

## 14. God's protection and wrath – Part 2

April 2, 2014

The national attention has been diverted from the crisis of Ukraine, Crimea, and Russia to another tragic shooting at Fort Hood. While the people in America are glued to their TVs for what is happening within the nation, the Russian force is quietly building their attack force along the borders of Ukraine. The Russian president Vladimir Putin knows how far he can push in the international chess game.

"Russia has all the forces it needs on the border to invade Ukraine within the next three to five days," NATO's top military commander has warned. The Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and the US Air Force General Philip Breedlove described the situation at the border as "incredibly concerning".

The Russian force has aircraft and helicopter support as well as field hospitals and electronic warfare capabilities – "the entire suite that would be required to successfully have an invasion into Ukraine should the decision be made," General Breedlove warned.

This is my speculation, not a prophecy. I wouldn't be one bit surprised if Putin gives a go to his military to invade Ukraine very shortly. So far he flexed his military muscles and no one around the world matched it. America and its allies in Western Europe are not about to start a war against Russia for the sake of Ukraine which does not provide any interest for either one of them. If Russia takes Ukraine, it is not something they are going to lose sleep over it. It used to belong to the Soviet Union anyway.

So, is Vladimir Putin the biblical leader, Gog? Only time will tell. But consider these few facts so far:

### 1) Putin is emboldened.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, Russia and other countries against the world democracy have been kept in-check by the United States. Putin knows that he no longer feels "in check." In fact, he is playing his own game of chess and doing his best to put the United States in "check."

### 2) At the end of February, 2014, Russia signed an arms agreement with Egypt, Israel's southern most neighbor.

Egypt now gets its military arms from Russia and not the United States after Egypt was able to purchase 20 advanced F-16 fighter jets, thanks to Obama.

### 3) The world watched as president Obama, back-paddled from his red-line in Syria over the use of chemical weapons.

Putin knows that Obama does not have a gut to tell other countries to stand down.

### 4) The world watched as a U.S. ambassador and his team was slaughtered in Libya. To this day the U.S. government has done absolutely nothing by way of response.

The killers literally got away with murders. This, too, has been noted by Putin.

### 5) The world has watched as the United States has been fixated on domestic issues

– such as the economy, same-sex marriage, immigration, climate change regulations, the minimum wage, etc. and, in turn, it has treated international matters as less important.

Whether Putin is Gog of Magog or not, the Lord has something very special for him. Let's see how the Lord will unfold this prophecy.

## **A. JUDGMENT ON GOG**

*Ezekiel 38:18-23 "And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," says the Lord God, "that My fury will show in My face. 19 For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: 'Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, 20 so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.' 21 I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains," says the Lord God. "Every man's sword will be against his brother. 22 And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. 23 Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord."*

It doesn't matter what decisions will be made in the war room of Magog, but it only will conform to the will of the Lord who planned this invasion before the creation of the universe for His own purposes.

*Proverbs 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the Lord.*

*Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

I am sure that in the minds of Gog and the coalition force leaders, the victory will be done deal, because they have such a big force and Israel would be all alone even though it has a 7 year covenant with the European Union according to Daniel 9:27 as we studied last week. They know that the antichrist will not move against them to save Israel.

But before Gog's coalition force will start to destroy Israel, the Lord will intervene in His jealous wrath and faithfulness to protect His own people Israel and wipe out the invading forces with the divine arsenals that no human military can fight against – earthquake, plague, flood rain, great hailstone, fire and brimstone from the sky. If that is not bad enough, the Lord will put panic in the minds of the invading soldiers that they will begin to kill one another in suicidal strife. There will be so many dead bodies that it will take 7 months to bury them all according to next chapter of this Book.

## **B. DESTRUCTION OF GOG'S COALITION FORCE**

*Ezekiel 39:6-10 And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the Lord. 7 So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. 8 Surely it is coming, and it shall be done," says the Lord God. "This is the day of which I have spoken. 9 " Then those who*

*dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years. 10 They will not take wood from the field nor cut down any from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them,” says the Lord God.*

Instead of slaughtering the Jews, Gog’s soldiers will themselves be slaughtered and become food for the vultures and the beasts of the field. But the Lord won’t stop with His judgment of the armies that invade Israel; He will also send a fiery judgment on the land of Magog itself. So much for the great forces of Russia and its allies. No more.

I find two reasons for the Lord to bring Gog’s coalition forces to Israel and defeating them so dramatically:

**1) The victory will reveal the greatness of the Lord as He will display His power before all nation.**

*Ezekiel 38:23 Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.*

There is no evidence that the Israel Defense Force will ever get to fire a shot. The Lord will use His weapons – earthquakes, hailstone, fire and brimstone from sky, diseases, and utter confusion to kill one another.

**2) The victory will reveal the holiness of the Lord to Israel and be convicted of her own sins.**

As we studied in chapter 36, the Jews profaned the name of the Lord while they were dispersed all over the world before. Though the Lord has gathered them back into their own land, they still are not the followers of their God. However, they will start to realize that the Lord is real and their Protector, and the Holy One of Israel.

By now, those who have read the Book of Revelation and remember what chapter 20 said have this mind-boggling question: “OK, I get that the Lord will wipe out the coalition force of Gog. But that would happen before the middle of the Tribulation. How do these Gog and Magog show up again after the Millennium? Are they the same Gog?”

*Revelation 20:7-9 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.*

No, they are not the same Gog. In the Book of Revelation, the names are symbolic of the final enemies of Christ duped by Satan into attacking the community of the saints. The change in meaning has occurred historically through the frequent use in rabbinic circles of the expression “Gog and Magog” to symbolically refer to the nations spoken of in Psalm 2 who are in rebellion against God and His Messiah according to Talmud references.

**C. THE BURIAL OF GOG’S COALITION FORCE**

*Ezekiel 39:11-16 “It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog. 12 For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. 13 Indeed*

*all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified," says the Lord God. 14 They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search. 15 The search party will pass through the land; and when anyone sees a man's bone, he shall set up a marker by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog. 16 The name of the city will also be Hamonah. Thus they shall cleanse the land."*

How ironic that Gog and his coalition force will come to destroy and bury the Israel people and take their spoils, but they will be the ones that will be buried in Israel and their spoils will be taken away by the Israelis!

The magnitude of Gog's armies created a staggering problem with their death. All of them needed to be buried in order to cleanse the land of Israel. A specific valley known as the "the valley of those who pass by east of the sea" was designated as the burial place in v11. If the sea was the Dead Sea, we have a little situation with the current events though many of the Bible scholars believe that this is the location. That means that it is out of the normal boundaries of Israel into Jordan. I don't believe that Jordan will allow Israel to bury thousands of dead bodies in their land. If that is the location, somehow the Lord will allow Israel to take that area from Jordan sometime in the future.

The only valley to fit remotely this description would be the Esdraelon Valley in lower Galilee. Though one might see the Esdraelon Valley as an essential east-west valley that was well traveled throughout history and would fit the text well, none of the theories of identification of this valley can be substantiated without question because of the sparse data. The text does make it clear that the massive burial of Gog and his coalition force in this valley would cause a major obstacle to travel. For this reason the valley would be named "the Valley of Hamon Gog" which means "the hordes of Gog".

After seven months, the Israeli government will designate two groups to carry out a "mopping up" operation. One group would search throughout the land to find any remnant of a body and mark it, the other group will relocate the bodies to the Valley of Hamon Gog.

And the nation of Israel will remember this day for God's faithfulness to Israel.

#### **D. APPLICATIONS**

1) We don't need to fear anything or anyone, because we are His children and He will not be defeated.

2) We do need to remember all the time that God is faithful.