

“Is Russia Mentioned in the Bible?”

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Scripture

Ezekiel 38:1-9

“And the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. "I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords; Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops-- many peoples with you.

"Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you and be a guard for them. "After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them. "You will go up, you will come like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you.”

Last Week

We looked at Satan, Evil, and how God uses Evil in the world

We looked at how Satan and fallen angels still had access to Heaven, for a time

This Week

Two Questions Came In:

- 1) Is Russia mentioned in the Bible?
- 2) Is Russia the bear from the North?

Great questions!

In short, the answer is YES and NO!

The prophet Ezekiel writes about Israel's future all the way to the final battle

Let's do a little review about Israel

Ezekiel 36 speaks of the condition of Israel and Israel's future

What was the condition of Israel's land? -> In a word, **desolate!**

The nations had trod it under – Israel is under control of the enemy -> Babylon, in this case:

Ezekiel 36:1-5

“And you, son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say, 'O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD, "**Because the enemy has spoken against you, 'Aha!' and, 'The everlasting heights have become our possession,**' therefore prophesy and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "For good reason they have made you desolate and crushed you from every side, that you would become a possession of the rest of the nations and you have been taken up in the talk and the whispering of the people."

4Therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord GOD. Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, **to the desolate wastes and to the forsaken cities which have become a prey and a derision to the rest of the nations** which are round about, therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Surely in the fire of My jealousy I have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom, **who appropriated My land for themselves as a possession with wholehearted joy** and with scorn of soul, to drive it out for a prey.”

Babylon in the past, but also in modern times

In the 1940s, no one wanted to be in Israel

By 1948, Israel became a recognized nation once again

Who lives in the Promised Land now? -> Palestinians, other Arabs

God is against those nations

What is God going to do?

Ezekiel 36:6-12

“Therefore, prophesy concerning the land of Israel and say to the mountains and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and in My wrath because you have endured the insults of the nations.' "Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, I have sworn that surely the nations which are around you will themselves endure their insults. **But you, O mountains of Israel, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel; for they will soon come. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be cultivated and sown. I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities will be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt. I will multiply on you man and beast; and they will increase and be fruitful; and I will cause you to be inhabited as you were formerly and will treat you better than at the first.** Thus, you will know that I am the LORD. Yes, I will cause men-- My people Israel-- to walk on you and possess you, so that you will become their inheritance and never again bereave them of children.”

God is going to bring fruitfulness back to the land of Israel

He will bring His people back to Israel

But first, they were booted out to other nations, and they profaned God's name

Ezekiel 36:20-21

“**When they came to the nations where they went, they profaned My holy name,** because it was said of them, 'These are the people of the LORD; yet they have come out of His land.' "But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations where they went.”

The nations where Israel was scattered hated the Jews for coming

They ridiculed God

The Jews profaned God's name where they went -> "Look what He did to us?"

So, why does God bring His people back to Israel?

Ezekiel 36:22-32

"Therefore, say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "**It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.**" I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD," declares the Lord GOD, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.

For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. **Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean;** I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

Moreover, **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;** and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.**

"You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so, you will be My people, and I will be your God. Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you. I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations. **"I am not doing this for your sake," declares the Lord GOD."**

- God does it for Himself -> His Holy Name
- Sprinkle Clean water on you -> True Redemption
- New Heart and New Spirit -> New Covenant in Jesus
- Land I gave your forefathers -> They Will Fill the Promised Land
- Not Because they Deserve it -> Because they are Chosen

Israel Will Be God's People again (reversing Hosea 1:9)

Hosea 1:9 - "You are not My people, and I am not your God."

God will make them His people, through nothing of their own doing

Does that sound familiar to us?

It should because **Ephesians 2:8-9** says the same about us:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and **that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

We discussed the future for Israel the first Sunday evening service on September 10th

Ezekiel 37 -> The Prophet's vision of the Dry Bones -> Israel as a nation coming to Spiritual Life

Answering the first question calls us to go to **Ezekiel 38**:

Ezekiel 38:1-6

"And the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Son of man, set your face **toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal**, and prophesy against him and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. "**I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out**, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords; Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops-- many peoples with you."

Noah's Descendants were listed in Genesis 10

Genesis 10:32

"These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood."

Magog – Tubal – Meshech - Gomer (**Genesis 10:2**)

Togarmah (**Genesis 10:3**)

Put (**Genesis 10:6**)

Magog and Rosh / Gog -> Russia and the Russian leader (Gog) heads the rebellion

The history of the Rosh:

"In Egyptian inscriptions, Rosh (Rash) is identified as a place that existed **as early as 2,600 BC**. There is a later Egyptian inscription from about 1,500 BC that refers to a land called Reshu that was located to the north of Egypt. **The place name Rosh (or its equivalent in the respective languages) is found at least 20 times in other ancient documents**. It is found 3 times in the Septuagint, 10 times in Sargon's inscriptions, once in Assurbanipal's cylinder, once in Sennacherib's annals, and 5 times in Ugaritic tablets. Clearly Rosh was a well-known place in Ezekiel's day. **In the 6th century BC, when he wrote his prophecy, several bands of the Rosh people lived in an area to the north of the Black Sea**. Many scholars have traced a direct connection between these people and the people from which Russia derives its name."

Meshech and Tubal -> Western Turkey

Persia -> Iran

Ethiopia -> Ethiopia

Put -> Libya

Gomer -> Armenia

Beth-Togarmah -> Eastern Turkey

"the prince" -> Could Satan be behind the prince OR be inhabiting the prince?

Satan inhabits the King of Tyre -> **Ezekiel 28**

Satan inhabits the King of Babylon -> **Isaiah 14**

All Nations will come against Israel...led by the people from the North

They will Attack the Unsuspecting for Profit

Russia and the other nations will be looking for resources

Ezekiel 38:10-13

"Thus says the Lord GOD, "It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil plan, and you will say, 'I will go up against **the land of unwalled villages**. I will go against **those who are at rest**, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates, **to capture spoil and to seize plunder**, to turn your hand against the waste places which are now inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired cattle and goods, who live at the center of the world.' "**Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish** with all its villages will say to you, 'Have you come to capture spoil? Have you assembled your company to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to capture great spoil?'"

Israel will be surprised...living at rest, securely, without walls, bars or gates...

How is that possible? Israel living securely?

They had to be part of a peace treaty -> **Daniel 9:27** -> "a firm covenant for one week"

The Confederacy attacks for spoil -> **vast wealth and mineral resources in Israel**

Natural Gas fields found in 2009, began drawing gas in 2013 -> Israel's gas reserves grown 40% in 10 years

Sheba and Dedan (Genesis 10:7)

Tarshish (Genesis 10:4)

Sheba -> Yemen

Dedan -> Saudi Arabia

Tarshish -> Spain

But God has other plans for the Confederacy of nations:

Ezekiel 38:18-23

"It will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," declares the Lord GOD, "that **My fury will mount up in My anger**. "In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. "The fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; **the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground**. "I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains," declares the Lord GOD.

"**Every man's sword will be against his brother**. "With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone. "**I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the LORD.**"

All the warring armies are shaken by an earthquake and will begin to kill each other...friendly fire dooms them without Israel having to fire a weapon: killed by the sword coming from the mouth of the Lord.

Ezekiel 38-39 is the detailed summary of what is written in Revelation 20:

Revelation 20:7-10

“And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are **at the four corners of the earth**, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.

And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

So, Russia is the leader of this final confederacy to attack God’s people

It is no surprise to see them attack in Ukraine and reach out for alliances with Iran, Syria, China, India

On to Question #2 -> **“Is Russia the Bear from the North?”**

Bears are mentioned a few times in the Bible

Only a couple Scriptures use bear prophetically

Daniel 7:2-5

“Daniel said, "I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. "And four great beasts were coming up from the sea, different from one another. "The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I kept looking until its wings were plucked, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man; a human mind also was given to it. "**And behold, another beast, a second one, resembling a bear.** And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and thus they said to it, 'Arise, devour much meat!'”

In this passage, Daniel is seeing the immediate future of the nations that would rule Israel

The lion with wings of an eagle was the current ruler, Babylon -> Winged lions decorated the palaces

The bear was the coming kingdom of Medo-Persia, raised up on one side -> the Persian side would be greater

The leopard afterward was representing Greece, signifying the swiftness of Alexander the Great’s conquests

The fourth beast would be the Roman Empire, terrifying with large teeth, which will be revived in our future

Revelation has the other reference to a bear:

Revelation 13:1-2

“And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.”

This is a description of the coming Antichrist’s reign - his kingdom will have aspects of all the prior kingdoms

So, no reference to Russia here, but a more terrifying power than Russia

Prayer - Benediction