

### Signs in the Nations pt3

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Signs, Times and Seasons

**Text: Matthew 24:7**

#### Russia

Russia is having a reawakening of sorts under the leadership of Vladimir Putin. Russia was a superpower as the leading nation in the USSR during the Cold War which lasted from 1947-1991. During this time the threat of nuclear war was a possibility that hung over the world like a dark cloud until the USSR collapsed.

Russia has become increasingly aggressive on the world stage and increasingly dangerous. Russia's significant and aggressive moves today are indicators of the fulfilment of prophecy by the prophet Ezekiel. In Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 he prophesied of Russia's return to power in the last days. Ezekiel describes an invasion of Israel by 10 entities including Russia and a coalition of mainly Islamic nations. In Ezekiel's list of ten names, Rosh is identified as the nation ruled by the leader of the coalition that will attack Israel. **Ezekiel 38:1-17**

One of the ways we can determine that Rosh is Russia is the way that the Bible refers to the location of Israel. **Ezekiel 5:5** Israel is described as set in the middle of the nations. In the book of Daniel, the ruler who will lead an attack against Israel is known as the king of the north. Ezekiel also says that the armies that invade Israel will come from the far north. **Ezekiel 38:6 & 15** Only one nation occupies the geographical position in the far north and that is Russia.

There are nine other names listed in this prophecy that identify the nations and the leader that will make up the coalition that attacks Israel. **Ezekiel 38:1-2**

The name Gog does not refer to a nation but to a person. The word Gog means high or supreme. Some believe that Gog is not a personal name, but a title such as President or Pharaoh.

The Countries in the Alliance: This section helps us to understand some of the reasons for all of the "begats" in the Bible. Some of them trace the history of the lineage of Adam, Abraham, and David all the way to Jesus; some help trace the direction of nations, so we better understand prophecy.

- Magog – According to Genesis, Magog was the second son of Japheth the grandson of Noah. His descendants settled in the region of the mountains around the Black and Caspian Sea. These are the states of the former Soviet Union that all end in 'stan'; Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and even Afghanistan. These nations have a combined population of 60 million and have one thing in common, Islam.

- Meshech and Tubal – These were the fifth and sixth sons of Japheth and also grandsons of Noah. These men established territories bearing their names. Scofield identifies Meshech as Moscow, and Tubal as Tobolsk; other scholars identify them as territories of modern-day Turkey.
- Persia – Changed its name to Iran in 1935, and in 1979 they changed the name again to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran and Russia will be leading the forces in this prophecy who desire to wipe Israel off the map. (These are the words of the Iranian president.)
- Ethiopia – This is one of two North African countries named as part of the coalition. Ethiopia was founded by Cush, the grandson of Noah by his second son Ham. When Ezekiel made this prophecy, Ethiopia was a part of Egypt, today this region is the country of Ethiopia and part of modern-day Sudan. Sudan is one of Israel's staunchest enemies. Ethiopia is also home to many Christians and descendants from the tribes of Israel. There is a church in Ethiopia that claims to house the actual Ark of the Covenant.
- Libya – the land west of Egypt. It is the only country on Ezekiel's list that kept its historic name. Libya was founded by Ham's son Put. Today Libya has renewed its ties with Russia after the death and overthrow of its most notorious leader Muammar Gaddafi.
- Gomer – the first son of Japheth and the grandson of Noah. Many people have taught that Gomer was the founder of the nation of Germany. We know of the anti-Semitic history of this nation. Is it possible that a united anti-Semitic Germany will ally itself with an anti-Semitic Russia?
- Togarmah – this is the third son of Gomer, son of Japheth and great-grandson of Noah. Ezekiel places this nation from the far north. Many identify the connection of this with both the countries of Turkey and Turkestan.

These are the nations that will form a coalition and march against Israel setting the stage for a huge world war focused on the Holy Land.

As Ezekiel prophecies about this invasion there is no misinterpreting God's position on this war. **Ezekiel 38:3-4** God says, "I am against you and I am leading you out. Even with all your army and weapons I am in control over you. You are like a horse with a hook in its mouth and not a bit and bridle."

The purpose of the invasion is three-fold:

- 1) To seize Israel's land. **Ezekiel 38:11-12**
- 2) To plunder Israel's riches. **Ezekiel 38:12-13**
- 3) To kill Israel's people. **Ezekiel 38:16**

For this invasion to occur three things need to happen:

- A) Israel has to be present in their **own** land. **Ezekiel 38:8**  
This was not even possible before 1948. Before the six days war Israel did not occupy the “mountains of Israel”, they belonged to the Jordanian Arabs. Now they belong to Israel.
- B) Israel needed to become a **prosperous** nation. **Ezekiel 36:11**  
Today Israel is extremely wealthy. It has the third most Nasdaq listed companies in the world right after the U.S. and China. It is home to 18 billionaires and 105,000 millionaires.
- C) Israel will be a place of **peace**. **Ezekiel 38:11**  
This is the one condition that has not occurred yet.

Some believe that this war will happen after an **initial** peace treaty with the world and the nations surrounding Israel. The invasion of Israel and the defeat of this Russian coalition is what many believe will cause the Anti-Christ to establish a new seven-year treaty of peace that will be broken after 3 ½ years.

It is clear when this coalition attacks Israel that God will **defend** His people and annihilate Russia.

Israel has always been vastly **outnumbered** in their wars. **Ezekiel 38:15-16**

This Russia-led coalition will be a great mismatch for Israel however, they will be **no match** for the living God. When all hope for Israel to survive is gone, God will intervene.

**Ezekiel 38:18-19**

Four ways God will defeat the enemies of Israel:

1. An earthquake that will find no number on the **Richter** scale. **Ezekiel 38:19-20**
2. Chaos and **confusion** as the coalition armies actually turn on one another. **Ezekiel 38:21** Remember this has happened before in Israel’s history, only this will be on a much larger scale. **2 Chronicles 20:22-25**
3. God will bring upon Russia an outbreak of **disease**. This is what a pestilence is. **Ezekiel 38:22**
4. God will cause rainstorms and fire and brimstone to pour down on Russian and its allies. This will not be limited to the local battlefield but also the nations they have come from.

The Aftermath of this battle will have profound effects. **Ezekiel 38:23-39:15**

- The eyes of the nations will know that Jesus is **Lord**.
- The slaughter will be so great that it will be a national effort to bury those who were defeated. It will be a grisly task the world will witness.
- The military equipment left from the defeated military coalition will power the nation of Israel for seven years. Also, what needs to be disposed of will take seven years to incinerate and to clean it up.
- Russia and its allies will have a burial place in Israel, a memorial to their defeat and to their dead.

Many people read about the battle of Gog and Magog and are afraid. Reading the prophecy of Ezekiel reminds us that our sovereign God **reigns**