

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Ezekiel Message 81*  
*April 30, 2017*



<http://britishbattles.homestead.com/Assyria.html>

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

# Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel

Message Eighty-One

THE GOG AND MAGOG INVASION PT. I

April 30, 2017

Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 38:1-9

*And the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, <sup>2</sup>Son of man, set thy face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, <sup>3</sup>and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal: <sup>4</sup>and I will turn thee about, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them handling swords; <sup>5</sup>Persia, Cush, and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; <sup>6</sup>Gomer, and all his hordes; the house of Togarmah in the uttermost parts of the north, and all his hordes; even many peoples with thee.*

*<sup>7</sup>Be thou prepared, yea, prepare thyself, thou, and all thy companies that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. <sup>8</sup>After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, that is gathered out of many peoples, upon the mountains of Israel, which have been a continual waste; but it is brought forth out of the peoples, and they shall dwell securely, all of them. <sup>9</sup>And thou shalt ascend, thou shalt come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy hordes, and many peoples with thee (ASV, 1901).*

Ezekiel 38:1-6

*<sup>1</sup>And the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, <sup>2</sup>Son of man, set thy face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, <sup>3</sup>and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal: <sup>4</sup>and I will turn thee about, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them handling swords; <sup>5</sup>Persia, Cush, and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; <sup>6</sup>Gomer, and all his hordes; the house of Togarmah in the uttermost parts of the north, and all his hordes; even many peoples with thee. (ASV, 1901),*

The Lord now comes to the prophet Ezekiel again with a prophecy regarding at least eight nation who will invade Israel. As we proceed through this exposition of the Scripture in these two chapters we will answer the following questions pertaining to this invasion of Israel.

1. Who are the invaders?
2. Where to they invade?
3. Why are they doing this?
4. What to they expect to achieve?
5. How are they prepared?
6. When will this happen?

## WHO

At the beginning of this prophecy we see Ezekiel receiving a prophecy from the God of the universe and he is told to “set his face” against Gog of the land of Magog and that he is the chief prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. Ezekiel as God’s representative is in direct opposition to the man Gog and his goals. In the beginning of this section of Scripture the focus is on one person named Gog, the leader of the land of Magog. He is further described as the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. Gog is not a name but a title much like King, or Kaiser or Czar. The unidentified person who will be leading this alliance will be Ezekiel’s Gog at the time of the invasion. Scripture does not identify a person here, only a title along with some interesting characteristics, which he possesses. The Bible states that even though God is against him God will nevertheless lead him and his allied armed forces against the Jews. The phrase in the text is written as God speaking in the first person singular “*I will put hooks in your cheeks (jaws) and bring thee forth with all your army.*” God is going to lead this Gog to Israel for an invasion with eight other nations in alliance with him.

In order to understand the people/countries involved it is important to determine who exactly are:

1. Magog
2. Rosh
3. Meshech
4. Tubal
5. Persia
6. Put
7. Gomer
8. Togarmah

We must look back to Genesis in order to see which people groups God is referring to in His exposition of these passages. God always uses the same names throughout the Scriptures that have been presented in earlier genealogies of mankind. When Noah, his wife and three sons Shem, Ham and Japheth left the ark after it landed on Mount Ararat after the worldwide flood they began to migrate to different directions. One important consideration of which to be aware of in the Bible is that individual countries names are always referenced to their ancient family or tribal name. For example the identification of Magog, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal is determined from Japheth’s progeny that populated the ancient world in the areas of modern day Russia (see map and chart on following pages). The three sons of Noah all migrated in different directions from Ararat after the Flood. Magog, Meshech and Tubal were located between the Black and Caspian Seas, which today is Southern Russia. It also includes part of Iran (ancient Persia) and Turkey. Accordingly, the tribes of Meshech and Tubal later became cities that today are called Moscow, the capital, and Tobolsk, is a major city in the Urals in Siberia. *Rosh* was in what

is now Northern Russia. The map on this page clearly demonstrates the migration patterns of the sons of Noah from Genesis after the flood. Note that Japheth's migration is toward the north between the Black and Caspian Seas and on into the Russian Steppes region. He also went to the Northwest into Southeastern Europe. The migratory pattern of Japheth as seen in the map clearly demonstrates that modern day Turkey was a settling spot for some of the Japhethites. God highlighted Turkey and Southern Russia to demonstrate where the invaders to the north would come from. The geographic region where the invasion will come from allows us to see how the coalition forces organize around Gog from the north and are comprised of the nations that exerted the worst Jewish persecutions that have ever occurred, specifically, those that came from Russia, German and the Muslim nations.



Source: <http://www.godweb.org/maps/131.htm>

From Genesis Chapter 10 we can see who the sons of Noah are and in particular **Japheth** and his progeny were as well as the directions they migrated.

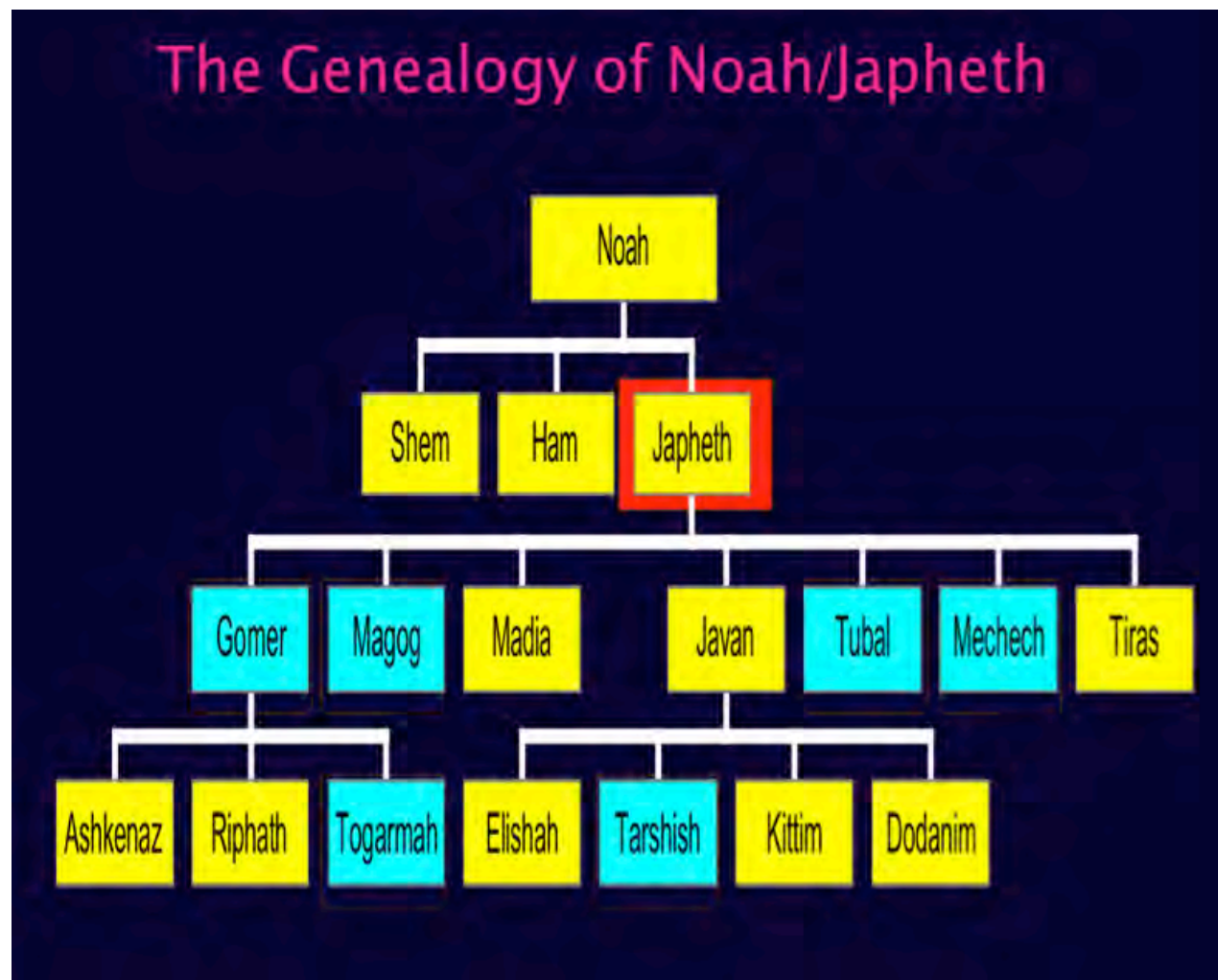


Chart by the author, Daniel E. Woodhead

The identification of Magog, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal is again determined from Japheth's progeny that populated the ancient world in the areas of modern day Russia. Magog, Meshech and Tubal were located between the Black and Caspian Seas, which today is Southern Russia. It also includes part of Iran and Turkey. According to some, the tribes of Meshech and Tubal later gave names to cities that today bear the names of Moscow, the capital, and Tobolsk, a major city in the Urals in Siberia. *Rosh* was in what is now Northern Russia. The name Rosh is the basis for the modern name Russia. It also means head or top. These names, then, cover the modern territories of northern and southern Russia in Europe and Siberia to the east in Asia. The modern nation of Russia encompasses all these areas of Ezekiel. As if to avoid any possible doubt, verse six adds *that these come from the uttermost parts of the north*. This is repeated in 38:15 and 39:2. From Israel the uttermost parts of the north is Russia, with Moscow being almost a straight line due north from Jerusalem. Therefore, Russia is the leader of the northern confederacy, with Gog as the leader of Russia. This has also been the rabbinic view. The Artscroll Commentary on Ezekiel written by Rabbi Moshe Eisemann states:

The Gaonim had a tradition that these controls were indeed located in Russia.. One tradition passed down from the Vilna Gaon states: When the Russian navy passed through the Bospores on the way to the Dardanelles, it will be time to put on Sabbath clothes, in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.

## Israel & Surrounding Invading Nations

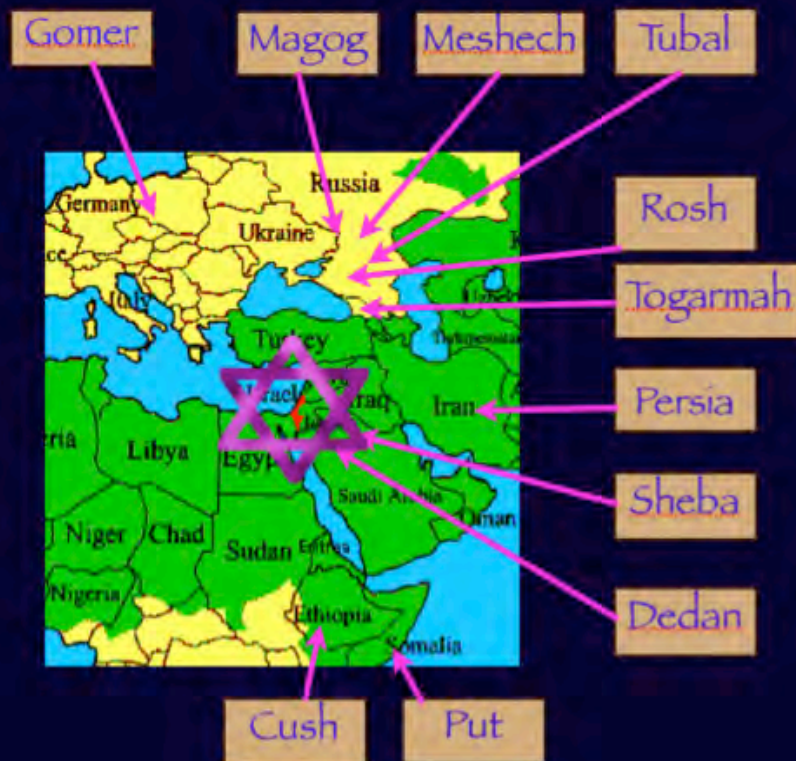


Chart by the author, Daniel E. Woodhead

The Gaonim is a reference to the leaders of the two major Babylonian yeshivas at Sura and Pumbeditha were known as *Gaonim*, which is Biblical and Modern Hebrew for "magnificent." The *Gaonic* period lasted nearly 450 years, from 589, to 1038. Throughout the Jewish world, these two *Gaonim* were universally regarded as the final *halakhic* authorities. All told, there were more than 80 *Gaonim* during this period, about most of whom there is little or no information, other than their names. In Babylonia, rabbinic power was concentrated in the hands of the *Gaonim*. What they said and taught was accepted as authoritative. They taught about the Gog and Magog war. In the Gog and Magog war, Messiah the son of Joseph will be killed which will then bring the coming of the Messiah the son of David. The Jews not accepting Jesus thought there would be two Messiahs. One would be killed and the other coming to rule in the Messianic era.

Russia is the leader in the invasion of Israel. She is part of a confederacy and the leader of it. Other nations are listed in verses 5-6. Involved in the confederacy is *Persia*, or present day Iran. Once, Iran was generally pro-western and pro-Israel; after the Khomeini Islamic revolution, Iran became anti-western and anti-Israel and more within the Russian sphere of influence. Israel and now the United States consider Iran their most dangerous enemy.

Another nation involved is one called *Cush*. In the Bible there were two places that had that name. One was in Mesopotamia (Genesis 2:13). But all other usages of this word refer to Ethiopia. While looking at current events, it is tempting to identify it with the Mesopotamian countries of Syria and Iraq. Consistent with the usage of the word “Cush” elsewhere in the Scriptures demands its identification with Ethiopia. Current events must never be the basis for interpreting Scripture. This produces an errant view of Scripture and forces a contemporary event into the Bible narrative and prophecy.

Put is mentioned next, which is not Libya (for which the name Lub would be used), but Somaliland or Somalia. Somalia borders Ethiopia. This is followed by *Gomer*, located in present day Germany. This too was the Gaonic rabbinic view. The *Midrash* (writing) calls *Gomer Germania*. And that is also the way the *Talmud* refers to Gomer. The last name is Togarmah, which is present day Armenia or eastern Turkey. Verse six adds the phrase, *even many peoples with you*. This phrase may simply define the numbers of the nations already mentioned, or it may include other nations not mentioned. In all probability, it is the former that is meant. In answer as to *who* is involved in this confederacy, it is Russia and the allied states of Iran. Ethiopia, Somalia, Germany and Armenia (eastern Turkey).

These nations are located geographically north and south of Israel but the controlling nation is Russia. The invasion comes from the north.

While the names of these nations have changed over the centuries (e.g. Persia to Iran) and may change again, the geography itself remains intact. Regardless of what names they may carry at the time of this invasion it is these very geographical areas that are involved.

Referencing again the Orthodox Jewish commentary Artscroll written by Rabbi Moshe Eisemann regarding Ezekiel 38:2 makes this additional observation:

*“Yerushalayim Megillah 3:9, which renders Magog as Guitya (or Gutya...) the Goths, a group of nomadic tribes who destroyed the Scythians and made their home in Scythian territory.*

*Considering that the Goths were a Germanic people, the identification of Magog’s descendants as the Goths in accord with Targum Yonasan to Genesis 10:2, which renders Magog as Geramenia, which in Bereshit Rabbah 37:1 is given as Germania.*



From: <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/ukraine/maps-history.htm>

God's patience is nearly over with these nations who have all persecuted the Jews for many centuries. From 1721 on the official doctrine of Imperial Russia was openly anti-Jewish. For example when the Russians captured part of the Ukraine in 1727 it was cleared of Jews. As a result of the official doctrine being anti-Jewish, Russia has never been a healthy country with economic freedom and safety for all its citizens.

The Czar established a Pale of Settlement that included Poland and Crimea. Jews were supposed to remain in the Pale and required special permission to move to Russia proper.

Specifically, in 1786, Catherine the Great of Russia ordered all Jews in her domain to move to an area in southwestern Russia and Poland known as the "Pale of Settlement." Subsequent Czars administered additional persecution to the Jews. The Pale consisted of twenty-five provinces that included Ukraine, Lithuania, Byelorussia, Crimea, and part of Poland. Arriving in massive numbers, the Jews eventually dispersed and settled throughout this region. Jews were specifically expelled from Moscow and St. Petersburg and forced into the Pale. Later they were also expelled from rural areas within the Pale and forced to live only in shtetls. The shtetl is Yiddish for small town. The systematic policy of discrimination banned Jews from rural areas and towns of fewer than ten thousand people, even within the Pale, assuring the slow death of many shtetls.

WHERE

Ezekiel 38:7-9

*<sup>7</sup>Be thou prepared, yea, prepare thyself, thou, and all thy companies that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. <sup>8</sup>After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, that is gathered out of many peoples, upon the mountains of Israel, which have been a continual waste; but it is brought forth*



*out of the peoples, and they shall dwell securely, all of them. <sup>9</sup>And thou shalt ascend, thou shalt come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy hordes, and many peoples with thee (ASV, 1901).*

This section discussed the concept as to where the invasion takes place. The passage continues to address Gog as the leader of this confederacy (v.7). In verse eight, the specific place where the invasion takes place is stated to be the Land of Israel, more specifically in the mountains of Israel. Then verse nine describes the massiveness of the invasion, picturing it as a storm cloud that covers the entire Land. This is another passage that shows the necessity of the establishment of the Jewish State and also a regathering in unbelief. Israel has to be a state before this invasion can occur. Furthermore, Israel is gathered in unbelief since after the invasion occurs many in Israel turn to the Lord. Verse eight describes this Jewish State as being *first*, a land brought back from the sword; *second*, a land that is gathered out of many peoples; and *third*, a land with mountains that have been continual waste; and *fourth*, a land that is brought forth out of the peoples. Ezekiel is not describing an Israel that ever existed in ancient times, but all these statements are true of modern day Israel. This began occurring toward the end of the nineteenth century, culminating with statehood in 1948. Since then the waste places have been rebuilt and resettled on a more massive scale. Speaking specifically of the “latter years” is a direct reference to the last days or the end times. Christ gave us the information necessary to validate the timing of the last days.

Next Week: THE GOG & MAGOG INVASION OF ISRAEL PART II

**Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments**

E-mail [info@pentwaterbiblechurch.com](mailto:info@pentwaterbiblechurch.com) Toll Free 877-706-2479