

Study 7 - Final Conclusions

Our study of the Gog and Magog prophecy has yielded the following 30 or so conclusions. The verses to back them up which can all be found in Ezekiel chapters 38 & 39 and Zechariah chapters 12 and 14.

1. That “Gog and Magog” is an alliance led by Russia and Iran, and includes Sudan, Libya and the Central Asian Republics (the “Stans”), as well as the areas around Turkey, Armenia, Belarus, Syria and Lebanon. (Ezekiel 38:1-6)
2. The nations involved are all Muslim nations or like Russia have significant Muslim populations (Ezekiel 38:1-6)
3. The Arabian merchant princes (Saudi Arabia etc) will be opportunistic financial backers of the war but may not send many troops. (Ezekiel 38:13)
4. Many come long distances to fight in Israel - “from the remotest parts of the north”. (Ezekiel 38:6,15; 39:2)
5. It is in the “Last Days” and is part of God ending this current age of history (Ezekiel 38:8)
6. It is a major event prior to the Second Coming but is not the Second Coming (Zechariah 14)
7. It is probably not the same as the plague in Zechariah 14 which seems to be the Second Coming
8. It is probably the same as the invasion and deliverance prophecy of Zechariah 12 which is also followed by a time of national repentance.
9. It is just prior to the fulfillment of the Valley of Dry Bones prophecy (Ezekiel 39:29)
10. It probably precedes the rebuilding of the Temple
11. It probably occurs just as the “times of the Gentiles” are concluding and the time for Jewish restoration is at hand. (Luke 21:24, Romans 11:25)
12. It occurs when Israel is restored to the land (Ezekiel 38:8,11)
13. It occurs when Israel is economically prosperous and at peace (Ezekiel 38: 11,12)
14. Israel is relatively undefended at this time - “without walls or gates” (Ezekiel 38:11,12)
15. God lures Gog and Magog into Israel in order to destroy them (Ezekiel 38:4, 39:2)
16. The motivation of Gog and Magog is financial - “to gather much plunder” (Ezekiel 38: 12,13)
17. The invading army is armored, well equipped, and highly mobile (Ezekiel 38: 4, 15)
18. It is a vast army “like a cloud covering the land” (Ezekiel 38: 9)
19. The army of Gog and Magog is defeated by divine intervention, using the forces of nature alone, such as earthquakes, plagues, hailstones, fire and brimstone. (Ezekiel 38: 18-23, 39:3-6)
20. The weapons and other military paraphernalia left over from the battle will be recycled and used as natural resources by Israel. (Ezekiel 39:9,10)
21. Gog and Magog are buried in a mass grave in Israel (Ezekiel 39:11)
22. The grave will be in a valley which will be named Hamon-Gog or the Multitude of Gog (Ezekiel 39:11)
23. There is a protracted and involved clean-up period of seven months perhaps the bodies are hazardous in some way (biohazard, chemical or nuclear?) (Ezekiel 39:12-16)
24. God is “sanctified” - by this powerful, spectacular fulfillment of prophecy (Ezekiel 38:16, 23; 39:27)
25. The outcome is a Jewish remorse, and revival of faith, they will know for certain that YHWH is their God. (Ezekiel 39: 7, 22-29)
26. Another outcome is that the nations realize that YHWH is the God of Israel and that the prophecies of Scripture are truthful. (Ezekiel 38;16,17 ; 39;21,23)
27. The nations also realize that Israel's exile was temporary and was because of sin, not because there was no God, or because of being abandoned by God. (Ezekiel 39: 21,23)
28. It results in Israel being able to live in peace, undisturbed for a long while (Ezekiel 39:26-28)
29. All the Jews from around the world will be regathered and live peacefully in Israel (Ezekiel 39:28)
30. God has compassion on Israel and pours out His Spirit upon them. (Ezekiel 39:29)

The natural question is “when will these things be” - which is what the disciples asked and Jesus gave a detailed answer to in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke chapter 21. Jesus answer was in 'event time' that is 'when you see these events..' rather than in clock time (in the year 2027). This is a common prophetic way of doing things. It is like when a teenager asks 'when will I get a car' and the parent answers “when you can drive safely and act responsibly and have a part-time job that pays for the gas” (event time) instead of “when you turn 18” (clock time). If you put Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 side-by- side the events Jesus predicts are (in approximate chronological order of 'first appearance'):

1. Social disturbance, wars, rumors of wars, international conflict, the birth pangs of the new order
2. The gospel being preached to all nations - “and then the End shall come”
3. The blossoming of the 'fig-tree' which is national Israel
4. Jerusalem back under Jewish control after a long Gentile occupation
5. The end of the age of the Gentiles
6. False prophets, false Messiahs, deceptive signs and wonders
7. Lawlessness leading to cold and selfish behavior
8. Apostasy
9. Intense persecution of the Church, betrayal and hatred of Christians
10. Wars, plagues, and famines on a much larger scale than before (in point 1)
11. An “abomination of desolation” being set up in the Temple
12. Severe earthquakes and massive natural disasters
13. Signs and wonders in the Heavens, terrifying sights, roaring seas and waves
14. The swift and sudden appearance of Jesus 'as a thief in the night'

These events are like actors coming onto a stage until the full drama is played out. For instance the false prophets come in early and stay until the end, gradually increasing in deceptiveness.

Well where are we now and where is the Gog and Magog event? I think we are currently somewhere between point 4 and point 7. In 1945 Archbishop William Temple announced that the Church was now in every nation on earth, by 1948 Israel was a nation again, in 1967 Jerusalem came under Jewish control except for Temple Mount. When the Temple Mount is back under full Jewish control then the age of the Gentiles will have ended and Israel will be center stage. For that to happen the Gog and Magog event may have to occur first resulting in the defeat of the Muslims and the peace and security required to rebuild the Temple. But there are a lot of Gentiles yet to be saved! God is patiently waiting 'so that none should perish' (2 Peter 3:9)

Finally though we need to heed Jesus last words to His curious apostles:

So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, at this time are You restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
(Acts 1:6-8 HCSB)

In other words: Just let God be God and get on with sharing the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit!