of the invasion of Israel in the first half of the Tribulation, the judgment of God is directed, not so much against Russia's Muslim associates, as evil as they may be, but **against Gog the leader of Russia**. Four times Ezekiel stated that God is against Gog. Thus we read:

"Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him." (Ezek. 38:2).

"And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal" (Ezek. 38:3).

"Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal" (Ezek. 39:1).

The burial site for Gog's army in Israel will bear **Gog's name**; it will be called Hamon-gog meaning, "*Gog's multitude*".

Without Russian technology, weapons and economic support the Muslim nations would not dare to attack Israel. Today Russia is installing her S-300 and S-400 missile defence systems in Turkey, Iran and Syria, and God holds Russia responsible for encouraging Muslims to attack Israel. After God lists the Muslim nations associated with Russia we read:

"Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them" (Ezek. 38:7).

Gog is responsible for the course taken by the anti-God atheistic nation of Russia and will be held accountable. Russia will be burned in the first half of the Tribulation while Rome will be burned at the end of the second half. **Gog and the Beast are both the enemies of Almighty God.**

Introduction

Russia's entry into the civil war in Syria in 2015 has heightened interest in Bible prophecies for Russia will play a vital part in one of the final conflicts as the world approaches the second advent of Christ. The events that will occur in the last seven years, are chronologically laid out in Revelation chapters 6 to 18.

The Tribulation will begin when a 7-year covenant is signed with Israel by a prince (ruler) at the head of the Revived Roman Empire (EU) (Dan. 9:27). **At that same time** every born again soul on earth will disappear in the Rapture of the Church. Israel's covenant will guarantee the security of Israel and allow them to rebuild their Temple beside the Mosque on the Temple Mount.

Soon after the 7-year treaty is signed, global terrorism and conflict will take "*peace from the earth*" (Rev. 6:4) and Egypt, as the "*King of the South*" (Dan. 11:40) will invade Israel. Egypt will be subdued but then Russia at the head of a group of Islamic nations will mount a massive invasion. That invasion will be used by God to **bring Israel to repentance** and faith in Jesus Christ and the invading armies will be destroyed by God. Only one sixth of the vast horde will escape. Finally, the land of Russia and the Isles will be burned.

With Russia and Islam destroyed, war will erupt in Asia involving 200 million men. One third of men will perish.

At the mid-point of the 7-year Tribulation, the Roman prince who leads the revived Roman Empire, will fill the vacuum left after the destruction of Russia and her Islamic associates and by the destruction of the Asian powers. This Roman prince will move into the Temple at Jerusalem claiming to be the Saviour and benefactor of the world.

At this stage Israel will be a redeemed people who "*keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*" (Rev. 12:17).

Halfway through the 7 years Satan will be cast down to the earth from heaven, the bottomless pit will be opened and the Roman prince will be demon possessed. Thereafter the Roman prince will be known as "the Beast" or the Antichrist who will raise a global army to fight against Christ at His second advent and the 7-year Tribulation will conclude with the battle of

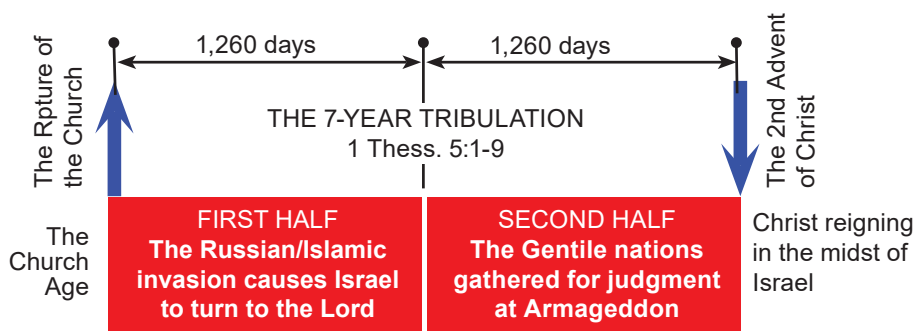
Armageddon. Christ will be victorious and the beast cast into the lake of fire before the Kingdom of God is established for 1,000 years.

Thus we can see that **two major conflicts** must occur in the land of Israel in the “*end of the age*”. In the first half of the Tribulation Russia leads the Islamic nations into Israel and **five sixths** are destroyed as Israel turns to Jesus Christ. In the second half of the Tribulation Antichrist assembles a global army which is **entirely** destroyed by the Lord Jesus at His glorious appearing.

The Scriptures that speak of the Russian invasion are found in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, Joel chapter 2, Daniel 11:44. The Russian invasion and a global earthquake occur during **the sixth seal judgment** described in Revelation chapter 6:12-17.

It is important not to confuse the invasion of Israel by Russia and her Islamic associates in the first half of the Tribulation, with the final conflict with Antichrist at the end of the 7 years which is the battle of Armageddon described in Revelation chapter 19.

It is the destruction of Russia and Islam in the first half of the Tribulation that provides the opportunity for Antichrist to move unchallenged into the Temple at Jerusalem. The Vial Judgments, i.e. the “*seven last plagues*” of the second half of the Tribulation are directed against the Beast and his followers.



Chapter 1 - Russia Identified

All nations on earth had their genesis after the Flood; in Noah's day. Noah had only three sons and their descendants became families which became tribes and those tribes became nations in the lands determined by God. We can appeal to ancient history therefore to locate the families, tribes and nations that are mentioned in prophecies of the last days.

The lands in which the families settled were **chosen by God**. It was not by chance that families settled in specific locations. Each nation has a role to play in the last days and Scripture states,

"Unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided..." (Gen. 10:25).

In the days of Peleg God divided the earth among the nations according to their families and languages. This was when the one global language of Hebrew was confused at the Tower of Babel. It was true of the descendants of Ham:

"These are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations" (Gen. 10:20).

Also of the descendants of Japheth:

"By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations" (Gen. 10:5).

Also of the descendants of Shem:

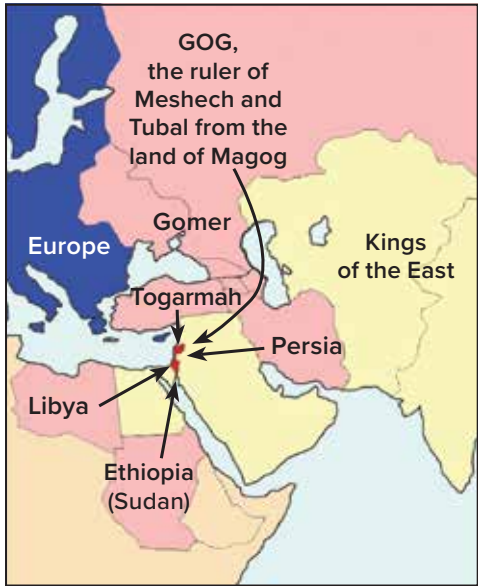
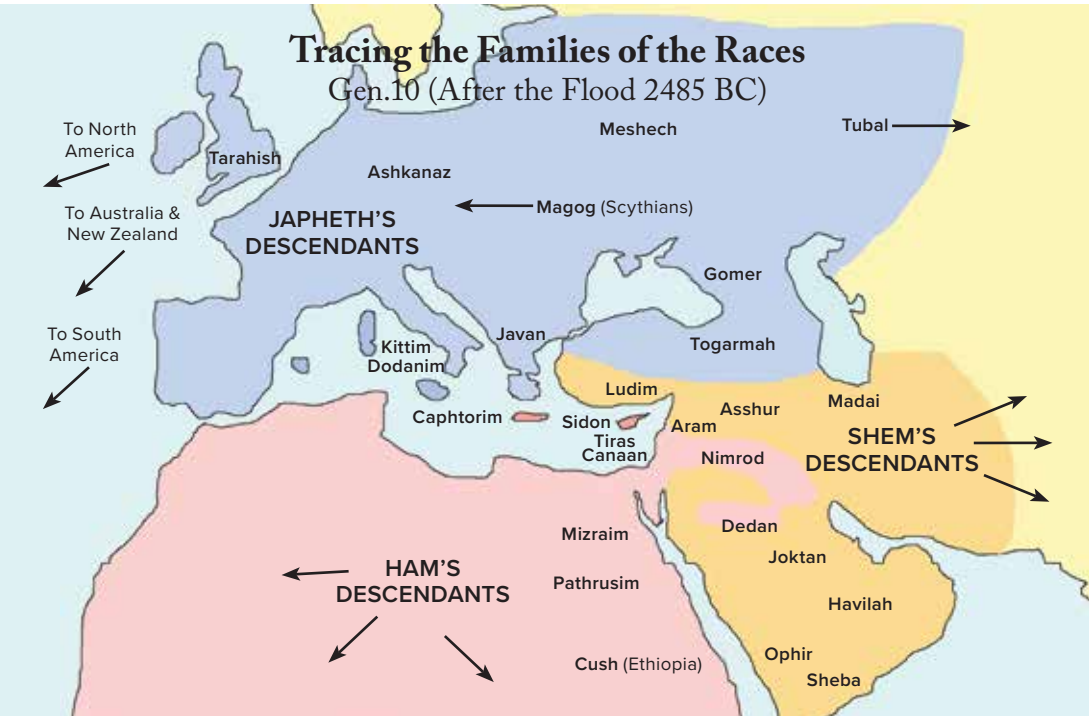
"These are the sons of Shem, after their families, after their tongues, in their lands, after their nations" (Gen. 10:31).

Every family on earth was allocated **its land**:

"These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these were the nations divided in the earth after the flood" (Gen. 10:32).

It is true that migration has taken place and some families have disappeared. Multiculturalism has attempted to "mingle" the races at various times but the original regions still remain so that nations appearing in latter-day prophecies can be identified.

Of all the nations that play a major role in the last days, few are as clearly defined as Russia and her associates. God has determined 490 years on Israel.



Of the 490 prophetic years beginning from 445BC, 483 were fulfilled when Jesus was rejected as King on Palm Sunday. Israel has since been scattered among the nations but there is yet a short period of 7 years for Israel to complete after which she will serve the Lord in His kingdom.

The last 7 years **determined on the Jews and Jerusalem** are future and cannot begin while the Church of Jesus Christ remains on earth. When the Rapture of the Church occurs, Israel's last 7 years will begin (Rom. 11:25-26).

The purpose of the last seven years determined on Israel, is to bring the entire nation to repentance. **God will use Gentile nations to achieve this objective** and the Gentile nation that God will use is Russia. Other nations will accompany Russia and it is important to note that all of Russia's associates are Muslim nations. About 15% of Russia's population register as Muslim.

HOW DOES SCRIPTURE IDENTIFY RUSSIA?

There are clear statements of Scripture that enable us to identify Russia as the leader of the forces that invade Israel.

1) Ezekiel, Joel and Daniel all indicate that the invasion of Israel in the first half of the Tribulation will come from the NORTH.

"Thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee" (Ezek. 38:15).

"And I will... cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel" (Ezek. 39:2).

The Hebrew indicates that Gog will come from the "uttermost north" of the land of Israel (Ezek. 38:6,15; and Joel 2:20). Some translate it as "the far north".

According to *Strong's Hebrew Dictionary* the Hebrew word for "north" means "hidden, i.e. dark; used only of the north as a quarter (gloomy and unknown)" which suggests a land which has long gloomy dark winters as in the **utmost arctic north**. About 25% of Russia is inside the Arctic Circle where the sun does not shine for 6 months of the year!

Thus we would not expect Gog to come from the near north i.e. Syria, Lebanon or Turkey. These countries are well outside the Arctic Circle and enjoy bright sunshine all year round but Russia is a dismal land with vast frozen wastes. After the Flood the mountain of ice at the North Pole would have taken centuries to melt leaving glaciers on the land. The only major Ice

Caps today are in Greenland and Antarctica **within the Arctic and Antarctic Circles.**

Wikipedia Encyclopedia lists approximately 80 Russian glaciers. Some of Russia's oil and gas fields are located in its frozen north and are only accessible in the dark winter months when transports can travel on frozen ground. When ice melts in the summer months roads become impassable.



Akkem Glacier in Altai
Mountains - Russia

2) Secondly, Gog is described as the “*chief prince of Meshech and Tubal*” from “*the land of Magog*”. The land of Magog has **two parts; one connected to Meshech and the other to Tubal.**

We know where the land of Magog is located because the historian Josephus, who lived in the first century, stated that

“Gomer founded those whom the Greeks now call Galatians[Galls], but were then called Gomerites. Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are **by the Greeks called Scythians.**”(*Antiquities, Book 1, ch.6*)

Josephus had access to oral traditions of the Jews and **also the histories of the Gentile nations** most of which have become extinct today. He provides the following list of ancient sources:

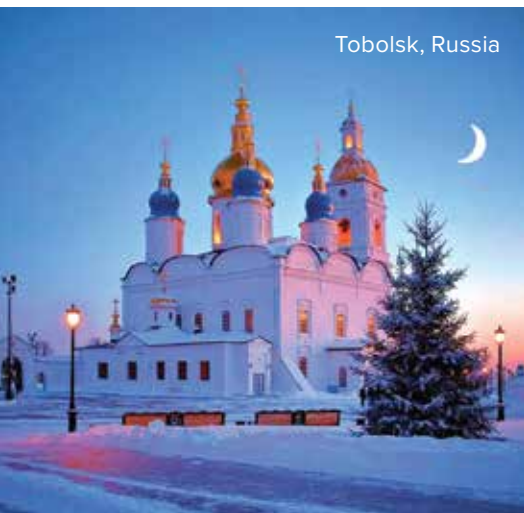
“Manetho, who wrote the Egyptian History, and Berosus, who collected the Chaldean Monuments, and Mochus and Hestiaeus, and besides these, Hieronymus the Egyptian, and those who composed the Phoenician History... Hesiod also, and Hecataeus, Hellanicus, and Acusilaus; and besides these, Ephorus and Nicolaus.”(*Antiquities, Book 1, ch.3*)

The Scythians are well documented in ancient history; they lived on the **northern shores of the Black Sea** and across Central Asia. Scythians are mentioned in the New Testament (Col. 3:11). **The land of Scythia is present-day Russia** and Gog will be the “*chief prince*” of Meshech and Tubal; the two divisions of Russia.

Attempts to identify Magog as Turkey are flawed. It is true that the Scythians

occupied part of Asia Minor (Turkey) for a **short time** but Herodotus states, “The dominion of the Scythians over Asia (Turkey) lasted **eight-and-twenty years**” (*Histories Book 1:106*).

A glance at a map of Russia will soon establish that Russia is divided into two parts; **European Russia and Asian Russia or Siberia**; the Ural mountains run north-south between the two regions.



Tobolsk, Russia

Furthermore, we find that on the eastern side of the Urals runs the **Tobol River** on which is located the city of **Tobolsk** and *Wikipedia Encyclopedia* states that Tobolsk:

“used to be the capital of the whole of Siberia until the 20th century when the Trans-Siberian railway was built... Nevertheless, Tobolsk remains an **historic capital of Siberia** and one of the most beautiful cities for those interested in Russian architecture of the 17th and 18th centuries.”

The *Wikipedia Encyclopedia* also comments on Meshech:

“Meshech (Hebrew Mosoch) identified by Flavius Josephus with the Cappadocian “Mosocheni” (Mushki, also associated with Phrygians or Bryges) and their capital Mazaca. In Hippolytus of Rome’s chronicle (AD234), the “Illyrians” were identified as Meshech’s offspring.”

The Illyrians were located north of Greece in the Balkan region which places Meshech in the **western areas** of Russia so Moscow might well have derived its name from the family of Meshech.

Encyclopedia Britannica describes the Sarmatians as follows:

“Sarmatian, member of a people originally of Iranian stock who migrated from Central Asia to the Ural Mountains between the 6th and 4th century BC and eventually settled in **most of southern European Russia** and the eastern Balkans.

Like the Scythians to whom they were closely related, the Sarmatians were

highly developed... By the 5th century BC the Sarmatians held control of the land between the Urals and the Don River. In the 4th century they crossed the Don and conquered the Scythians, replacing them as rulers of almost all of southern Russia by the 2nd century.”

A History of Ukraine states:

“Starting in the 2nd century BC, a large resettlement began among the Scythians and the Slavs — to west of the Dnipro in **the basins of the Ros, Rosava, Tiasmyn rivers** and all the way to the Carpathian mountains. The Romans named the Carpathians as “Sarmatian mountains” from the 1st to the 4th century AD.

...**The most militant Sarmatian tribe, the Roxolani**, settled along the Middle Dnipro. Sarmatians received income from the export of commodities, especially crops, to the Greek cities on the **northern coast of the Black Sea.**”

About 586BC Ezekiel identified Meshech as a nation that traded with Tyre:

“Javan, Tubal, and Meshech, they were thy merchants: they traded the persons of men and vessels of brass in thy market” (Ezek. 27:13).

Javan was Greece and the Greeks maintained trading colonies on the coast of the **Black Sea** formerly known as the Euxine Sea and Herodotus states that Scythians were famous for their brass:

“**Their arms are all either of gold or brass. For their spear-points, and arrow-heads, and for their battle-axes, they make use of brass; ...They use neither iron nor silver, having none in their country; but they have brass and gold in abundance.**” (*Histories Book 1.215*)

3) Thirdly, when we turn to Scripture we find that Gog will be “*the chief prince of Meshech*” but the Hebrew word for “*chief*” is “*Rosh*” and some translators believe it is a proper noun instead of an adjective. They therefore translate: “*O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal*”. Some translators translate that way.

A Ukrainian History adds:

“**The name Rus’ most likely comes from the name of the Sarmatian tribe Roxolani.** Initially, the Rus’ people actually were the remaining Roxolani who settled “on an island”: between the Dnipro, the Ros and Tiasmyn rivers in ancient times ”

When we remember that Josephus identified the descendants of Magog as the Scythians and Herodotus identified the Scythians with the Sarmatians and Mushovites, there can be little doubt that the land of Magog is Russia and Gog will be the last-days chief ruler of Russia who will join with Persia (Iran), Togarmah (Turkey), Libya, and Ethiopia (Northern Sudan) in an invasion of Israel that will be used of God to bring the Jews to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Messiah and Saviour.

RUSSIA'S DRIFT TOWARD ISLAM

Muslims make up to 15% of the population of Russia and the percentage is growing. Russia's neighbours are almost entirely Muslim. Under Stalin many mosques were demolished but under the present government new mosques are being constructed with Government approval and even assistance.

The Central Moscow Mosque is large enough to hold 10,000 worshippers and was inaugurated in 2015 by Presidents Vladimir Putin, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Mahmud Abbas. The official opening was stamped with the approval of Russia's communist government and its close neighbour, Turkey.

The Moscow Cathedral Mosque features ornate Asian, European and Islamic architecture and is topped off with one large, golden dome that is gilded in 12-karat gold leaf along with three domes of the six minarets.

Russian foreign policy indicates a strong preference for Islamic allies. Alliances have been forged with Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Egypt and Central Asian countries and Russian demographics require a constant stream of migration to maintain the economy.

The life expectancy of Russian men in 2009 was only 67 years due largely to 52% of deaths from alcohol. This compares with 4% for the rest of the



world. Murder rates are also high. With Russia's Islamic alliances increasing, **the percentage of Islamic migrants can only increase.** In 2014 there were 1.4 million ethnic Russians repatriated under special terms offered to them by the Government. This source however, will dry up and other ethnic groups must be enticed to migrate if the population decline is to be arrested.

RUSSIA IN THE MIDDLE EAST

For many years Russia has dreamed of a role in the Middle East and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 was a bold attempt to reach into the oil-rich region the **same year** that the Shah of Persia was overthrown and the Islamic revolution began.

Persia (Iran) had formed a large part of the West's Middle East defence against international communism but when Islamist fundamentalists took control of Persia the CENTO line of defence to the Indian Ocean and the Middle East was broken.

The Soviet Union lost 15,000 soldiers killed, and 35,000 wounded in Afghanistan. About two million Afghan civilians were killed before they withdrew in February 1989 the same year the Berlin Wall came down.

In 1991 the Soviet Union was dissolved and Russia struggled to recover. High oil and gas prices boosted her economy and new oil and gas pipelines into Europe have boosted revenues. Russia became the largest oil producer in the world ahead of Saudi Arabia.

The war in Syria took a new turn in 2015 when Russia entered the fray in support of the Shiite Syrian Government led by President Bashar al-Assad. President Putin has spoken of withdrawing Russian forces but instead has increased his commitment to Syria.

The sanctions imposed on Russia after she took over the Crimea and occupied eastern Ukraine have driven Russia further into the Islamic camp and as 2018 draws to a close, relationships with Iran, Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan and Syria are being strengthened. Russia does not realise it but she has an appointment in the land of Israel where she is going to reap what she has sown for centuries. Russia is hooked and God says:

"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

armor, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords” (Ezek. 38:4).

When Russia and Islam are destroyed on the mountains of Israel it will leave a vacuum that Antichrist, at the head of a revived Roman Empire will fill, at the mid-point of the Tribulation.

Whereas the first half of the Tribulation features the conversion of Israel at the Russian/Islamic invasion, the second half of the Tribulation will feature the Roman Beast and Israel’s fight for survival concluding with a glorious victory when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to rescue His people.



Chapter 2 - Iran Identified

Rarely in International affairs do things happen in isolation. Usually there are a series of events that prepare the way for each crisis and the invasion of Israel will be no exception.

The establishment of the nation of Israel in 1948 has led to conflict between Arabs and Jews. The War of Independence, the Suez Crisis, the 6-Day War, the Yom Kippur War, Lebanese Wars, Intifadas and the Gaza conflict, have all contributed to preparations for the final conflict when the wider circle of Islamic forces will be led by Russia to invade the Land.

Already we are seeing evidence that the coalition prophesied by Ezekiel is forming and positioning itself for the final move.

In 1979 the Shah of Persia was overthrown and radical Islamic terrorism began. The Arab Spring saw the overthrow of leaders in Muslim countries. Iran was taken over by fundamentalist Shiite Islamic forces and began to support global terrorism. Her chief aim has been to destroy America whom she calls “the Great Satan”, and of course, Israel.

Iran’s path to Israel however was blocked by Saddam Hussein, a Sunni Muslim ruler in Iraq. Geographically, Iraq lay between Iran and Israel and the Iraq/Iran war that raged from September 1980 to August 1988 cost one million lives.

When Saddam invaded Kuwait a coalition of UN forces recovered Kuwait and overthrew Saddam in 2003 installing a democratically elected government in Iraq. However because 60% of Iraqis are Shiites, the installed Government was led by Shiites. The Iranians could not have wished for a better result; their friends had taken control of Iraq! Saddam persecuted Shiites and now they controlled Iraq.

By 2012 Syria was engulfed in civil war with Sunni rebel groups fighting the minority Shiite Government. At the same time Sunni ISIS Terrorist forces began fighting the Shiite Iraqi army and the Syrian Government forces. Iran saw the opportunity and sent tens of thousands of Iranian troops and militias into Syria and Iraq and in 2015 Russia joined the fight and launched her first airstrikes in support of the Syrian Government forces.



In 2018 we find Russian naval and air bases established in Syria and tens of thousands of Iranian troops and militias fighting alongside Syrian Government forces. A similar situation exists in Iraq where the Iraqi army has only been able to defeat ISIS with the help of Iranian troops and US air strikes.

Furthermore, Iraq has begun purchasing Russian military equipment to replace American equipment damaged in the war with ISIS. In 2018 American tanks began to be replaced with Russian tanks. Iranian troops are trained on Russian tanks and it seems now that **Iran's dream of gaining a landbridge all the way to Israel's border has been achieved.** With Russian aerial support, Iran is counting the days till they can invade Israel.

Iran is hosting an international "Hourglass" Festival in April 2019 when prizes will be awarded for art entries depicting the fall of the nation of Israel. They claim Israel will cease to exist within 25 years.

So concerned is Israel about the Iranian threat that Mr Netanyahu has been to Russia to negotiate a buffer zone on the Golan Heights while Iranian troops are testing Israel's defences by sending rockets into the north of Israel.

Added to Israel's concern is the presence of tens of thousands of Iranian-backed forces in Lebanon. In 2018 these Hezbollah forces number 25,000 full-time fighters and up to 30,000 reservists. It is estimated that Hezbollah

has up to 150,000 missiles aimed at Israel. In 2018 Hezbollah has secured **political control of Lebanon** and is **Iran's defacto army** on Israel's northern border. Israel is constantly attacking Iranian convoys transporting weapons to these Hezbollah forces in Lebanon.

Iran also has an advanced weapons development program that is causing concern to the free world. The Agreement made with Iran by President Obama and other nations in 2015 released 1.7 billion dollars of Iranian money which seems to have been used to finance the war in Syria and permits Iran to manufacture her own nuclear weapons and long-range missiles after ten years. President Trump withdrew the US from the Agreement which had never been approved by the US Congress.

How effective President Trump can be in withdrawing from the Iranian Agreement and imposing sanctions remains to be seen. Unfortunately Russia is assisting Iran and is constructing nuclear power plants in Iran; she is unlikely to assist in imposing stricter sanctions. In addition, Iran has observer status in the *Shangai Cooperation Organisation*, which in 2015 consisted of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, India and Pakistan.

It is clear that since 2018 Iran has been able to position herself along with Russia for the invasion of Israel exactly as Ezekiel prophesied. The pathway from Iran to Israel has now been secured.

JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY OF IRAN IN THE LAST DAYS

Iran's role in the last days is also described by Jeremiah who prophesied between 627BC and 585BC in the days of the Babylonian Empire. Most of his prophecies concerned the judgment of God on Judah and the surrounding nations by Nebuchadnezzar. The land of Israel was to be desolated 70 years before a remnant returned to rebuild the Temple in 536BC. The ultimate blessing of Israel in the millennial kingdom however is described in just a few chapters (Jeremiah Chs. 3, 23 and 30 to 33).

Babylon's destruction is foretold in chs 50 and 51 and **Elam's (Iran) future is outlined in three stages (Jer. 49:35 to 39).**

Firstly, Jeremiah prophesied that Persia (Elam) would be **destroyed** and the people scattered but the nation would recover to become the instrument used by God to **judge Babylon**. Isaiah actually prophesied that Cyrus would lead

the Persians to overthrow Babylon (Isa. 44:28 to 45:1-4). Then in the **last days** Elam would seek the Lord and be blessed. This final blessing on Iran (Elam) is consistent with other last-days prophecies that speak of Muslim countries turning to the Lord during the Tribulation. Egypt, Assyria (Iraq) and Saudi Arabia all have a place in Christ's millennial kingdom and therefore many in those countries must be converted during the Tribulation.

The three stages in Iran's history foretold by Jeremiah are:

The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet

- i) *against Elam... I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies, ... even my fierce anger, saith the LORD; and I will send the sword after them, till I have consumed them:*
- ii) *And I will set my throne in Elam, and will destroy from thence the king and the princes, saith the LORD.*
- iii) *But it shall come to pass in the latter days, that I will bring again the captivity of Elam, saith the LORD" (Jer. 49:34-39).*

In the late Neo-Elamite period of history (586 -539BC) historians indicate that the nation was **without a king** as a result of invasions that left the nation desolate just as Jeremiah prophesied. But there was a recovery and Cyrus led the Persians against the Medes who surrendered to him as indicated by Herodotus in his *Histories, Book 1, para 127*.

The Babylonian Empire was overthrown "*from thence*" i.e. **from Elam, for under Cyrus**, Babylon was captured by the Median, Darius (Dan. 5:31). Herodotus tells how Cyrus was the son of Cambyases, a Persian prince and Mandane the daughter of Astyages, the King of the Medes. Elam was desolate at this stage.

Astyages had no sons and he dreamed that a flood would flow from his daughter Mandane's womb that would cover his land. He interpreted the dream to mean that Mandane's child would take the kingdom from him and he ordered the General of his army, Harpagus, to kill Cyrus as soon as he was born. But Harpagus gave the babe to a herdsman whose wife had a still-born baby. The still-born baby was buried in the place of Cyrus but when Cyrus was 10 years old he was identified and returned to his parents who lived in Persia.

Astyages was furious when he discovered Cyrus was alive and so killed the son of Harpagus, cooked him, and fed a portion of him to Harpagus at a feast. When Harpagus had eaten his son, he was informed that he had eaten his own son.

Years later, Harpagus sent a message to Cyrus in Persia requesting him to raise an army and invade Media with the promise he would surrender the Median army to Cyrus. King Astyages would be taken captive in retribution for the death of the General's son; Cyrus would be crowned King of the Medes and Persians in the place of Astyages. Thus were fulfilled the words, *"I will set my throne in Elam."* Cyrus the Persian was King; Daniel was chief of the three Presidents who ruled Persia; Josephus states that Zerubbabel was bodyguard to Darius; Esther was Queen with King Ahaseurus and Mordecai Prime Minister; Nehemiah was the King's cup-bearer to Artaxerxes - God set His throne in Elam (Persia).

The third stage of Iran's history is future. God has promised that in the latter days He will *"bring again the captivity of Elam"* (Jer. 49:39); an expression indicating subjection to God.

Since in the Millennial Kingdom Elam (Iran) will be blessed, we should expect many Elamites (Iranians) to turn to God in the Tribulation **after the armies of Iran (Persia) are destroyed** in the invasion of Israel. The conversion of Israel, as they acknowledge Jesus Christ as Messiah and Saviour, will be the reason for the destruction of the invading armies. The heathen nations will at last understand why the Jews have been scattered and persecuted for 2,000 years:

"And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword" (Ezek. 39:23).

Already we see signs of protest in Iran against the Ayatollahs and the fundamentalist Islamic rulers. We also hear reports which we can't substantiate, that many Iranians are turning to Christ. If this is the case, they are becoming members of the Body of Christ and will be Raptured. There must also however be a great ingathering of souls in Iran **during the Tribulation** in order for her to be blessed in the millennial kingdom.

Chapter 3 - Turkey Identified

Two of the nations that will join with Russia in the invasion of Israel are Gomer and the “*house of Togarmah of the north quarters (north borders) and all his bands (crowds of troops)*” (Ezek. 38:6). In order to identify these nations we need to go back to the origins of the civilization that began after the Flood of Noah’s day.

We remember that Noah had three sons Japheth, Shem and Ham. The eldest son of Japheth was Gomer. The third son of Gomer was Togarmah and Ezekiel indicates his descendants were located in the “*north quarters*” or “**north borders** of Israel.”

The land that God gave to Abraham is clearly defined by the Abrahamic covenant:

“In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates” (Gen. 15:18).

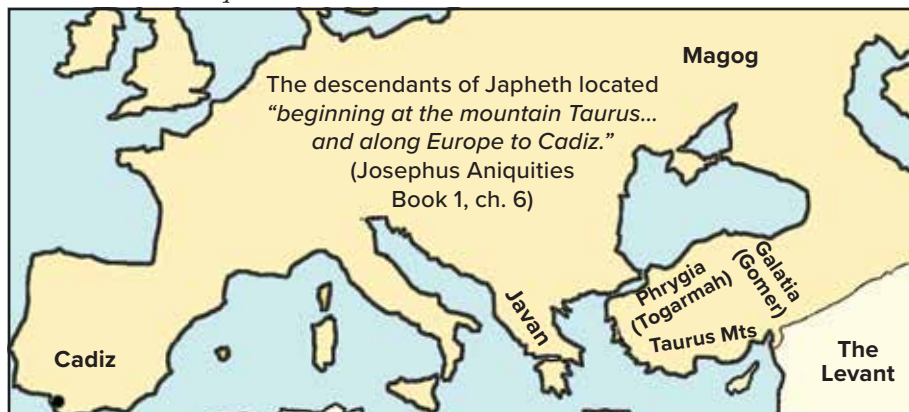
Israel’s future northern border therefore is not Syria but the Euphrates River and in the millennial kingdom that is where it will be. So, if the house of Togarmah will be the nation located on Israel’s “*north border*” it can be none other than Turkey as the map indicates.



We know that the family of Japheth settled in the northern regions and became the European races. Josephus states this before he began to locate the families of individual sons of Japheth:

“Now they were the grandchildren of Noah, in honor of whom names were imposed on the nations by those that first seized upon them. Japhet, the son of Noah, had seven sons: they inhabited so, that, **beginning at the mountain Taurus** and Amanus, they proceeded along Asia, as far as the river Tanais,

and along Europe to Cadiz; and setting themselves on the lands which they light upon, which none had inhabited before, they called the nations by their own names" (*Antiquities Book 1, ch.6*).



Gomer and his families settled in Galatia, in central Asia Minor or Turkey as we know it today. Josephus states:

“Gomer founded those whom the Greeks now call Galatians” (*Antiquities Book 1, ch.6*).

The location of Galatia in the first century when Josephus was writing is well known and was located in central Asia Minor or Turkey as we know it today. The Apostle Paul wrote an epistle to the Galatians.

Togarmah was the third son of Gomer and Josephus identifies the land where they settled as Phrygia, (NW Turkey today). He states:

“Of the three sons of Gomer, Aschanax founded the Aschanaxians, who are now called by the Greeks Reginians. So did Riphath found the Ripheans, now called Paphlagonians; and Thrugramma (Togarmah) the Thrugrammeans, who, as the Greeks resolved, were named Phrygians.”

Add to the testimony of Josephus the fact that the Bible places Togarmah in the “*north borders*” in relation to Israel and there is no doubt that the Gomer and Togarmah of Ezekiel’s prophecy represent the last-days nation of Turkey.

The spelling by Josephus of the names of Gomer’s three sons is different to the spelling in our English Bibles but it is quite clear who the third son of Gomer was. Togarmah is spelt, Thrugramma and is changed by the Greeks to Phrygia.

We need to remember that the Grecian Empire established by Alexander the Great, took the Greek language and culture to the entire known world in his day. The koine Greek language was a trade language used universally.



THE HISTORY OF TURKEY

From the earliest times the descendants of Javan occupied the land of Greece but Javan's sons were colonists and established trading colonies around the perimeter of the Mediterranean and Black Seas. The islands of the Aegean Sea and **the western end of Turkey as we know it** was populated by Greeks; the descendants of Javan and were known as Ionians.

At the beginning of the Christian era the Gospel was taken to all of the cities of Asia Minor (Turkey) and churches were established. Paul spent years ministering in western Asia (Ephesus) and John wrote his book of Revelation to the seven churches of Asia.

After the ten pagan persecutions, from Nero (AD54) to Domitian (AD305), the entire region became nominally Christian when Constantine adopted Christianity. The Roman Empire had been divided by Diocletian in AD285 but the Byzantine Empire dates from AD330. Rome ruled in the west and Byzantium, later called Constantinople, in the east. Constantinople became a city of cathedrals and Greek replaced Latin in the eastern churches in the 7th Century.

During the Byzantine era the Christian Church existed throughout the Middle East; in Arabia, Egypt and wherever the Roman Empire held power. In the 7th century Islam was born in Arabia and Mohammed produced the



Koran. At his death in AD632 all of Arabia was under Islamic control and after his death the Levant, all the way to the border of Turkey was converted by the edge of the sword; Egypt and north Africa followed.

The established presence of Islam in

the region that now constitutes modern Turkey however dates back to the latter half of the 11th century, when the Seljuk Turks started expanding into eastern Anatolia. The Seljuks migrated from the north provinces in Central Asia and into mainland Iran formerly known as Persia.

The Islamic Ottoman Turk Empire ruled Turkey for more than 600 years from about 1300 to 1922 when it became a Republic with a secular constitution under the leadership of Kemal Attaturk.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 1915 TO 1917

The Armenians were Orthodox Christians and the Turks Muslims. Armenia had been absorbed into the Ottoman Empire and on 24 April 1915 a massacre began with the arrest of Armenian intellectuals. That date is called “Bloody Sunday” and is now commemorated as *Genocide Remembrance Day*. Many of the arrested Armenian intellectuals were killed, and that was followed by death marches of Armenians into Syria, confiscation of all Armenian property, and a general slaughter that resulted in the death of as many as 1.5 million Armenians. This was genocide (or “ethnic cleansing”): it was a deliberate attempt to wipe out an entire people and was carried out by the Young Turk Movement. After 1917 the Armenians set up death squads to track down and assassinate leaders of the Young Turk Movement who fled to Germany.



EXPULSION OF GREEKS AFTER WWI

After WWI The League of Nations gave Greece the eastern part of Turkey as war compensation. The area had a large Greek population which was Orthodox Christian dating back to the earliest times long before the Ottoman Empire began about 1300.

When the Greeks moved their army in to take possession of eastern Turkey there was war between Turkey and Greece and Turkey was victorious. Following the defeat of the Greek army Turkey began to expel all Greeks and 1.22 million Greeks fled to Greece with the loss of all their property. The Greeks responded and expelled 355,000 Turks from Greece.

In 1906, nearly 20 percent of the population of present-day Turkey was non-Muslim, but by 1927, only 2.6 percent were Christians. This is just another example of ruthless ethnic cleansing by Turkey.

TURKEY AFTER WWII

Turkey remained neutral in WWII and after the war became a member of NATO and CENTO, two military alliances formed to resist International Communism (See map on page 11). Turkey was the first Muslim country to formalise relations with Israel in 1949 and also had a treaty of military cooperation with Israel.

The CENTO line of defence against the Soviet threat was broken in 1979 when Islamic extremists removed the Shah of Persia.

Turkey is still a member of NATO in 2018 although US Patriot missile systems have been withdrawn over concerns as to Turkey's political directions. Israel had very large defence contracts with Turkey running into hundreds of millions of dollars to modernise Turkey's tanks and planes. Israeli pilots were permitted to perform training manoeuvres in Turkish air space due to Israel's small geographic area.

Relations with Israel took a downturn when Recep Tayyip Erdoğan became Prime Minister of Turkey in 2003. Wikipedia states:

“After the 2008–09 Gaza War and the 2010 Gaza flotilla raid when protestors from Turkey tried to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza, relations between the two countries deteriorated. In March 2013, Israel apologised for the raid, opening a path for normalised relations... However, in December

2015, Turkey and Israel began to negotiate restoration of diplomatic relations by holding a secret meeting... The two countries reached an agreement on 27 June 2016 to start the process of normalisation of ties. In December 2017, President Erdoğan threatened to break off diplomatic ties with Israel if the United States formally recognises Jerusalem as Israel's capital. He did not immediately carried out the threat."

Erdoğan has accused Israel of being "a terror state" but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hit back saying that as a prime supporter of Hamas, the Turkish leader was himself involved in "terrorism and slaughter." He said:

"A man whose hands are stained with the blood of countless Kurdish citizens in Turkey and Syria is the last to preach to us about military ethics."

Under Erdogan's rule Turkey has taken a sharp turn **into the radical Islamist camp and into a closer relationship with Russia**. Meetings to resolve the Syrian problem have been held between Russia, Iran and Turkey and Western nations have not been invited.

TURKEY'S APPLICATION FOR EU MEMBERSHIP

Turkey made application for membership of the EU in April 1987 but the EU nations have been very nervous about admitting a Muslim nation with nearly 100 million population. Turkey shares borders with other Middle Eastern countries where Islamic terrorism is rife and should Turkey become a full member of the EU, her borders with other EU countries would be eliminated under the Schengen Agreement. Turkey would then become an open gateway for Middle East Terrorists to enter Europe.

Also Turkey knows that the EU is dominated by Catholic countries. Scripture describes the revived Roman Empire as a beast ridden by a harlot woman who undoubtedly is the Vatican. It is not surprising that Turkish leaders have accused the EU of being a "Christian Club".

Undoubtedly Turkey has taken a hard turn left from a secular State to an Islamist State. The constitution of Turkey is being changed and sweeping powers have been given to the president. Mr Erdogan has now managed to get himself elected as President.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA - ISLAM AND COMMUNISM

Economically and politically Turkey and the Islamic nations are moving away from the Western nations and toward Russia and her associates. Russia is building a nuclear power station on the south coast of Turkey; a gas supply line now crosses the Black Sea into Turkey; the Russian S-400 missile defence system is to replace the US Patriot missile system. Military equipment is being purchased from Russia and Turkey's place as a member of NATO is questionable.

The *Shanghai Cooperation Organisation* (SCO) was formed in 1996 and now has eight members: Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and India. There are four other countries with "Observer" status and six nations described as "Dialogue Partners". **Turkey is a dialogue partner.** If she became a full member of the SCO she would have to withdraw from NATO. Most of the SCO countries are either Muslim or Communist.

Though the Communists have no love for Muslims they see potential in the Islamists propensity for violence as a means of destroying Israel and the Western nations. The Islamists on the other hand see Russia and China as a means to obtain modern weapons and nuclear technology necessary for their war against America and Israel.

When a new 10,000-worshipper Muslim Mosque was opened in Moscow, Mr Putin and Mr Erdogan were there to celebrate but we know Putin has no love for Islam. Putin was ruthless with the Chechen Muslims and his relationship with Erdogan is a marriage of convenience. Putin is a master politician.

The current trend is exciting for the Bible-believing Christian because it is exactly what one would expect in the light of Bible prophecy. Russia's associates in the invasion of Israel are all Islamist States; Turkey, Iran, Libya and Northern Sudan. God is saying to Gog, the leader of Russia, "*Be thou a guard unto them*" (Ezek. 38:7).

Chapter 4 - Biblical Ethiopia Identified

“Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal... Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee” (Ezek. 38:3-6).

One of the Islamic nations listed in Ezekiel’s prophecy that will join in the invasion of Israel in the last days is Ethiopia but not the modern-day Ethiopia. When Ezekiel penned the inspired words of his prophecy Ethiopia was the country located at the southern border of Egypt and any prophecy given concerning Ethiopia must relate to the nation occupying the same territory.

About 1500BC when Moses led Israel out of Egypt into the wilderness, there arose a conflict among the leaders; Moses, Aaron and Miriam, because of “*the Ethiopian woman whom he had married*” (Num. 12:1).

Scripture does not tell us anything about the marriage of Moses to this woman but Josephus gives us the whole story in his *Antiquities of the Jews*. Apparently it was preserved in the oral traditions of the Jews and finally put to writing by Josephus in the first century. The story goes as follows:

When Moses grew to manhood as the adopted son of Thermuthis, the daughter of Pharaoh, the land of Egypt was invaded by the Ethiopians who defeated the Egyptian army and overran all Egypt. Moses had grown into a tall young man and was exceedingly handsome. He was also extremely wise and learned, so Pharaoh placed him at the head of his army and the priests accepted the appointment hoping that Moses would be killed in the battle with the Ethiopians.

When Moses had gathered his forces together he chose not to approach the Ethiopian army along the river Nile, which was what they would expect, but to take another route that was infested with deadly serpents. To prevent the loss of life from venomous snake bites, Moses gathered a large number of Ibis birds that fed on serpents and released these to feed on the serpents. When the serpents had been removed he led his army on the unsuspecting Ethiopians and drove them to the southern border of Egypt.

The Ethiopians fled in disarray and Moses pursued them into Ethiopia



where they sought refuge in the Royal City of Saba located on an island in the River Nile surrounded by strong walls. According to Herodotus the ancient historian, this city was renamed Maroe in 522BC by the Persian King Cambyses; the Biblical Ahasuerus, the son of Cyrus (Ezra 4:6).

As Moses prepared for an assault on the city he was watched from the city wall by Tharbis the daughter of the Ethiopian King who admired his leadership and fell deeply in love with him.

Tharbis secretly sent a trusted servant to Moses with a marriage proposal which was accepted on condition that she could deliver the city into his hands. Moses kept his vow, the city surrendered and the marriage was consummated.

When Moses returned from Ethiopia he faced the wrath of the priests who sought to kill him. Then, after he slew an Egyptian slave master found mistreating a Hebrew, he could no longer remain in Egypt and fled to his relatives, the Midianites, who were descended from Abraham and Keturah. He married Jethro's daughter and spent the next 40 years minding his father-in-law's sheep on the coast of the Red Sea in Arabia.

We are not told what happened to Tharbis but presumably she remained in Egypt as a royal princess. Forty years later Moses would have been reunited with Tharbis and she presumably accompanied him when Israel fled from Egypt or perhaps joined him soon after.

We draw attention to this account by Josephus because it identifies the **Royal city of Ethiopia as Saba** which had its name changed to **Meroe in 522BC by Cambyses** the Persian King. Meroe is today the leading archeological location in North Sudan and has pyramids and other historic places of interest.



The location of the capital of Biblical Ethiopia is therefore unquestionably located on the Nile, north of the present capital of Khartoum and has no connection with the modern country of Ethiopia.

Josephus, in his book *Jewish Wars, Book 4, ch.10* defines the border of Ethiopia as follows:

“Egypt is hard to be entered by land, and hath no good havens by sea. It hath on the west the dry deserts of Libya; and **on the south Syene, that divides it from Ethiopia, as well as the cataracts of the Nile, that cannot be sailed over;** and on the east the Red Sea, extending as far as Coptus”

The history of Sudan however goes back to the Biblical Flood. Cush was the son of Ham and he was the father of the negroid races that settled south of Egypt and formed the Kingdom of Kush. When the kingdom of Kush collapsed in the 4th century AD, Nubian kingdoms continued until the 15th century.

When Islam arose in the 7th century, the eastern side of the country was occupied by Arab Muslims creating a conflict that erupted in 2003-2004 in genocide. The 6.5 million black Muslim Sudanese living in the province of Darfur on the western side of Sudan were subjected to terrible violence after rebel groups attacked Sudanese military establishments. Instead of fighting the rebels, the Government adopted a scorched earth policy against all black Sudanese. Up to 400,000 black Sudanese were killed and 2 million displaced. In 2009 the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for President al-Bashir for crimes against humanity. **The main supplier of weapons to Northern Sudan is Iran.**

In 2011 the 12 million people of South Sudan voted to separate from the 41.6

million Islamic Northern Sudan to form the Republic of South Sudan. South Sudan is mainly Christian due to missionary activity by British missionaries. Southern Sudanese are black tribes while the North is largely Arabs.

CLEARING THE ROAD TO ISRAEL

If Libya and Northern Sudan are to be a part of the invasion of Israel they have a major hurdle to overcome; the land of Egypt.

Egypt was a nation in 2018 of 99.58 million and provides a physical barrier to Libya and Sudan if they want to be part of an Islamic invasion of Israel. Egypt has the largest of the Arab armies.

In the event of a conflict with Israel, Libya and Sudan would find it difficult to participate without access on the ground and/or in air space over Egypt. However, the path to Israel will be cleared for them in a way not dissimilar to the manner in which the path has been cleared for Iran to reach the border of Israel.

The Coalition forces removed Saddam Hussein allowing Iranian troops to fight ISIS in Iraq, and democratic elections, to bring Shiites to power. The Americans never intended to clear the way to Israel for Iranian troops but in similar fashion, Egypt will be overrun, not by America, but by Europe as the Revived Roman Empire, to allow Sudan and Libya to gain access to Israel's southern border.

Isaiah chapter 19 describes the destruction of Egypt in the last days and Daniel chapter 11:40-43 tells us who will do it.

The seven years of the Tribulation will begin with two events occurring at the same time; the Rapture of the Church and the signing of a seven-year treaty between Israel and Europe (Rome). This treaty will no doubt guarantee the security of Israel.

Daniel chapter 11:36 to 45 describes the first half of the seven years of the Tribulation and it begins with a description of the Roman prince acting as a political head of the Revived Roman Empire who will become the Beast halfway through the Tribulation.

Having guaranteed the security of Israel for seven years, the King of the South, Egypt, shall *"push at him"* (Dan. 11:40) and he will respond with devastating power. The River Nile will be dried up and *"they shall turn the*

rivers far away” (Isa. 19:6). In 2018 the huge Renaissance Dam is being constructed on the Blue Nile at the border of modern Ethiopia where it will store 80% of the water flowing to Egypt.

Civil war will break out in Egypt and God will “*set the Egyptians against the Egyptians... city against city, and kingdom against kingdom*” (Isa. 19:2)

Israel will be part of the invading force for

“The land of Judah shall be a terror unto Egypt, every one that maketh mention thereof shall be afraid in himself...” (Isa. 19:17).



Not only will Israel be feared militarily but many Egyptians will choose to worship the God of Israel. We know that, during the first half of the Tribulation, there will be 144,000 Jewish men who will preach the Gospel of the Kingdom **to all nations** (Matt. 24:14) and some of these will no doubt be operating in Egypt; they will be warning Egyptians of great Tribulation to come and of Christ's return at the end of the seven years. Many Egyptians will repent.

“In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD... And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform it” (Isa. 19:19-21).

With Egypt destroyed, and Muslim power broken, the path to Israel will be cleared for Libya and Sudan to join with Russia, Iran and Turkey in the invasion of Israel foretold by Ezekiel.

Chapter 5 - Libya Identified

Another of the nations that come with Russia into the land of Israel is Libya. According to Josephus, the original Libyan people descended from Phut the third son of Ham (Gen. 10:6). After the Flood Mizraim settled in Egypt and Cush, his brother, settled in Ethiopia at the southern border of Egypt. Phut and his tribe settled along the Mediterranean coast to the west of Egypt but the name of the land was changed to Lybros after one of the sons of Mizraim (Egypt). Africa received its name from Aphra a grandson of Abraham.

Shishak, King of Egypt plundered Jerusalem in the days of Rehoboam (987BC) and his army was Ethiopian and Libyan (2 Chron. 12:3).

About 957BC Zerah the Ethiopian came against Asa King of Judah with one million men plus 300 chariots. His soldiers included Lubims (Libyans) (2 Chron. 16:8). When Asa cried to the Lord the Lord smote this vast army.

Josephus points out that the city of Carthage which is located in Tunisia today, was built 143 years before Solomon built his Temple. He refers to it as “Carthage in Libya” indicating that in ancient times, **all of North Africa west of Egypt was called Libya.**

Herodotus described Africa south of Ethiopia as part of Libya saying that the Nile flowed

“out of Libya, through Ethiopia into Egypt” (*Histories, Book 2, para. 22*).

Herodotus had no knowledge of the high snow-clad mountains in modern Ethiopia; he only knew Biblical Ethiopia (starting at the border of Egypt) as a hot desert area. The world was looked on as having three continents, “Europe, Asia and Libya” (*Histories Book 2, para. 16*).

Herodotus also wrote of an Egyptian King Necos who sent ships from Egypt into the Erythraean (Red) Sea to circumnavigate “Libya” and return via the Pillars of Hercules at the western end of the Mediterranean. They returned **after three years**. Solomon also sent ships around Africa all the way to Tarshish (England) which journey took three years (2 Chron. 9:21). The important thing to note is that all of the African continent was called Libya. Herodotus states:

“In this way was the extent of Libya first discovered... as for Libya, we

know it to be **washed on all sides by the sea**, except where it is attached to Asia" (*Histories Book 4, para 42*).

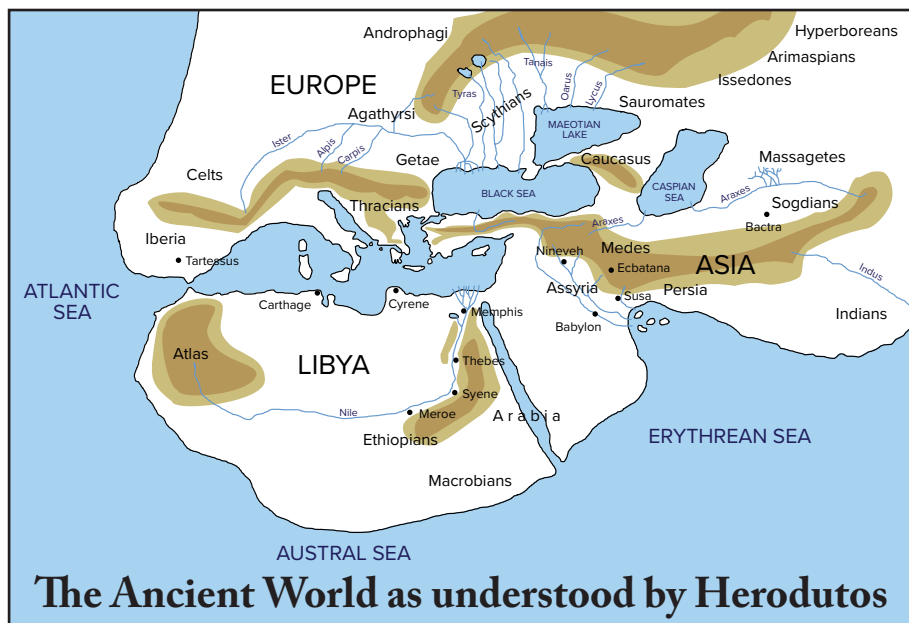
Modern Libya has the Mediterranean on its northern shore but the African continent was known as Libya by Egyptians, and Greeks (Herodotus) about 450BC in the Persian era.

Another man, Sataspes, was sentenced to death by Xerxes King of Persia (486-465BC) who offered a pardon on condition he sailed around Libya sailing westward through the Pillars of Hercules. Herodotus, was an historian who visited Babylon, Persia and Egypt to gather facts for his books and Ezekiel prophesied in Babylon; both would understand Libya to be Africa.

ISLAMIC CONQUEST OF NORTH AFRICA

When Muhammad died in 632, the western half of Arabia was Muslim. Two years later the entire Arabian Peninsula was Muslim and Muslim armies moved up into Syria and Mesopotamia.

The Arab conquest of Egypt and North Africa began in AD640. Arab armies moved on to Alexandria, and a treaty was signed. The Greeks of Alexandria agreed to leave peacefully and Alexandria was handed over in AD642. The



Arabs continued rapidly westwards along the coast of North Africa, capturing Cyrenaica in 642 and Tripoli in 643. In 698 Carthage was destroyed. In AD711 a Berber army crossed the straits of Gibraltar and entered Spain. North Africa was controlled by various Muslim groups until 1683 when most of North Africa became a part of the Ottoman Turk Empire.

The Ottoman Turk Empire ceased in 1922 and after WWII the Middle East was carved up by the victorious Allied Nations. The importance of oil to the western nations influenced many decisions and still does.

LIBYA IN THE MODERN ERA

How then do we identify the Libya that will join in the invasion of Israel? Modern Libya occupies part of the Mediterranean Coast between Egypt and Tunisia yet when Ezekiel prophesied, the entire north of the African Continent was known as Libya. It is possible that other North African countries will join them.

During Israel's War of Liberation in 1947 Morocco sent troops to fight alongside the Egyptian forces so it is not inconceivable that when Russia leads the Islamic armies against Israel in the Tribulation, these nations will send troops.

We know from Daniel chapter 11:40-43 that the Russian/Islamic invasion is **preceded** by an attack on Israel to be led by Egypt and that Europe (The revived Roman Empire) will have a treaty with Israel. The land of Egypt will be raked with internal conflicts (Isa. 19:2) and **when Egypt has been desolated the path will be clear** for Libya and Northern Sudan (Ethiopia) to advance into Israel from the south as Russia makes her move from the north with Turkey and Iran.

Daniel describes the initial attack on Israel by "*the King of the South*", Egypt, as follows:

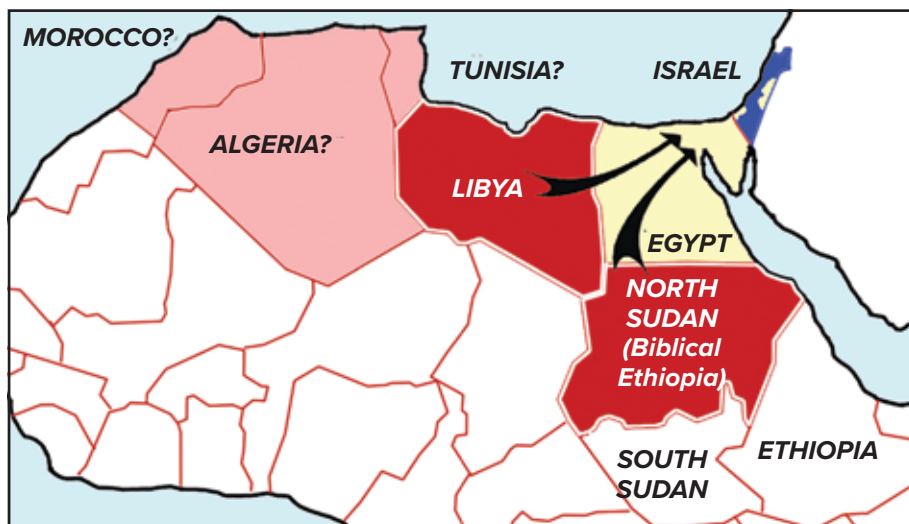
"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him (Antichrist): and the king of the north (Antichrist) shall come against him like a whirlwind ...and he (Antichrist) shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: ...and the land of Egypt shall not escape... and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps" (Dan. 11:40-43).

There is a difference of opinion about what is meant by the words “*at his steps*”. The English translation suggests that the conquest of Egypt will go as far as **the borders** of Ethiopia (North Sudan) in the south and Libya in the west. However the Hebrew seems to allow for a measure of **agreement with, or even support for**, the conquest of Egypt by Antichrist. Which ever it is, the **pathway to Israel** will be cleared for Libya and Northern Sudan.

Libya in 2018 is torn apart by competing groups of Islamists. Since Colonel Gadaffi was overthrown in a civil war in 2012 the legitimate government has been under attack and unable to control all the country. Awful atrocities have been committed. In 2012 the US Ambassador was murdered in an attack on the embassy at Benghazi. In 2015 the world was shocked by the public decapitation of 20 Egyptian Christians who had gone to Libya for work. The bodies of the 20 Egyptian Christians were returned to Egypt for burial.

In 2015 Tunisia had 71 people killed in Islamist terrorist attacks and since then tourist hotels have remained empty.

When the Tribulation begins the armies of Libya will be one of the Islamic armies destroyed by God when Israel turns to Jesus Christ.



Chapter 6 - Destruction of Russia & Islam

Israel is a unique nation. No other nation can be sure of victory on the battlefield like Israel can when she walks with God. The size of Israel's army is of no consequence.

Gideon had 32,000 soldiers to defend the nation against the Midianites who were *"like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude"* (Judges 7:12). The Lord told him that 32,000 soldiers were too many so he sent most of them home and he was left with only 300 men. God wrought a great victory and the Midianites fled.

When King Asa was faced with a million-man army plus 300 chariots from Ethiopia and Libya, the Lord delivered that great host into his hands and he pursued them so they could not recover. Asa had prayed,

"Lord it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power" (2 Chron. 14:11).

While Israel obeys the voice of the Lord, God promises they will be blessed in the land; if they disobey, they will be scattered out of the land (Deut. 28:49-50) and if after being scattered, Israel turns again to the Lord, then they will be returned to the land (Deut.chs.28 to 30).

After the Jews rejected Christ they then rose up against the Romans in AD66 but were doomed to failure. Isaiah prophesied that the land and its cities would be desolate for a long time and few people would inhabit the land (Isa. 6:9-13).

Jesus warned Israel that this time had come when they rejected Him (Matt. 13:14-15; John 12:37-41). He told them the Romans were about to destroy Jerusalem and the Temple - it all happened in AD70. Josephus indicates that the Romans slew 1,100,000 Jews and took 97,000 captives in the war against the Jews.

For 2,000 years the Jews have been scattered among the nations as promised in the Palestinian Covenant. But during the Tribulation, when Israel turns back to God and acknowledges Jesus Christ their Messiah and King, then *"shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle"* (Zech. 14:3).

Before Russia invades, early in the 7-year Tribulation, there will be the sudden conversion of 144,000 Jewish witnesses who will preach the Gospel of the Kingdom in all the world and there will also be two anointed prophets of God at Jerusalem. The two witnesses will witness for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3)

and are killed at the mid-point of the Tribulation (Rev. 11:7) just before the *“seven last plagues”* are announced.

These Jewish prophets will understand the sign of “missing persons” (Matt. 24:40-41; Luke 17:34-36) i.e. when the Rapture of the Church has taken place, and Israel’s last 7 years has begun. They will know that Messiah is soon to return and God will seal them (Rev. 7:3) for protection from the judgments that will come upon earth **for the duration of their testimony** (Rev. 11:5).

The message of the 144,000 Jews will be heard by Israel as well as by the nations. Many will be persecuted and scourged *“in their synagogues”* (Matt. 10:17). At first, some will be put to death (Matt. 10:21) by fellow Jews and they will be hated of all nations (Matt. 10:22). By the mid-point of the 7 years Tribulation all of these 144,000 men will be martyred; they will be *“the firstfruits (of Israel) unto God and to the Lamb”* (Rev. 14:4) and are seen around the throne mid-way through the Tribulation.

Thus when Israel is invaded early in the Tribulation, the Jews will hear the message of the 144,000, the Gospel of the kingdom, ringing in their ears; *“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”*

Two thirds of the Jews in the land will be swept away just as Zechariah warned (Zech. 13:8-9) including the ungodly false shepherds who signed a 7-year covenant with the Antichrist (Ezek. 34:1-12). But one third of the Jews in the land will cry out to God and

“then will the LORD be jealous for His land, and pity His people”
(Joel 2:18).

When the wrath of Almighty God falls on the invaders the vast Russian/ Islam army that will be covering the land like a cloud, will suddenly be destroyed. God says:

“I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate ...because he hath done great things”
(Joel 2:20).

God will use four means to achieve His purpose:

1) THERE WILL BE A GLOBAL EARTHQUAKE.

This earthquake will be of such proportions that the oceans will be in turmoil, the mountains will collapse in massive landslides and cities will crumble. The earthquake will totally disrupt the activities of the invaders. Ezekiel wrote:

“Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; 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” (Ezek. 38:19-20).

There are two global earthquakes during the Tribulation; both are described in the Book of Revelation. The first occurs when the sixth seal judgment is announced (Rev. 6:12-17) and the second is when Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation (Rev. 16:18).

The impact of this first earthquake is profound. The kings of the earth will recognise it as evidence of Divine judgment and will seek to hide from the *“wrath of the Lamb”*!

The Pre-wrath Theory teaches that the wrath of God is not revealed in the first half of the Tribulation but the Lord declares that this judgment on the Russian/Islamic invasion is executed in wrath:

“When Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken” (Ezek. 38:18-19).

The entire 7 years of Tribulation is the revelation of the wrath of God. The 7 Seals are all the wrath of God.

How will the Kings of the earth know that these calamities are the *“wrath of the Lamb?”* If it is not the 144,000 Jewish witnesses, who could it be? Their message is global; they preach *“in all the world for a witness unto all nations”* (Matt. 24:14) and they will be warning men to flee from the wrath to come.

2) HAILSTONES, FIRE AND BRIMSTONE

Not only does the ground shake but torrential rain and great hailstones will fall from heaven (Ezek. 38:22). The hailstones are accompanied by *“fire and brimstone”* which suggests the hailstones could be burning, white-hot meteorites.

When Joshua was attacked by the Southern confederacy of Canaanite kings *“the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died”* (Josh. 10:11).

There is an asteroid belt in our solar system containing millions of pieces of rocks ranging in size from one metre to hundreds of kilometres in diameter. Every day some of these asteroids enter our earth’s atmosphere and are burned up as shooting stars. The larger asteroids strike the earth as burning meteorites. The asteroid belt is God’s arsenal.

3) STORMS AND TORRENTIAL RAIN

All rain is controlled by God. He can stop the rain or He can send rain; as gentle showers or torrential storms. When flooding occurs in Israel, military vehicles will be bogged and rivers become uncrossable. Ammunition will be dampened, and visibility will be reduced. Aerial warfare will become impossible. God will use the weather to destroy Gog’s army just as He used the snow to destroy Hitler’s and Napoleon’s armies in Russia.

4) PESTILENCE

As the nations watch the drama unfolding in the land of Israel a deadly virus or some other pestilence will take hold of the invaders. Maybe it will be chemical or biological weapons or just “bird flu”. In the final battle at the end of the Tribulation, God will send another plague on the armies that come against Jerusalem for the battle of Armageddon and we read:

“Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth” (Zech. 14:12).

The symptoms may indicate nuclear warfare but it could be a disease like Ebola. Medical authorities have been warning us that if a deadly virus were to cross from birds to humans, 100 million would perish. “Mad cow disease” or Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) is a brain-wasting disease for which there is no treatment. It seems that the plague at Armageddon has a connection with animals for we read:

“And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague” (Zech. 14:15).

Whatever the plague, strong fighting men will be rendered helpless and left

dead on the mountains of Israel as the angels of God remove their health in a moment.

In Hezekiah's day (711BC), the Assyrian army besieged Jerusalem and when Isaiah prayed, the angel of the Lord smote 185,000 of the Assyrian army in one night (Isa. 37:36). When Pharaoh refused to let Israel leave Egypt the angel of the Lord smote every firstborn person in the land of Egypt in the houses where there was no blood sprinkled on the doorposts (Exod. 12:29).

When David, through pride, numbered the people, God sent a pestilence among the people and 70,000 died before the plague was stayed (1 Chron. 21:14-17).

When Israel committed whoredom with the daughters of Moab God sent a plague among them and 24,000 died; 23,000 in one day! (Num. 25:9).

God sometimes uses sickness to chasten believers today when they live in disobedience (1 Cor. 11:30). Not all sickness is due to sin but God can send His angels to remove the health of any individual at any time and the arrogant Russian and Islamic armies will be struck down with pestilence and become helpless; their medics will have no answer.

5) EVERY MAN'S SWORD SHALL BE AGAINST HIS BROTHER

Disunity will seize hold of the invading armies. Shiite Iranians will turn on Sunni Turks and no effort of the Russians will be able to separate them as they cut each other down.

"Every man's sword shall be against his brother" (Ezek. 38:21).

Shiite and Sunni Muslims hate each other. The Sunni ISIS terrorists ruthlessly attack Shiite Muslims in the Middle East and Shiites mercilessly slaughter Sunnis. In November 2015 a Turkish F-16 plane shot down a Russian SU-24 fighter and in September 2018 a Syrian missile shot down a Russian IL-20 surveillance plane with 15 men on board - by mistake. God can send confusion and five sixths of the vast army will perish leaving the landscape covered with military equipment, rotting supplies and the carcasses of hundreds of thousands of human beings that will take 7 months to bury. Only one sixth of the enemy will escape.

6) THE REMNANT ONE SIXTH WILL RETREAT TO SIBERIA

The Russian army will not be able to retreat to the land north of the Black

Sea; to European Russia, because it will be burned. Might this be the first Trumpet judgment (Rev. 8:7)? God has said:

"I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly (confidently) in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD" (Ezek. 39:6).

Fires will rage west of the Ural mountains and there will be no alternative but to go to Siberia, east of the Urals. Joel recorded:

"But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost (north) sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savor shall come up, because he hath done great things" (Joel 2:20).



Chapter 7 - The Conversion of Israel & Islam

The amazing coincidence of Israel's conversion to Christ and the earthquake that shatters the Russian/Islamic armies will be noted by all the nations of the world.

For 2,000 years the Jews have been rejecting Jesus Christ and have been scattered among the nations exactly as Jesus said they would. They have been persecuted, expelled by nations, forced to live in ghettos, slaughtered in pogroms and intifadas. Millions of helpless Jews perished in the Holocaust, Inquisitions and Crusades. Antisemitism has been universal and just when the nation is about to be exterminated completely by Russia and Islam, the Jewish remnant **cry out to Jesus Christ** and own Him as Messiah. Instantly, God defends them against impossible odds. The whole world trembles and shakes with a supernatural, global earthquake (Ezek. 38:19; Rev. 6:12) while those who are invading the land of Israel are themselves destroyed.

This is no mere coincidence; it is cause and effect. The Palestinian Covenant (Deut. 30:1-7) has bound Almighty God to fight for Israel **when Israel turns to the Lord**. In Joel 2:12-18 we read of the crisis moment when Israel is finally humbled and their priests "*weep between the porch and the altar*" and cry, "*Spare thy people O Lord...*"

"THEN will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people" (Joel 2:18). The global testimony of the 144,000 Jewish witnesses that Christ's Kingdom is about to be established, and the fact that Israel finally acknowledges Jesus Christ as Messiah, will convince the ungodly kings of the earth that the global calamities are indeed the "*wrath of the Lamb*" (Rev. 6:16) and that God is fighting for Israel. Ezekiel made this very point when he wrote:

"And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them" (Ezek. 39:23-24).

All will be clear - Israel rejected and crucified the Lamb of God and now by His grace, when they repent, the wrath of the Lamb falls heavily on their enemies **placing it in the 6th Seal Judgment**.

THE TRIBULATION IS ISRAEL'S TRAVAIL

The Russian invasion and the conversion of Israel occur at the same time. Ezekiel clearly states:

*“So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God **FROM THAT DAY AND FORWARD**” (Ezek. 39:22).*

If we identify the time of the conversion of Israel then we identify the time of the Russian invasion.

The Olivet Discourse indicates that Israel's conversion must be in the **first half** of the Tribulation. Jesus described the first half of the Tribulation in Matthew chapter 24 verses 7 to 14; the mid-point when the abomination of desolation occurs in verse 15, and the second half from verses 16 to 28.

Jesus called the **first half** “*the beginning of sorrows (travail)*”. It is the time of Israel's **travail** when the nation is born again. Isaiah spoke of this day:

“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD” (Isa. 66:7-9).

Before Israel travailed she brought forth Christ but **as soon as** Israel travailed in the Tribulation her children are “born again” of the Spirit of God. Jeremiah called the Tribulation “*the time of Jacob's (Israel's) trouble*”(Jer.30:7). The *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* says the word “*trouble*” describes “*the emotional distress of a woman in travail*”. Jeremiah clearly expressed this thought for he said,

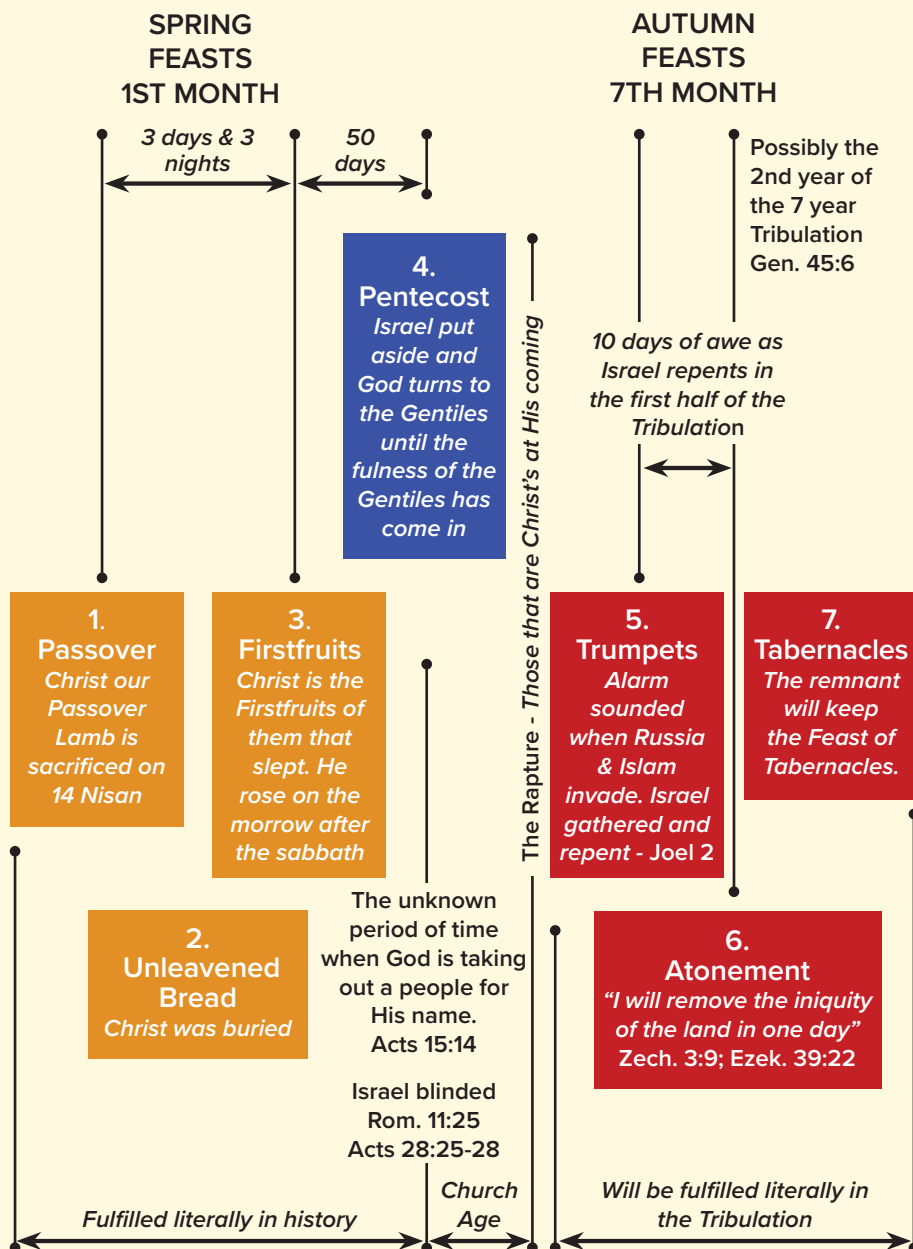
“Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?” (Jer. 30:6).

Jesus said the **first half** of the Tribulation was the time of Jacob's travail and Isaiah said, “*as soon as Zion travailed she brought forth.*”

THE JEWISH CALENDAR

The Jewish year had a fixed number of feasts that were observed exactly as prescribed by God. Three times in the year every mature male was required to appear before the Lord at the Temple. The three occasions were:

Prophecy in The Feasts of The Lord



1) **The Feast of Passover** with the associated **Feasts of the Firstfruits and of Unleavened Bread**. Passover was held on the 14th day of the first month of the Jewish year. The Lord Jesus Christ died at the same instant as the lambs were being sacrificed in the Temple between 3pm and sundown on the 14th day of the month Nisan (Abib) and the Bible speaks of Christ as “*our passover*” who was sacrificed for us (1 Cor. 5:7).

Jesus rose on the first day of the week which was the **Feast of Firstfruits** when a sheaf of the first ripe grain was waved before the Lord in the Temple. This occurred on the “*morrow after the sabbath*” (Lev. 23:11), i.e. the first day of the week, following the Passover. Jesus is “*the firstfruits of them that slept (died)*” (1 Cor. 15:20) and after He rose the Old Testament saints also rose (Matt. 27:52-53).

2) **The Feast of Pentecost** was also held on “*the morrow after the sabbath*” (Lev. 23:16) which was seven sabbaths after the Feast of Firstfruits. It celebrated the gathering of the grain harvest or winter crop. The Church was formed on the Day of Pentecost on the first day of the week i.e. Sunday, and Gentile languages were used for the first time to glorify God indicating that God was turning to a Gentile Church. The sabbath was for Israel; the Lord’s Day for the Church.

3) The seventh month began with **the Feast of Trumpets** on the first of the month and there were 10 days of “awe” in which Jews examine their hearts in preparation for the **Day of Atonement** when the High Priest made atonement for Israel on the 10th day. Five days later the Feast of Tabernacles began and lasted 7 days.

The trumpets were used to sound an alarm and to call an assembly (Joel 2:1,15) and when Russia invades, Joel indicates the trumpets will sound. Perhaps this will be at a Feast of Trumpets and on the following Day of Atonement, Israel will be forgiven.

The prophets have said that Israel will turn to the Lord **in the Last Days**; Ezekiel and Joel have made it clear that Israel’s conversion takes place when a “*northern army*” invades the land.

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES

The prophecy of Ezekiel chapter 37 indicates there are three stages in Israel’s restoration.

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- 1) Ezekiel was shown a valley of dry bones and he was told to prophesy to the dry and scattered bones. When he prophesied there was a great shaking that **brought the bones together**. In 1897 for the first time world Jewish leaders, concerned about the persecution of Jews, highlighted by the Dreyfus Affair in France, came together in the First Zionist Congress at Basle, Switzerland, in order to plan a national home for Jews.
 - 2) When Ezekiel prophesied to the skeletons, flesh and sinews came on the bones and they became dead bodies, carcasses, without life. In 1948 the Jews began to return and a nation was established on 14th May of that year but there was **no spiritual life**.
 - 3) When Ezekiel prophesied to the carcasses, *“breath came into them and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army”* (Ezek. 37:10). The day will come when the Spirit of God will come into the Jews and they will receive life from God under a New Covenant. That will occur in the Tribulation at the time of the Russian invasion. *“Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward”* (Ezek.39:22).

THE TYPOLOGY OF JOSEPH

Can we be more specific as to when in the first half of the 7 years the conversion of Israel will take place?

The typology of Joseph would suggest that Israel's conversion will occur in the second year of the Tribulation. We can't be dogmatic but it is a possibility. Joseph is a “type” of the Lord Jesus; sold by his brethren for 20 pieces of silver; raised from the dungeon to the throne to take a Gentile Bride during the years of plenty. The seven years of dearth speak of the seven years of Tribulation.

Joseph was reunited with his brethren, the children of Israel **two years after the dearth began**. He said,

“For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest” (Gen. 45:6)

It may be **the second year** of the Tribulation that the children of Israel will be restored to the greater Joseph, the Lord Jesus.

THE CONVERSION OF MUSLIMS

Many from Islamic countries will turn to the Lord during the Tribulation. They will see the destruction of their army as judgment from God and that

God is fighting for Israel. The God of Israel and not Allah is the true and Living God.

This is not the case in the second half of the Tribulation when the world has chosen God or Satan; Christ or Antichrist. As God's judgments fall on those who follow the Beast we read:

"And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds" (Rev. 16:10-11).

The first earthquake and the destruction of Israel's enemies bring a different response. Men hide in the caves and cry

"to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:16-17).

During the first half of the Tribulation the Gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed *"in all the world for a witness unto all nations"* (Matt. 24:14) by 144,000 Jewish preachers who are sealed by God at the beginning of the Tribulation for protection (Rev. 7:3). These will suffer martyrdom by the mid-point of the Tribulation and are seen around the throne in heaven at that time. They are the *"firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb"* from Israel (Rev. 14:1-5).

Many in Egypt will turn to Jesus Christ through the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom by the 144,000:

"In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt... the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day" (Isa. 19:19-21).

Many from Assyria and Arabia will be saved during this time for in the kingdom age these will offer to the LORD and a highway will be built from Assyria through Israel to Egypt so they can attend the feasts of the LORD (Isa. 11:16; 19:25).

"The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts" (Psalm 72:10).

Since only the saved who survive the Tribulation will be in the millennial kingdom, these must turn to the LORD in the Tribulation.

Chapter 8 - Magog and the Isles to Burn

The event that will trigger the outpouring of the wrath of God on the invading forces from Russia and her Islamic Allies will be the conversion of Israel. Only when Israel's leaders *"weep between the porch and the altar"* and acknowledge Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, will God intervene on their behalf. When the nation faces extermination and the northern armies *"come like a storm ...like a cloud to cover the land"* (Ezek. 38:9) and two thirds of the population will have perished (Zech. 13:8-9); then will Israel's priests cry,

"Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people" (Joel 2:17-18).

The cry of Israel will be heard at the throne of heaven and God's fury will be revealed, not only on the armies that are filling the land, but also on the land of Russia. God has said to Gog:

"Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD. And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly (confidently) in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD" (Ezek. 39:5-6).

The *"land of Magog"* is the territory from which Gog, the Russian leader comes so when God sends a fire on Magog it is quite clear that He will be sending a fire on the land of Russia after the *"northern army"* has been decimated on the mountains of Israel. This explains why the one-sixth of the army that is turned back will go to the barren wastes of Siberia east of the Ural mountains.

In the book of Revelation chapter 8 we read of seven trumpet judgments that will devastate the earth in the first half of the Tribulation. The fire that falls on the land of Magog and upon the Isles may well be the first trumpet judgment:

"The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up" (Rev. 8:7).

The Book of the Revelation gives no specific location for this vast fire but simply states that **one third of all trees and grass will be burned**. These fires do not have to be on one continent; Ezekiel states it is in the land of Magog and the Isles; the **total area** affected will involve one third of earth's vegetation.

THEM THAT DWELL CARELESSLY IN THE ISLES

Who then does the Bible refer to as, “*them that dwell carelessly in the isles*”? The Hebrew word translated “*carelessly*” means “*confidently*” so we must look for some nation that has considerable military might located in the isles; not on the mainland continents of Europe, Africa and Asia. “*The isles*” were given to the sons of Javan for we read:

“And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim. By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations” (Gen. 10:4-5).

The descendants of Javan settled in Greece which was spelt Iavan on ancient maps. Tarshish was one of his sons and can be identified as Britain which was known as “the tin isles”. The evidence for this is in our book, *Britain and the United States in Bible Prophecy*.

The “*merchants of Tarshish with all the young lions thereof*” together with “*Sheba and Dedan*”(Arabia)” (Ezek. 38:13) will challenge the northern invasion of Israel so Britain and America will be involved.

The fire will fall, not only on Magog (Russia) but on the Isles that are said to dwell “carelessly” or “confidently”. There is no doubt that the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions (Britain and USA) dwell “confidently”. The US navy rules the oceans of the world and US technology together with Israeli technology is second to none in the development of weapons. No nation can compete with America in space exploration. Economically the US is the most powerful and she spends more on defence than China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, India, France, Great Britain, Japan and Germany put together. She is self sufficient in oil and gas and in 2018 will soon pass Russia as the largest oil producer. Under President Trump the nation has surged to new heights. No other nation on the face of the earth could be described as “*dwelling confidently in the isles*” more than the US.

The fact that the Isles will burn (Ezek. 39:6) may indicate a nuclear shootout between Russia and America. However there could be another reason for the burning of Russia. Just as the destruction of the invading armies will be destroyed by Divine intervention so there could be a fire brought upon the land of Magog by natural means at the Divine command.

METHANE GAS IN THE BLACK SEA

The Black Sea is a natural inland water basin situated between Europe and Asia. Six countries share the Black Sea coast: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine. It has a total area of 441,000 square kilometres including the shallow Azov Sea, and has a maximum depth of 2,212 metres.

The Black Sea is connected to the Mediterranean only through the narrow Bosphorus Straits, a 35-km natural channel, as little as 40 metres deep and 700 metres wide in places. The waters of the Black Sea are virtually dead below a depth of about 180 metres and this boundary is being pushed up. About 87 % of its volume is practically devoid of marine life.

The Encyclopedia of Environmental Science states that the Black sea is so toxic that by the year 2050 it will be a lifeless sea. Since 1972 various conferences have been held and conventions signed to control waste disposal into the Black Sea but the toxic character of the Black Sea may be caused more by the release of methane gas into the water from volcanoes rather than industrial waste.

Russia and Iran have large resources of natural gas and Russia is using oil and gas as an economic weapon against the West however it may ultimately be her ruin. A book by a former Dean of Engineering and former Pro-Chancellor of Melbourne's Monash University, Professor Lance Endersbee AO draws attention to serious problems with natural gas supplies in the Black Sea area in his book entitled, *A Voyage of Discovery*, published in 2002.

Chapter 20 of Endersbee's book describes the geology of the Black Sea. The region is one of the most active volcanic areas in the world with a fault line running from the Caspian Sea through Azerbaijan and Turkey parallel to the Black Sea coast to Bulgaria on the west coast of the Black Sea. Endersbee states that there are about 100 mud volcanos along the shores of the Black Sea and also sea vents gushing natural gas from the floor of the Black Sea.

Natural gas is largely methane gas which is held in solution in underground aquifers. When oil wells are drilled they find water and oil together. The oil, being lighter than water floats on the top and is forced to the surface by the pressure of the water.

Methane gas is soluble in water and is held in the water under pressure. When

the pressure is reduced the methane expands and is released from the water as a gas in a greatly increased volume. Methane gas is burned off or is captured and processed to remove undesirable sulphur.

Because of stratification of the layers of water in the Black Sea, the methane is prevented from reaching the surface and thus expanding as gas into the atmosphere. However the Black Sea is presently releasing some methane gas to the atmosphere at an estimated annual rate of 10,000 cu.m per sq.km and the EU has set up an organisation called CRIMEA, to research the methane problem in the Black Sea.

The volume of water saturated with methane is estimated at 300,000 cubic km. Should this be disturbed by an earthquake or by volcanic activity on the floor of the Black Sea then enormous volumes of methane gas would be instantly released into the atmosphere and the slightest spark or lightning strike would scorch the region especially if a southerly wind was blowing.

The earthquake that occurs when the invading armies are destroyed will disturb the oceans because Ezekiel says:

*“Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; So that **the fishes of the sea** ...shall shake at my presence” (Ezek. 38:19-20).*

If the waters of the Black Sea are disturbed it will bring the methane gas in solution to the surface and it will expand as a gas into the atmosphere. The Black Sea is a giant methane tank waiting to catch fire!

Magog will burn after the northern army has been decimated on the mountains of Israel and this is why the one-sixth of the army that escapes will go to the wastes of Siberia instead of the steppes of western Russia.

Chapter 9 - When Will Russia Invade?

It is important to understand God's timing for the invasion of Israel. If Russia invades before the Rapture then all of surviving Israel would be saved and since it is the Church age, all Israel would become a part of the Church and be raptured. This means there would not be any Jews on earth for the Tribulation; there could not be 144,000 Jews to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and no Jews here on earth to welcome Christ at His second Advent! The whole idea of a Russian invasion before the Rapture is absurd!

Furthermore, if the Russian invasion is to happen before the Rapture then the doctrine of imminence is destroyed. Otherwise the Church should not be watching and waiting for the anytime Rapture but for the Russians to invade Israel.

THE RUSSIAN INVASION IS AFTER ISRAEL RETURNS IN UNBELIEF

The Russian invasion will occur after Israel has returned to the land **in unbelief** in fulfilment of Ezekiel 36:24. God said:

*"Therefore say unto the house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; **I DO NOT THIS FOR YOUR SAKES**, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned ... For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. **THEN will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean...** A new heart also will I give you" (Ezek. 36:22,24-25).*

Israel's cleansing takes place when Russia invades the land so Israel must be back in the land **as an unbelieving nation** when Russia invades. Israel's return in unbelief happened in 1948 and indicates to us that the "*day is approaching*".

Ezekiel tells us Russia will invade:

- "*In the latter years*" (Ezek. 38:8, 16). Twice we are told that Gog's army would cover the land in **the latter years**.
- We have already seen that the invasion must follow a **partial return of Israel in unbelief** but the return must be partial because there will be many more Jews to return to the land when Christ comes at the end of the Tribulation. That second return will be a **complete return** of every surviving Jew as Ezekiel foretold:

“Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God ...but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there” (Ezek. 39:28).

The conversion of Israel that occurs **when Russia invades will involve every surviving Jew** on the face of the earth. Paul wrote, *“And so ALL Israel shall be saved”* (Rom. 11:26). Jeremiah wrote:

“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel ...they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD” (Jer. 31:33-34).

- The invasion will occur at a time when Israel is dwelling in *“unwalled villages... at rest...safely”* (Ezek. 38:8,11,14). Israel can provide security for her citizens and responds to every act of violence by her enemies.
- The invasion will occur after the land of **Israel has been restored** and *“the desolate places that are now inhabited”* (Ezek. 38:12) and Israel has *“cattle and goods”*. In 2018 five desalination plants provide water for farms in the Negev desert and cities are being built there.
- The invasion by Russia will occur when the land is *“brought back from the sword”*. Jews returned to escape the sword. The holocaust was a great sword from which Jews fled!
- The invasion will occur when Russia is providing protection for Iran, Turkey, Libya and Sudan.

“Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them” (Ezek. 38:7).

In 2015 Russia entered the war in Syria to assist President Assad in his fight against rebels. In 2011 Russia completed construction of a nuclear power plant at Bushehr on the Persian Gulf. Since then Russia has signed to build more nuclear plants and has sold Russia's missile defence system to Iran. Russia is arming Shiite military units in Iraq and Syria. Russia is building a nuclear power plant on the south coast of Turkey and in 2018 Turkey purchased Russia's S-400 missile defence system. Russia is *“a guard unto them”*. **The Rapture comes before Russia invades!**

Chapter 10 - Why Will Russia Invade?

In recent years Israel has discovered extensive oil and gas resources within her borders which she is developing. Pipelines are planned from Israel's Leviathan gasfield located off the coast, to Europe through Cyprus and Greece in addition to a southern pipeline to supply Egypt.

It is claimed that the Golan Heights region contains enormous oil reserves in addition to the vast gas resources being tapped. These gas reserves are so large they could provide Europe with an alternative energy supply and thus reduce its dependence on Russian and Arab oil and gas supplies that could be used for industrial and political blackmail.

For envious Muslim eyes the spoils to be had in Israel make an invasion a worthwhile exercise. Russia would see Israel's resources as a threat to her supply lines into Europe so to acquire these resources by conquest would eliminate a serious competitor and increase her political clout in the region. Thus the prophet stated:

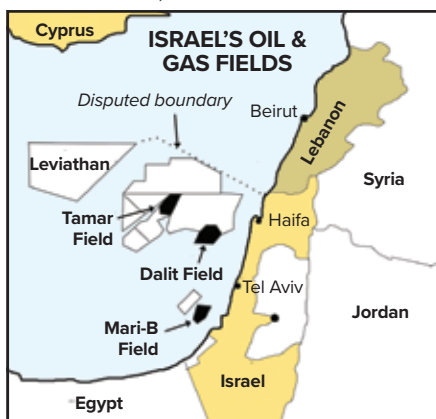
"And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages... to take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land" (Ezek. 38:11-12).

THE REAL REASON

Gog, as the leader of Russia and head of the Islamic alliance, may have his reasons for invading Israel but God's reasons are clear; the conversion of Israel and the judgment of the nations.

Immediately after the Rapture two witnesses will be saved as soon as they hear of the Rapture and they will prophesy at Jerusalem for 1,260 days before the Beast (Antichrist) is able to overcome them at the mid-point of the 7-year Tribulation.

At the same time, or very soon after, 144,000 Jewish men (about 1% of Jews in the world) will acknowledge



Jesus Christ as Messiah and Saviour. These will preach the Gospel of the kingdom “*in all the world for a witness unto all nations*” (Matt. 24:14) and will be persecuted first, by their own countrymen (Matt.10:17) before the Russian invasion. Most of the nation will still be unsaved when Russia invades and brings Israel to cry out to the Lord. God will put **hooks in Gog’s jaws** and drag him into the land of Israel.

The Lord spoke through Jeremiah of Israel’s conversion:

“For I am with thee, saith the LORD... but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished” (Jer. 30:11).

The real reason for the Russian/Islamic invasion is to humble the Jews and bring them to acknowledge Jesus Christ. God says to Gog:

“I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army...” (Ezek. 38:4).

Like a hooked fish so Gog will be dragged into the land to fulfil the purposes of God. God may use the attraction of Israel’s oil and gas resources **as the bait on the hook** but God’s purpose is to bring His people Israel to Himself. Ezekiel states:

“So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward” (Ezek. 39:22-23).

When the stragglers from Gog’s army finally reach the frozen wastes of Siberia they will have time to reflect on the message they heard from the 144,000 Jewish preachers who no doubt will be well versed in Bible prophecy and some of them will be preaching in Siberia, explaining to those poor people how they can trust in Christ and be ready for the day when He comes in glory and power to reign from Jerusalem as King of kings over the whole earth!

If they turn to the Lord, they might even thank the Lord they had a part in bringing Israel to repentance. They will thank God, that in His grace and mercy, He spared them to enter Christ’s kingdom and be one of His sheep when the Lord returns.

Chapter 11 - Disposing of Dead & Debris

We are not told how many Russian and Islamic soldiers will come into the land of Israel. All we know is that it will be a vast company “*like a cloud to cover the land*”, and we may assume that they will not be stopped at the border of Israel. Zechariah tells us that two thirds of the land will perish and therefore much of the land must be occupied.

Turkey boasts the largest army in the Middle East. In 2015 the US estimated that Turkey had 639,551 members in her defence forces. In 2012 Iran was said to have 545,000 military personnel with 650,000 reserves. Claims were made in 2018 that Iran already has 70,000 troops in Syria and her defacto army in Lebanon, the Hezbollah, numbered 25,000 full-time and 30,000 reservists. Add to these numbers the armies of Russia, Libya and Northern Sudan and it becomes clear that Israel could be flooded by a vast invasion force even if only 10 percent of these forces entered the land.

In the days of King Hezekiah (711BC) the land was invaded by the Assyrians, who had already disposed of the Northern Kingdom of Samaria in 721BC. The Assyrians returned about ten years later and thousands were taken captive or killed. Only Jerusalem remained but when Hezekiah humbled himself before God, Isaiah prayed and the Lord gave him a message for Hezekiah.

“Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it.” (Isa. 37:33-35).

Then the angel of the LORD smote the camp of the Assyrians and 185,000 corpses lay on the ground. Hezekiah was left with a major clean-up operation. If each Assyrian soldier weighed 100kg Hezekiah had to bury nearly 20,000 tonnes of corpses.

Just as God slew the Assyrians He will destroy the invaders on the mountains of Israel. Only one-sixth will escape (Ezek. 39:2).

At first, the invasion from the north will have great success and seem to have almost accomplished its objective of totally annihilating the Jews. Just as Sennacherib had swept through the land and only Jerusalem held out, so the

invaders will cover the “*mountains of Israel*” (Ezek. 38:8) beginning at Mount Hermon in the north and reaching unto Hebron south of Jerusalem.

When Isaiah prophesied of the Assyrian invasion he likened it to a flood covering the land:

“And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel” (Isa. 8:8).

When a cry goes up to God from Israel in the Tribulation, the LORD will go forth and fight on their behalf. Zechariah wrote:

“In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them” (Zech. 12:8).

In the latter-day conflict Israel will again be left with a massive clean up and it will take **seven months** to bury the dead. A valley will be chosen on the east of the Dead Sea; the valley of Hamongog (lit. *Gog’s multitude*), and a township will be set up to house those required to carry out the task. It will be named Hamonah (the feminine form of Hamongog) (Ezek. 39:15-16).

The burial of bodies will not only be those of the invaders but must necessarily involve those of the Jews who perished. Normally Jews are buried the same day that they die but the numbers, if two thirds perish, will exceed four million! No doubt their own dead will receive preferential treatment. The magnitude of this conflict is hard to comprehend.

DISPOSING OF THE DEBRIS

“And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years” (Ezek. 39:9-10).

It is hard to imagine the amount of military equipment, supplies, ammunition, vehicles, weapons etc that will litter the land of Israel when God destroys the invading armies. In WWII the battle of the Bulge, when Hitler made his final attempt to turn the Allied forces back in Europe, involved one million men and in a matter of three weeks 80,000 Allied forces died and up to 104,000 Germans died.

When Rommel's North Africa Corp surrendered to Field Marshall Montgomery in Tunisia, the British took about 250,000 German prisoners with all their equipment. The amount of hardware, food and supplies required to service such a force is enormous.

The Arabs have already made several attempts to wipe Israel off the map and the most successful attempt was the Yom Kippur War in 1973. President Saddat of Egypt said that he was prepared to sacrifice a million men to recover the land. Egypt sent 200,000 troops across the Suez Canal and lost about 15,000 killed, while many more were wounded.

The great earthquake and "*great hailstones, fire and brimstone*" that will fall upon the Russian/Islamic army will leave vast amounts of abandoned equipment. There will be no time to retrieve any of the bogged and disabled vehicles, weapons and supplies. The land of Israel will be covered with debris; it will take seven years to burn and will be a spectacular sight. The Psalmist issued an invitation for people to view the debris that will litter the earth at the beginning of the millennial kingdom:

"Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth" (Ps. 46:8).

Some have asked whether the seven years needed to burn the debris might indicate that the Russian/Islamic invasion must occur in the first year of the 7-year Tribulation. Not necessarily. The invasion must certainly occur in the first half of the Tribulation for all Israel to be redeemed at the mid-point of the Tribulation. Then 7 months spent burying the dead must follow before the mid-point of the 7 years after which activities will be restricted by persecution from Antichrist. The burning of debris could continue into the millennial kingdom after Christ returns.

When the remnants of the northern army retire from Israel there will be no possibility of regrouping; they will be so devastated. Also, there will be such animosity between each participating country that there will be no chance of co-operation. The failure of the invasion will occur, not only because of the great earthquake, the hailstones, fire and brimstone and pestilence, but also because God will set "*every man's sword shall be against his brother*" (Ezek. 38:21). **Islam will have been broken for ever.**

Chapter 12 - Tarshish and Sheba Protest

“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?” (Ezek. 38:13).

When Gog invades the land of Israel there will be a challenge from “*Sheba and Dedan*” and the “*merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof*”. Sheba and Dedan is Arabia and the merchants of Tarshish describes Britain and the nations that arose out of her colonial days. America undoubtedly is the major merchant nation of the Last Days and her close association with the Arabian oil-producing countries fits the prophecy perfectly. All oil transactions are in US dollars!

To challenge such a vast array of military might that will “*ascend and come like a storm ... like a cloud to cover the land*” (Ezek. 38:9) with “*all sorts of armour*” (Ezek. 38:4), would suggest that the challengers have a substantial military capability and if Britain, USA and the Commonwealth countries are the Merchants of Tarshish, we would expect some evidence that they wield significant military power in the last days. This is precisely what we find.

The 20th century saw the two greatest wars ever known in the history of mankind and both wars were won by Britain and America together with the colonial nations that came from Britain. A better description could not be given to these nations than “*the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof*”. In WWI Britain called on all her “*young lions*” to join in the defence of the mother country and on the killing fields of France, Palestine, and in the Dardanelles much blood was shed before the aggressors were subdued. The entry of the United States in both wars tipped the scales in favour of the allies and the Axis powers surrendered.

In WWII the theatre of war reached into the Pacific bringing the total estimated number of deaths for the two wars to approx. 60 million but finally the “*merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof*”; Britain, America and their allies, subdued the Italian Fascists, German Nazis and Japanese Imperialists. The invasion of France on D-Day, 6 June 1944 well illustrates the capability of Tarshish and her young lions when they assembled one of the greatest air, sea and land forces ever seen. One report reads:

“On the morning of June 5, 1944, U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme commander of Allied forces in Europe gave the go-ahead for Operation Overlord, the largest amphibious military operation in history. On his orders, 6,000 landing craft, ships and other vessels carrying 176,000 troops began to leave England for the trip to France. That night, 822 aircraft filled with parachutists headed for drop zones in Normandy. An additional 13,000 aircraft were mobilised to provide air cover and support for the invasion.

By dawn on June 6, 18,000 parachutists were already on the ground; the land invasions began at 6:30 a.m. The British and Canadians overcame light opposition to capture Gold, Juno and Sword beaches; so did the Americans at Utah. The task was much tougher at Omaha beach where 2,000 troops were lost and it was only through the tenacity and quick-wittedness of troops on the ground that the objective was achieved. By day’s end, 155,000 Allied troops—Americans, British and Canadians—had successfully stormed Normandy’s beaches... By the end of June, the Allies had 850,000 men and 150,000 vehicles in Normandy and were poised to continue their march across Europe.”

Saudi Arabia may be the headquarters of Islam yet she has a military alliance with the US because she is afraid of Iran.

Large oil and gas resources have been discovered in the Persian Gulf but in 2018 Russia was the largest oil producer with Saudi Arabia running second. Since President Trump won the US election, America has exceeded Saudi Arabia and looks like passing Russia as the largest oil producer. For a full discussion on the last-days role of “*Tarshish and the young lions thereof*” **the reader should obtain a free copy of the Herald of Hope book entitled, *Britain and USA in Prophecy*.**

It is not surprising therefore that America and Arabia will join in protesting the Russian invasion of Israel. Israel receives billions of dollars of military aid from America and in May 2018 the US Embassy relocated to Jerusalem. With such strong ties between the US and Israel one wonders why there isn’t a more substantial military response to the Russian invasion. Why only a protest? There may be several reasons.

1) Firstly, there might not be enough time. Israel is a small land area and it would not take long, perhaps days for the invasion to “*cover the land*”.

In previous wars Israel has fought her own defence and America has supported her with military equipment as she had need.

- 2) Secondly, if Russia invades on the Feast of Trumpets which occurs on the **first day** of the seventh month, and if Israel repents on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) as Joel indicates, then God will deal with the invaders before America will have time to respond! There are **only 10 days between these events**; just enough time for the armies to cover the land.

God's response will be swift once Israel turns to Jesus Christ. A great earthquake, torrential rain, great hailstones, and disease will stop these atheists and Islamists in their tracks. The 500,000 missiles that Iran has promised will explode on their own armies for God says to Gog:

"I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand" (Ezek. 39:3).

The torrential rains and hail will effect the radar guidance systems or immobilise the missile launchers but if the missiles fall close by as this scripture suggests, they will self destruct.

- 3) Thirdly, there could be a shoot out between Russia and America that could restrict America's ability to respond. We read that at this time

"And I will send a fire on Magog (Russia), and among them that dwell carelessly (confidently) in the isles (Britain and America): and they shall know that I am the LORD" (Ezek. 39 :6).

Those that dwell "*in the Isles*" are the sons of Javan in Gen. 10:5 and "*the Isles*" are everywhere other than the three continents of Europe, Asia and Africa. The "*ships of Tarshish*" however will be the "*first*" to bring believing Jews back to the land after Christ returns (Isa. 60:9).

Chapter 13 - Why Doesn't Europe Protest?

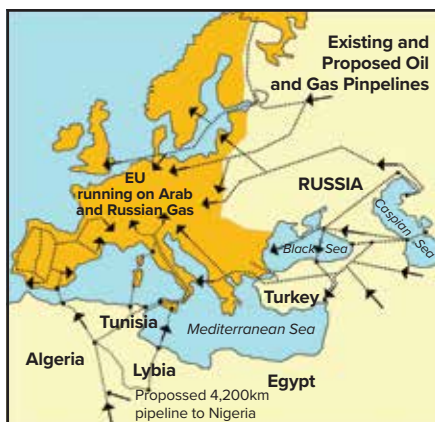
The Tribulation begins with two simultaneous events; the Rapture of the Church and the signing of a seven-year covenant with a Roman prince from the revived Roman Empire in Europe.

According to Daniel chapter 11:40-43 there will be an Arab attack on Israel led by *"the King of the South"*: Egypt. Then Antichrist as the *"King of the North"*, assists Israel in subduing Egypt as described in Isaiah chapter 19. But then we read that *"tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him"* (Dan. 11:44).

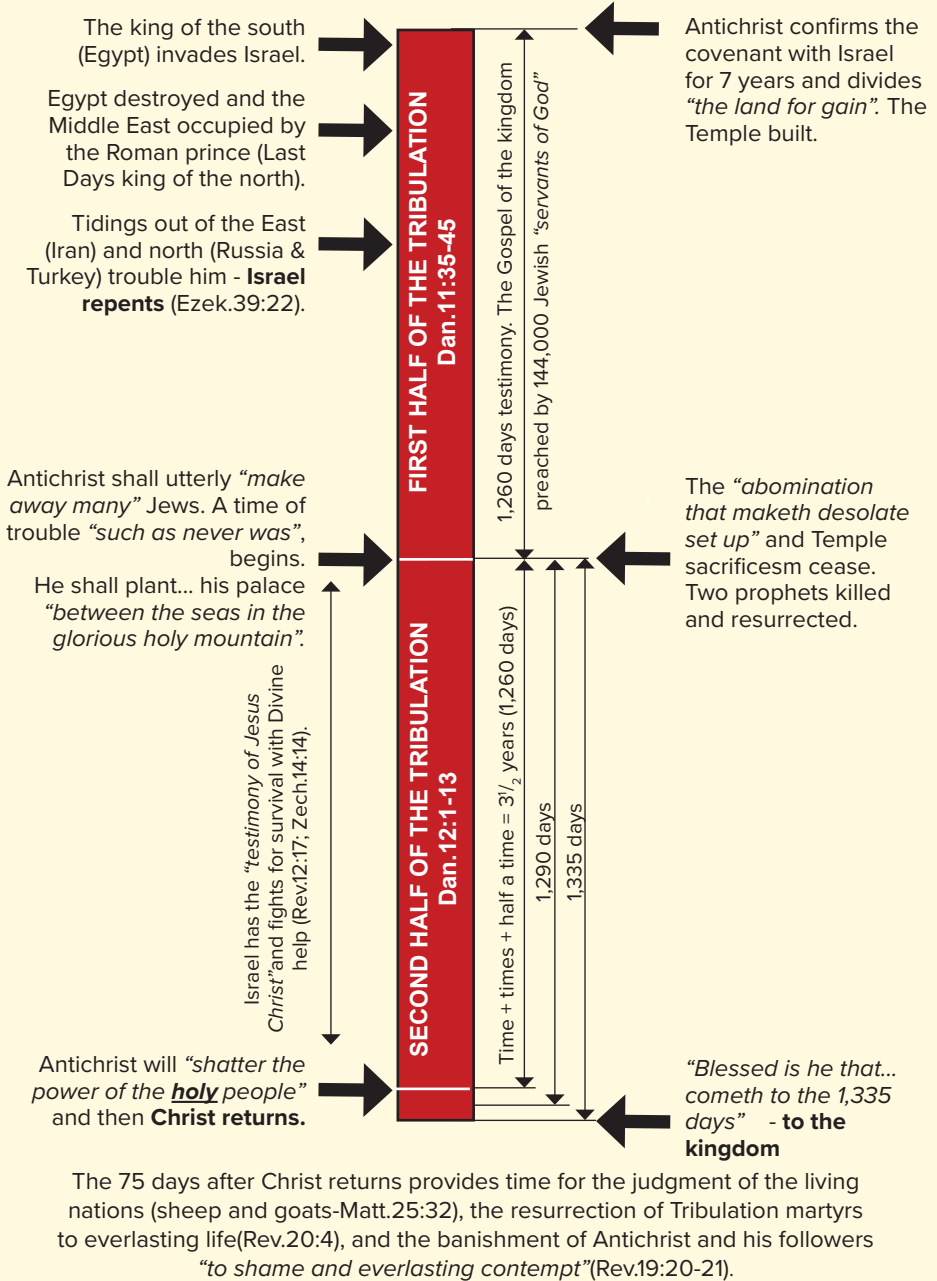
The larger and more powerful Islamic nations led by Russia will mobilise and Antichrist, as the leader of Europe is greatly troubled. He was prepared to support Israel against Egypt but Russia, Iran and Turkey provide a much greater challenge.

Furthermore, Russia supplies Europe with much of her energy and if oil and gas pipelines from Russia cease to flow into Europe, the wheels of industry would stop. All that Russia will need to do is tell Europe to keep out of the Middle East or the oil and gas flow will stop. Antichrist will have no option but to sit on the sidelines as Russia leads the Muslim armies into Israel!

This explains why Antichrist does not move into the land of Israel **until the mid-point** of the seven years. At that time he is demon-possessed after the



Daniel 11:36 to 12:13



bottomless pit is opened (Rev. 9:1-12; 11:7; 17:8) and Satan is cast down from his place in heaven at the same time (Rev. 12:12).

At the end of the first 1,260 days of the Tribulation the world will be in turmoil. Islamic terrorism will have slain one quarter of the world population and taken “*peace from the earth*” (Rev. 6:8); the Russian and Islamic armies will be smashed (Rev. 6:12-17); the land of Magog (Russia) and the Isles (USA/UK) will be burned (Rev. 8:7); a **global** earthquake will have devastated cities (Rev. 6:12); an Asian war involving 200 million will have killed one third of mankind (Rev. 9:18).

Such calamities in the first half of the Tribulation must result in a breakdown of governmental controls and the rule of law. Only Europe will have escaped the worst of these calamities and Antichrist will be able to offer a solution: Accept his global authority, receive his mark 666 in the right hand or forehead or die by his sword or by starvation!

The mark of the Beast may be used as the means of rationing food for unless men wear the mark, they will not be able to buy or sell (Rev. 13:17). Those who receive the mark will seal their doom eternally in the lake of fire and brimstone (Rev. 14:9-12).

The chaos of the first half of the Tribulation will provide Antichrist with the opportunity to offer himself as the Saviour of the world halfway through the seven years of Tribulation!

Chapter 14 - Are You Ready for the Rapture?

Time is running out for a major blow up in the Middle East and it seems nothing can prevent it. In 1979 Persia fell to radical Shiite Islamists when the Shah of Persia was deposed. Immediately, Saddam Hussein saw Iran as a major threat to his Sunni minority Government in Iraq and in 1980 an 8-year war began with the loss of one million lives. In 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait and in 2003 the US invaded Iraq to depose Saddam Hussein.

In 2011 the uprising against President Assad began in Syria and this drew Iran and Turkey into the conflict. President Obama withdrew US forces from Iraq that same year leaving the way open for the new Shiite Government in Iraq to be reinforced by Iranian troops and militias.

Having gained access to Iraq, Iran began sending troops to assist the Shiite Government regime in Syria and supplying Iran's defacto army, Hezbollah, in Lebanon. Israel has continually attacked Iranian forces in Syria.

In 2015 Russia came to the assistance of the Syrian Government and in 2016 the Turkish military entered the war in Syria. In 2018 Russia has large military assets in Syria including a naval base at Tartus and air bases at Latakia and elsewhere.

The Iraqi and Syrian wars have brought the Nations prophesied by Ezekiel right up to Israel's border and US forces have been removed as Russia has taken their place. Discussions on solving the Syrian problem have been attended by Russia, Turkey and Iran without any invitation to the United States!

Israel is greatly concerned and Prime Minister Netanyahu has been to Moscow for urgent talks with President Putin. Israel has negotiated a buffer space on her northern border into which she will not permit the presence of any Iranian troops. Meanwhile Iran is threatening to invade Israel and promises to destroy her within 25 years. The invasion of Israel could happen any time but the Rapture must happen first!

We have already shown that the Rapture of the Christians must occur before the Russian invasion and could be even two years before. The sign of globally "missing persons" when *"two shall be in the bed, one shall be taken and the other left"*, was given to Israel to warn them of the Great Tribulation.

Paul told the Christians:

"Yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord (Tribulation) so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thess. 5:2-3).

But he assured them

"God hath not appointed us to wrath (of the Day of the Lord), but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:9).

The Rapture could happen at any time and we need to be ready or we will be left behind for the horrors of the Great Tribulation.

There is only one way to be ready for the Rapture and it is by admitting we are sinners in the sight of a holy God. Then by faith, look to Jesus Christ who shed His precious blood on the cross to atone for our sin.

The church cannot save you; good deeds will never gain you acceptance with God. The Bible says:

"By grace (undeserved favour) are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works" (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Only Christ can break the power of sin in your life and set you free to serve Him. He will make you a "new creature in Christ", old things will pass away and all things will become new (2 Cor. 5:17) if you will humble yourself before God and call on the Lord to save you. God wants you to be saved; if you go to eternal hell it will be your choice and if you miss the Rapture it will be your choice also.

Eternal life is a free gift. Why not pray now and receive it?

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Notes:

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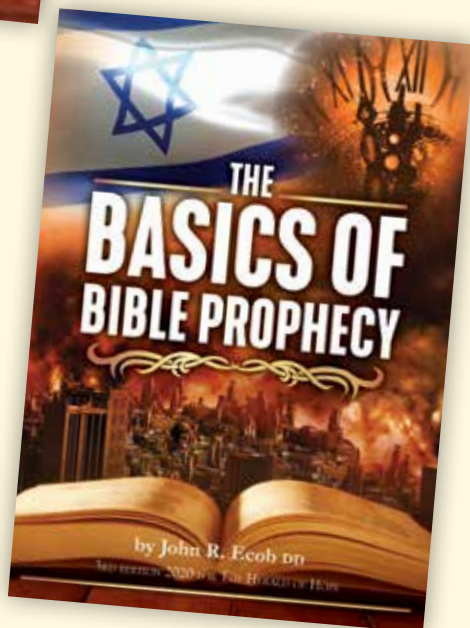
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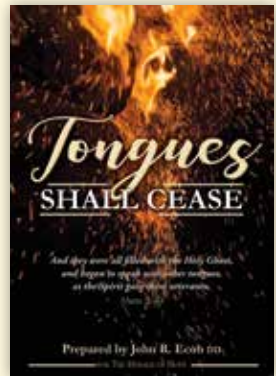
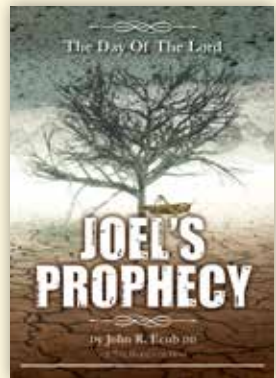
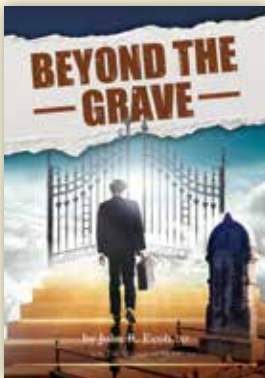
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