### Prophetic Time Frames of Daniel

**Prophet’s Present Time:** (Babylonian Exile)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Near Future: Persian period</th>
<th>Far Future: (G)reek, (R)oman Periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Messiah’s 1st Coming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tribulation Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Coming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kingdom</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1:1-2:38</th>
<th>2:39a</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:39b</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:40-43</td>
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<td>2:44</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:45-7:4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7:6 (G)</th>
<th>7:7-8 (R)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:9-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:19-26 (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:28-8:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
36 BC Jerusalem trampled underfoot by the Gentiles for the first time. Babylon destroys the city and the Temple (Solomon’s Temple). The Jewish people are exiled from the land for the first time - a relatively short term of 70 years. Basically all are disbursed to the land of Babylon.

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter June 2008 p.5 and July 2008 p.4

516 BC The Temple (Zerubbabel’s Temple) rises from the ashes in Jerusalem when the Jewish people return from exile under Medo-Persian Rule ...

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter June 2008 p.5

332 BC Medo-Persians fall to the armies of Alexander the Great of Greece ...

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter June 2008 p.5

332-165 BC The Hellenistic (Greek) Empire continues to keep Israel under its thumb ...

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter June 2008 p.5

168 BC The Temple in Jerusalem is desecrated ...

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter June 2008 p.5

165 BC Israel experiences 100 years of relative independence when the Maccabees rise up and throw off the Greek yoke. Daniel 11:32-35

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter June 2008 p.5

63 BC Roman General Pompey marches into Jerusalem and once again the city is trampled underfoot ...

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter June 2008 p.5

7 AD Roman crushing reaches its pinnacle when Jerusalem and the Temple (Herod’s Temple) are destroyed ...

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter June 2008 p.5

135 AD Romans shatter the Second Jewish Revolt and disperse the Jews all over the world. Known as “The Diaspora,” this is the first disbursement of world-wide nature. (135 A.D. to 1948 A.D.) During this period the Land languishes, stripped of its rightful inhabitants. This is the second experience of exile and lasted close to 1,800 years.

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter June 2008 p.5 and July 2008 p.4

1839 BC The First World Wide Regathering commences—unbelief, in preparation for judgment

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries, Editing. 7/3/08

1948 AD War of Independence. The State of Israel is born and Jewish sovereignty is realized over segments of the promised land and part of Jerusalem.

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter June 2008 p.5

1967 AD At close of the Six Day War Jerusalem is reunited under Jewish control.

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter June 2008 p.5

1973 AD Yom Kippur War ...

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter July 2008 p.7

1982 AD Lebanon War ...

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter July 2008 p.7

1991 AD Gulf War ...

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter July 2008 p.7

1991 AD Peace Process ...

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter July 2008 p.7
2008 AD The continuation of the era that is characterized by Gentiles treading down Jerusalem. Just like the Maccabean period, the Jewish sovereignty will be temporary. How long it will last we do not know. The Gaza Strip has been lost. The Golan Heights and the West Bank may or may not be lost. East Jerusalem might or might not be handed over to the Palestinians. There could even be another season or two of lost and restored sovereignty. It should not be a surprise if Jewish sovereignty over Jerusalem is temporary, tenuous, and disputed at best. Sovereignty over the city may be divided between the Jewish people and the Palestinians. That occurrence should not cause alarm. Gentile sovereignty over Jerusalem, whether total or partial, is fully in keeping with the characteristic of the age - The Times of the Gentiles.

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter June 2008 p.5 and July 2008 p.7

Tribulation period begins when Israel signs a Seven Year Covenant with the Antichrist ... The first world-wide Regathering continues - in unbelief, in preparation for judgment - the judgment of the Great Tribulation, Ezekiel 20:33-38, 22:17-22, 36:22-24 - the Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jer 30:7)

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletters June 2008 p.6 and July 2009 p.5

+ 3½ yrs The Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and begins his Tribulation Holocaust. Jerusalem is trampled underfoot for the last time. The third experience of exile begins - the second dispersion of world-wide nature. Zechariah 14:16-21, Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15-22, Revelation 12:1-6

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletters June 2008 p.6 and July 2008, p.5

+3½ yrs The second World Wide Regathering of the Jewish People begins - a regathering in faith and in preparation for blessing - the blessing of the Messianic Kingdom. Isaiah 11:11-12

Bob Morris, HaDavar Ministries Newsletter July 2008, p.5

Bob Morris was born October 29, 1947 in Newport, Rhode Island, the first-born son of a Jewish mother and Gentile father.

During his sophomore year at the University of Washington, he encountered genuine Christians whose influence let him to receive Jesus as his personal Savior. At that time, he also began to embrace his Jewishness.

Bob was later influenced through the teaching of Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Director of Ariel Ministries. He earned his Masters of Divinity Program at the Western Conservative Baptist Seminary in Portland, Oregon and has since led several Messianic Jewish Congregations. In 1997 he became Executive Director of Ariel Ministries.

In March 2001, Bob pioneered the work of HaDavar Messianic Ministries in Southern California as Director. His ministry focuses primarily on teaching the Bible from a Jewish perspective.

Bob and his wife Susan live in Irvine, CA. They have two children and two grandchildren.

More information about Bob Morris and HaDavar Ministries may be found on the hadavar@hadavar.org website.
Imperialism

The policy of extending a nation's authority by territorial acquisition or by the establishment of economic and political hegemony (leadership) over other nations.

The Footsteps of the Messiah

Dr. A. G. Fruchtenbaum, Page 33

Under Medo-Persia the same thing was done, and Jewish governors such as Zerubbabel and Nehemiah ruled. The Hellenists worked in the same way. Instead of sending in Greeks to rule, they allowed the Jewish high priests to rule throughout the period of Greek domination. But Rome began a new system called imperialism. This is what made the Fourth Empire diverse from all the others.

The Footsteps of the Messiah

Dr. A. G. Fruchtenbaum, Page 33

What made the Fourth Empire, beginning with Rome, different from all the previous empires? The key difference was in the type of government initiated by Rome, which was a government of imperialism. When the Babylonians conquered an area, they did not set up Babylonian rulers, but set up nationals to rule. In its conquest of Judah, Babylon first set up Zedekiah, and later Gedaliah was appointed to rule.

The Footsteps of the Messiah

Dr. A. G. Fruchtenbaum, Page 33

When Rome conquered, Romans were sent in to rule (e.g., Pontius Pilate, Felix, Festus). This was the policy of imperialism. Thus, a better name for the Fourth Empire would be "imperialism" rather than Rome, for Rome was merely the first of five stages of the Fourth Empire of imperialism. Hence, the Fourth Empire will be referred to as the Imperialistic Empire.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Government by</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theocracy (Messianic)</td>
<td>a single sinless God-man</td>
<td>Superior</td>
<td>Order and harmony*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autocracy (Babylon)</td>
<td>one sinful man</td>
<td>Inferior</td>
<td>Relative Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oligarchy (Medo-Persia)</td>
<td>a small sinful elite</td>
<td>More inferior</td>
<td>Less order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democracy (Hellenistic)</td>
<td>the sinful majority</td>
<td>Even more inferior</td>
<td>Still less order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperialism/Republican (Rome)</td>
<td>the sinful majority (minority gains individual rights)</td>
<td>Still more inferior</td>
<td>Chaos and anarchy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 are an instance of:

*The Law of Recurrence.* This law describes the fact that in some passages of Scripture there exists the recording of an event followed by a second recording of the same event giving more details to the first. Hence, it often involves two blocks of Scripture. The first block presents a description of an event as it transpires in chronological sequence.

Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 are an example of:

This is followed by a second block of Scripture dealing with the same event and the same period of time, but giving further details as to what transpires in the course of the event.  

---

### The Final Four Gentile Empires of Daniel

The Course of the Times of the Gentiles (Babylon through Rome)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Empire</th>
<th>Characteristic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel 2</td>
<td>Babylon (Gold)</td>
<td>Head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Image</td>
<td>Medo-Persia (Silver)</td>
<td>Chest and Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of a Man</td>
<td>Greece (Bronze)</td>
<td>Belly and Thighs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rome (Iron and Clay)</td>
<td>Composite Legs/Feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Messianic Kingdom</td>
<td>Rock/Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel 7</td>
<td>Babylon</td>
<td>Lion-like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Four</td>
<td>Medo-Persia</td>
<td>Bear-like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beasts</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Leopard-like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>Composite Beast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Messianic Kingdom</td>
<td>Given to Believers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel 8</td>
<td>Medo-Persia</td>
<td>Ram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ram</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Male Goat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and The</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_union#Proposed_continental_unions

A continental union, often abbreviated to CU, is an inter-governmental, supra-national, ... federation of member states located in the same continent, or close to it. Continental unions are a relatively new type of political entity in the history of human government.

Existing Continental Unions (wikipedia.org)

**African Union (AU)**, includes all African countries except Morocco...

**European Union (EU)**, includes 27 European countries (out of 47), 1 Asian country, Cyprus and ...territories in South America and Africa...

**Union of South American Nations (UNSAN)**, includes all of continental South America except French Guiana...→
Proposed Continental Unions (wikipedia.org)

1. Asia Cooperation Dialogue
2. Assoc. of South East Asian Nations
3. Central American Integration System
4. Central Asian Union
5. North American Union
6. Pacific Union
7. Org. of Eastern Caribbean States
8. Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
9. Arab Union
10. Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
The Empires of The Times of the Gentiles
1. The Babylonian Empire
2. The Medo-Persian Empire
3. The Hellenistic Empire
4. The Fourth Empire: Rome / Imperialism
   a. Change: adaptability, will include all types of governments
   b. Final government: do not look for another (i.e. Islam)
   c. Never died and does not need to be revived: we are part of it today
   d. Worldwide: almost there

The Empires of The Times of the Gentiles
1. The Babylonian Empire
2. The Medo-Persian Empire
3. The Hellenistic Empire
4. The Fourth Empire: Rome / Imperialism
   a. The United Stage
   b. The Two Division Stage
   c. The One World Government Stage
   d. The Ten Division Stage
   e. The Antichrist Stage
5. The Messianic Kingdom
The Table of Nations: Genesis 10 (ESV Study Bible)
### The Two Messiah Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended Resource</th>
<th>The Messiah Texts: Raphael Patai</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Messiah Son of Joseph</td>
<td>Messiah Son of David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mashiach ben Joseph</td>
<td>Mashiach ben David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humiliation</td>
<td>Conquering King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffers Physical Harm</td>
<td>Defeats Israel’s Enemies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Substitutionary Death</td>
<td>Institutes the Messianic Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dies in the Wars of Gog and Magog</td>
<td>Resurrects Messiah Son of Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 52:13-53:12</td>
<td>Genesis 49:9-10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Associations with Russia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Magog</th>
<th>Southern Russia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosh</td>
<td>Northern Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meshech</td>
<td>Moscow, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubal</td>
<td>Tobolsk, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbinic Tradition</td>
<td>Russian Navy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We have seen that Magog is a reference to the ancient Scythians, who gave rise to later descendants that settled along the eastern and northern areas of the Black Sea. "The descendants of ancient Magog—the Scythians—were the original inhabitants of the plateau of central Asia, and later some of these people moved into the area north of the Black Sea. The homeland of ancient Scythians is inhabited today by the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and the Ukraine."¹ But who is "the prince of Rosh"?

**THE ATTACK ON ROSH**

The identification of Rosh is one of the most controversial and debated issues in the entire Gog and Magog prophecy, even though it should not be. I believe when one looks at the evidence it is overwhelming that this is a reference to the modern Russians. However, we need to first look at the evidence for such a conclusion.

Preterist prophecy critic, Gary DeMar contends, "In Ezekiel 38:2 and 39:1, the Hebrew word rosh is translated as if it were the name of a nation. That nation is thought to be modern Russia because rosh sounds like Russia."² He then quotes "Edwin M. Yamauchi, noted Christian historian and archaeologist, writes that rosh 'can have nothing to do with modern 'Russia'."³ On a Bible Answer Man radio broadcast in October 2002, the host, Hank Hanegraaff, asked Gary DeMar what he thought about Tim LaHaye identifying Rosh as Russia, since the two words sound so much alike. DeMar responded, "The idea that you can take a word in Hebrew that sounds like the word in English, and then go with that and to create an entire eschatological position based upon that is ... it's nonsense." As I will show later, identification of the Hebrew word rosh with Russia is not based upon similarity of sound. That is a flimsy straw man that DeMar constructs so that he can appear to provide a credible criticism of our view on this matter. DeMar then declares: "The best translation of Ezekiel 38:2 is ‘the chief (head) prince of Meshech and Tubal.”⁴

Concerning the possibility of a Russian/Islamic invasion of Israel in the end times, Marvin Pate and Daniel Hays say categorically, "The biblical term rosh has nothing to do with Russia."⁵ And later they state dogmatically, "These positions are not biblical . . . a Russian-led Muslim invasion of Israel is not about to take place."⁶

A central issue in whether rosh refers to Russia is whether rosh is to be understood as a proper noun (the Russia view) or should it be taken as an adjective (the non-Russia view) and be translated in English as "chief." This is a watershed issue for anyone who wants to properly understand this passage.

**REASONS ROSH REFERS TO RUSSIA**

Now, I want to deal with reasons why rosh should be taken as a noun instead of an adjective and then I will deal with whether it refers to Russia. The word rosh in Hebrew simply means "head," "top," or "chief."⁷ It is a very common word and is used in all
Semitic languages. It occurs approximately seven hundred and fifty times in the Old Testament, along with its roots and derivatives.\(^4\)

The problem is that the word *rōsh* in Ezekiel can be translated as either a proper noun or an adjective. Many translations take *rōsh* as an adjective and translate it as the word “chief.” The King James Version, The Revised Standard Version, and the New International Version all adopt this translation. However, the New King James, the Jerusalem Bible, New English Bible, American Standard Version, and New American Standard Bible all translate *rōsh* as a proper name indicating a geographical location. The weight of the evidence favors taking *rōsh* as a proper name. There are five arguments that favor this view.

First, the eminent Hebrew scholars C. F. Keil and Wilhelm Gesenius both hold that the better translation of Rosh in Ezekiel 38:2-3 and 39:1 is as a proper noun referring to a specific geographical location.\(^9\) Gesenius, who died in 1842 and is considered by modern Hebrew scholars as one of the greatest scholars of the Hebrew language, unquestionably believed that Rosh in Ezekiel was a proper noun identifying Russia. He says that *rōsh* in Ezekiel 38:2, 3; 39:1 is a, “pr. n. of a northern nation, mentioned with Meshech and Tubal; undoubtedly the Russians, who are mentioned by the Byzantine writers of the tenth century, under the name *the Ros*, dwelling to the north of Taurus . . . as dwelling on the river Rha (Wolga).”\(^10\)

This identification by Gesenius cannot be passed off lightly, as DeMar attempts to do. Gesenius, as far as we know, was not even a premillenialist. He had no eschatological, end time ax to grind. Yet, objectively, he says without hesitation that Rosh in Ezekiel 38—39 is Russia. In his original Latin version of the lexicon, Gesenius has nearly one page of notes dealing with the word Rosh and the Rosh people mentioned in Ezekiel 38—39. This page of notes does not appear in any of the English translations of Gesenius’ Lexicon. Those who disagree with Gesenius have failed to refute his sizable body of convincing evidence identifying Rosh with Russia.\(^11\) I do not know what DeMar would say about this evidence since he never deals with it.

Second, the *Septuagint*, which is the Greek translation of the Old Testament, translates *rōsh* as the proper name *Ros*. This is especially significant since the *Septuagint* was translated only three centuries after Ezekiel was written (obviously much closer to the original than any modern translation).\(^12\) The mistranslation of Rosh in many modern translations as an adjective can be traced to the Latin Vulgate of Jerome, which did not appear until around A.D. 400.\(^13\) James Price, who has a Ph.D. in Hebrew from Dropsie, which is the leading Jewish academic University in America says, “The origin of the translation “chief prince of Meshech and Tubal” is traced to the Latin Vulgate. The early translators of the English Bible were quite dependent on the Latin Version for help in translating difficult passages. They evidently followed Jerome in Ezek 38:2, 3; 39:1.”\(^14\) Price further explains the reason for the erroneous translation as follows:

Evidently by the second century A.D. the knowledge of the ancient land of Rosh had diminished. And because the Hebrew word *rōsh* was in such common use as “head” or “chief,” Aquila was influenced to interpret *rōsh* as an adjective, contrary to the LXX [Septuagint] and normal grammatical conventions. Jerome followed the precedent set by Aquila, and so diminished the knowledge of ancient Rosh even further by removing the name from the Latin Bible.

By the sixteenth century A.D. ancient Rosh was completely unknown in the West, so the early English translators of the Bible were influenced by the
Latin Vulgate to violate normal Hebrew grammar in their translation of Ezekiel 38–39. Once the precedent was set in English, it was perpetuated in all subsequent English Versions until this century when some modern versions have taken exception. This ancient erroneous precedent should not be perpetuated.15

Clyde Billington explains why Jerome went against most of the evidence and went with a deviant translation:

Jerome himself admits that he did not base his decision on grammatical considerations! Jerome seems to have realized that Hebrew grammar supported the translation of “prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal” and that it did not support his own translation of “chief prince of Moshoch and Thubal.” However, Jerome rejected translating Rosh as a proper noun because, “we could not find the name of this race [i.e. the Rosh people] mentioned either in Genesis or any other place in the Scriptures, or in Josephus. It was this non-grammatical argument that convinced Jerome to adopt Aquila’s rendering of Rosh as an adjective ["chief"] in Ezekiel 38–39.”16

Third, many Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias, in their articles on Rosh, support taking it as a proper name in Ezekiel 38. Some examples: New Bible Dictionary, Wycliffe Bible Dictionary, and International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.

Fourth, Rosh is mentioned the first time in Ezekiel 38:2 and then repeated in Ezekiel 38:3 and 39:1. If Rosh were simply a title, it would probably dropped in these two places because in Hebrew when titles are repeated they are generally abbreviated.

(To Be Continued . . .)

ENDNOTES

4 DeMar, Last Days Madness, p. 365.
6 Pate and Hays, Iraq, p. 136.
8 Based upon a search conducted by the computer program Accordance, version 6.4.
10 Gesenius, Lexicon, p. 752.
11 Clyde E. Billington, Jr. "The Rosh People in History and Prophecy (Part One), Michigan Theological
The ancient Greek translations of Symmachus and Theodotion also translated Rosh in Ezekiel 38—39 as a proper noun. Billington, “The Rosh People in History and Prophecy (Part One),” p. 59.


Billington, “The Rosh People in History and Prophecy (Part One),” p. 60.
EZEKIEL 38 AND 39
Part IV
by Thomas Ice

“Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him.” —Ezekiel 38:2

Fifth, the most impressive evidence in favor of taking Rosh as a proper name is simply that this translation is the most accurate. G. A. Cooke, a Hebrew scholar, translates Ezekiel 38:2, “the chief of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.” He calls this “the most natural way of rendering the Hebrew.” Why is it the most natural way of rendering the Hebrew? Rosh appears in construct form in the Hebrew with Meshech and Tubal meaning that the grammar forms a list of three nouns. Some want to say that rosh is a noun functioning as an adjective since there should be an “and” if it were intended to be a list of three nouns. The same exact Hebrew construction appears in Ezekiel 38:5, as well as 27:13 and these are clearly recognized as a list of three nouns by grammarians even though “and” does not appear in either list. Normal Hebrew and Arabic grammar supports rosh as a noun (see also 38:3 and 39:1). Actually, Hebrew grammar demands that rosh be taken as a noun. No example of Hebrew grammar has ever been cited that would support taking rosh as an adjective. Instead, in Hebrew grammar one cannot break up the construct chain of the three nouns that have this kind of grammatical arrangement. Hebrew scholar Randall Price says, “on linguistic and historical grounds, the case for taking Rosh as a proper noun rather than a noun-adjective is substantial and persuasive.”

In light of such overwhelming evidence, it is not surprising that Hebrew scholar James Price concludes the following:

It has been demonstrated that Rosh was a well-known place in antiquity as evidenced by numerous and varied references in the ancient literature. It has also been demonstrated that an adjective intervening between a construct noun and its nomen rectum is highly improbable, there being no unambiguous example of such in the Hebrew Bible. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that regarding Rosh as a name is in harmony with normal Hebrew grammar and syntax. It is concluded that Rosh cannot be an adjective in Ezekiel 38–39, but must be a name. Therefore, the only appropriate translation of the phrase in Ezek 38:2, 3, and 39:1 is “prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.”

Clyde Billington says, “the features of Hebrew grammar . . . dictate that Rosh be translated as a proper noun and not as an adjective, . . . It should, however, be noted that the grammatical arguments for the translation of ‘Rosh’ as a proper noun in Ezekiel 38–39 are conclusive and not really open for serious debate.” What would Gary DeMar say about such evidence? I do not know, since I have never seen him address these arguments. DeMar is merely prone to making dogmatic statements to the contrary based upon no real evidence for his position.

Therefore, having established that Rosh should be taken as a proper name of a geographical area, the next task is to determine what geographical location is in view.
HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SUPPORT FOR ROSH AS RUSSIA

Clyde Billington has written a series of three scholarly articles in a theological journal presenting extensive historical, geographical and toponymic evidence for why Rosh should be and is traced to the Russian people of today. He interacts with the leading commentators and authorities of the day in his research and presentation. Billington notes, "it is also clear that Jerome, in deciding to translate Rosh as an adjective rather than a proper noun, based his decision on a nongrammatical argument, i.e. that a people called the Rosh are not mentioned either in the Bible or by Josephus."8 However, there is considerable historical evidence that a place known as Rosh was very familiar in the ancient world. While the word appears in a multitude of various languages, which have a variety of forms and spellings, it is clear that the same people are in view.

It is very likely that the name Rosh is actually derived from the name Tiraz in Genesis 10:2 in the Table of Nations. Billington notes the Akkadian tendency to drop or to change an initial "t" sound in a name especially if the initial "t" was followed by an "r" sound. If you drop the initial "T" from Tiraz you are left with "ras."9 It makes sense for Ras or Rosh to be listed in Genesis 10 since all the other nations in Ezekiel 38:1-6 are also listed there. This means Jerome's claim that Rosh did not appear in the Bible or in Josephus is erroneous. Since Tiraz and his descendants apparently are the same as the later Rosh people, then Rosh does appear in both the Table of Nations and Josephus.

Rosh (Rash) is identified as a place that existed as early as 2600 B.C. in Egyptian inscriptions. There is a later Egyptian inscription from about 1500 B.C. that refers to a land called Reshu that was located to the north of Egypt.10 The place name Rosh (or its equivalent in the respective languages) is found at least twenty times in other ancient documents. It is found three times in the Septuagint (LXX), ten times in Sargon's inscriptions, once in Assurbanipal's cylinder, once in Sennacherib's annals, and five times in Ugaritic tablets.11 Billington traces the Rosh people from the earliest times in recorded history up to the days of Ezekiel, as they appear multiple times throughout this historical period.12

Clearly, Rosh or Tiraz was a well-known place in Ezekiel's day. In the sixth century B.C., the time Ezekiel wrote his prophecy, several bands of the Rosh people lived in an area to the north of the Black Sea. As we approach the eighth century, Billington cites a number of historical references showing that "there is solid evidence linking one group of Rosh People to the Caucasus Mountains."13 From the same general period of time, Billington notes: "There is even one cuneiform document from the reign of the Assyrian King Sargon II (ruled 722-705 B.C.) which actually names all three peoples [Rosh, Meshech, Tubal] mentioned by Ezekiel 38–39."14 Billington concludes this section of his historical studies as follows:

Therefore, there is irrefutable historical evidence for the existence of a people named Rosh/Rashu in 9th-7th century B.C. Assyrian sources. These same Assyrian sources also mention Meshech and Tubal whose names appear in conjunction with the name Rosh in Ezekiel 38–39. Clearly the Assyrians knew of the Rosh people, and so also did the prophet Ezekiel. It should be noted that Ezekiel wrote the Book of Ezekiel only about a 100 years later than extant Assyrian texts which mention the Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal peoples.15

DOES THE NAME RUSSIA COME FROM ROSH?
The ancient Rosh people, who have been traced back to Tiras, a son of Japheth (Gen. 10:2), who migrated to the Caucasus Mountains in Southern Russia, are one of the genetic sources of the modern Russians of today. However, does the name for Russia come from the Biblical word Rosh as used in Ezekiel 38:2? We have seen that Marvin Pate and Daniel Hays have said categorically, "The biblical term rosh has nothing to do with Russia." Their statement is typical of the sentiment of many critics today. But is such a conclusion where the evidence leads? I do not think so! Here's why.

First, we need to know that the Hebrew Old Testament was translated some time in the third century B.C. and it is known as the Septuagint (LXX is the abbreviation). The Septuagint translates the Hebrew word Rosh in all its uses by the Greek word "Rhos." The early church more often than not used the Septuagint as their primary Old Testament. It is still used in the Greek speaking world today as their translation of the Old Testament. Billington tells us: "early Greek Orthodox writers, using the LXX's spelling [Rhos] of the name Rosh, identified the Rosh people of Ezekiel chs. 38–39 with the northern Rus people of Russia and the Ukraine." These people would be ones that lived near, but north of the Greek speaking peoples. Such close proximity would mean that they would have been clear in whom they were identifying and they identified them with the Rosh people. Maranatha!

(To Be Continued . . .)

ENDNOTES


6 Toponymic means the study of place names.


8 Billington, "The Rosh People," (Part One), p. 56.


EZEKIEL 38 AND 39
Part V
by Thomas Ice

"Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him."
—Ezekiel 38:2

As we have seen previously, the Greek translation of the Old Testament Hebrew took Rosh as a proper noun and identified them with the people of Southern Russian and the Ukraine. Such a translation indicates that the Greek-speaking Jews in North Africa believed that Rosh was a proper noun and referred to a known people. After providing an impressive amount of data to support the notion that the Rosh people refer to modern day Russians, Clyde Billington declares:

Therefore, it is almost certain that the ancient people whom the Greeks called Tauroi/Tursenoi were identical to the people known as "Tiras" in the Bible. These same Tiras people of Genesis 10:2 were also called in other languages by a variety of names based upon the name Tiras. For example, note the names: Taruisha [Hittite], Turus/Teresh [Egyptian], Tauroi/Tursenoi [Greek], and Tauri/Etruscan [Latin].

Second, Billington tells us, "From a variety of sources it is known that a people named the Ros or Rus lived in the same area near the Black Sea where the Tauroi people lived." Billington also tells us that "early Byzantine Christian writers identified the Rosh people of Ezekiel 38–39 with an early group of people of southern Russia whom they called the "Ros."

We further learn that "the Byzantine Greeks used the LXX spelling [Ros] of the name because they unquestionably identified the Ros/Rus/Russian people of southern Russia with the Rosh people mentioned in Ezekiel 38–39."

Third, "it is well-known that the first Russian state was founded by a people known as the Varangian Rus." Many current scholars like Edwin Yamauchi support the notion that the name Rus, from which the modern name for Russia is derived, is a Finnish word and refers to Swedish invaders from the North, not from the Rosh people in the South. He says that the name Rus did not come to the region until the Middle Ages when it was brought by the Vikings. However, while Yamauchi is a respected scholar, his dogmatic conclusion stands in direct opposition to the substantial historical evidence presented by the Hebrew scholar Gesenius, James Price, and Clyde Billington.

Billington provides six objections to Yamauchi's claim of a Northern origin of Rus instead of a Southern one. First, the Byzantine use of the word Rus for those who became the Russians pre-dates by hundreds of years the later Northern claim. Second, Byzantine sources never speak of these people as having immigrated from the North to the South. They "were long time inhabitants of the Black Sea—Russia—Ukraine—Crimea area, and none of the Byzantine sources states that the original homeland of the Ros was Scandinavia." Third, since various forms of the Rosh people are found in use all the way back to the second century B.C., it is most unlikely that the Finns invented the name Rus. Fourth, "there is no logical reason why the Ros people should have adopted the foreign Finnish name of "Ruotsi" after migrating to southern Russia." Fifth, "all modern scholars agree that the Varangians never called
themselves (and they were never called by others) 'Ros' while they still lived in Scandinavia near the Finns." Finally, Byzantine and Western records indicate that there were people in Southern Russia who were already calling themselves by the name of "Rus" many years before the Northern invasion.10

It is clear when one sifts through the evidence that the Varangians who migrated from Scandinavia into Southern Russia were called by the name of "Rus" when they moved into that area which had already been known by that name for many years. Billington summarizes: "As was argued above, the Varangian Rus took their name from the native people named the Ros who had from ancient times lived in the area to the north of the Black Sea. In other words there were two Ros peoples: the original Sarmatian Ros people and the Varangian Rus people."11

It should be clear by now that Rosh does indeed refer to the modern day Russian people. Both grammatical and historical evidence have been provided. This is why I agree with the overall conclusions of Billington, who says:

1. Ezekiel 38–39 does mention a people called the "Rosh" who will be an allies of Meshech, Tubal, and Gog in the Last Days.
2. There were Rosh peoples who lived to the north of Israel in the Caucasus Mountains and to the north of the Black and Caspian Seas.
3. Some of the Rosh people who lived to the north of Israel came in time to be called "Russians."
4. The name Russian is derived from the name Ros/Rosh which is found in Ezekiel 38–39.
5. And, in conclusion, it is clear that Russian peoples will be involved along with Meshech, Tubal, and Gog in an invasion of Israel in the Last Days.12

WHO IS MESHECH?
I now move on to the much easier task of identifying to whom Meshech refers. Meshech appears 10 times in the Hebrew Old Testament,13 including its first usage in the Table of Nations (Gen. 10:2). In Genesis 10 Meshech is listed as a son of Japheth. The genealogical descent from Genesis 10 is repeated twice in 1 Chronicles (1:5; 17). Other than references in Psalm 120:5 and Isaiah 66:19, the other occurrences of Meshech are all found in Ezekiel (27:13; 32:26; 38:2, 3; 39:1). The three references in Ezekiel 38 and 39 all group "Rosh, Meshech and Tubal" together, as does Isaiah 66:19 but in a different order. Mark Hitchcock tells us:

All we know about Meshech from the Old Testament is that Meshech and his partners Javan and Tubal traded with the ancient city of Tyre, exporting slaves and vessels of bronze in exchange for Tyre's merchandise. That's all the Bible tells us about ancient Meshech. However, ancient history has a great deal to say about the location and people of ancient Meshech.14

Some Bible teachers in the past have taught that Meshech is a reference to Moscow and thus refers to Russia. This is the view of The Scofield Reference Bible, Harry Rimmer,15 and Hal Lindsey.16 Rimmer says of Meshech: "his descendants came to be called 'Mosche,' from which derived the old term 'Muscovites.' While this later word is and has been applied to all Russians who come from Moscow and its vicinity."17 The identification of Meshech with Moscow is merely based upon a similarity of sound. There is not real historical basis to support such a view, therefore, it must be rejected.
Allen Ross, based upon historical and biblical information in his dissertation on the table of nations says:

Tubal and Mesek are always found together in the Bible. They represent the northern military states that were exporting slaves and copper (Ezekiel 27:13, 38:2, 39:1, 32:26 and Isaiah 66:19). Herodotus placed their dwelling on the north shore of the Black Sea (III, 94). Josephus identified them as the Cappadocians. Mesek must be located in the Moschian mountains near Armenia. Their movement was from eastern Asia Minor north to the Black Sea.\(^{18}\)

The area southeast of the Black Sea is modern day Turkey. “At every point in the history” of Meshech, notes Hitchcock “they occupied territory that is presently in the modern nation of Turkey.”\(^{19}\) Such a conclusion is not a controversial one since virtually all scholars agree with this view.

**WHO IS TUBAL?**

“Tubal” appears eight times in the Hebrew Bible\(^{20}\) (Gen. 10:2; 1 Chron. 1:5; Isa. 66:19; Ezek. 27:13; 32:26; 38:2, 3; 39:1). Tubal is identified as the fifth son of Japheth and the brother of Meshech in the table of nations (Gen. 10:2). As noted above by Ross, Tubal is always grouped together with Meshech in the Bible and Ezekiel 38 is no exception.

Some prophecy teachers have taught that Tubal is the derivative that became the modern Russian city Tobolsk. This view was popularized by *The Scofield Reference Bible* and a number of other teachers. However, as was the case with Meshech, such a view is developed from similarity of the sound of Tubal and Tobolsk. This view lacks a solid historical basis. The historical record, as was the case with Meshech, is that Tubal and his descendants immigrated to the area southeast of the Black Sea in what is modern day Turkey. Meshech and Tubal clearly provide the population base for the country we now call Turkey.

Today Turkey is considered a secular country. However, Turkey has a long history as a Muslim dominated country that for hundreds of years headed up the Muslim empire. Turkey is just a step away from returning to its Islamic political heritage, which would provide a basis for aliening with the other Muslim dominated territories that will one day invade Israel. Maranatha!

(To Be Continued . . .)

ENDNOTES

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2 Billington, “The Rosh People (Part Three),” p. 44.
5 Billington, “The Rosh People (Part Three),” p. 51.
10 Billington, “The Rosh People (Part Three),” pp. 52–53.
13 Based upon a search conducted by the computer program Accordance, version 6.9.2.
14 Mark Hitchcock, After The Empire: Bible Prophecy in Light of the Fall of the Soviet Union (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1994), p. 56.
16 Hal Lindsey, The Late Great Planet Earth (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970).
17 Rimmer, The Coming War, pp. 55–56.
20 Based upon a search conducted by the computer program Accordance, version 6.9.2.
Characterized by groundbreaking entrepreneurship, Israel yields pioneering technologies, profitable business opportunities and high investment returns.

This is why have so many major multi-nationals - Microsoft, Berkshire-Hathaway, Motorola, Intel, HP, Siemens, GE, IBM, Philips, Lucent, AOL, Cisco, Applied Materials, IBM, J&J and more - chose to invest in Israel.

Voicemail, the Internet Fire Wall, instant messaging, VoIP telephony (internet phone calling), modern cellular billing and video endoscopy capsules were all conceived and developed in Israel.

If Israel, with her dynamic workforce from over 100 nations, did not exist, the world would be less advanced than it is today.

Here is a capsule of Israeli accomplishments you may not be fully aware of. Israel, the 100th smallest country, with less than 1/1000th of the world’s population, can lay claim to the following:

Israel is ranked:

- 1st for total expenditure on R&D *
- 1st for business expenditure on R&D *
- 1st for availability of qualified scientists and engineers *
- 2nd for venture capital availability *
- 2nd for information technology skills *
- 3rd for Quality of Scientific Research Organizations **
- 3rd for Registered Patents Per Capita **
- 3rd for flexibility and availability of the workforce *
- 4th for higher education achievements *
- 6th for overall innovation **

* IMD Global Competitiveness Yearbook 2007-2008
** WEF Global Competitiveness Report 2008-2009

- The cell phone was developed in Israel by Israelis working in the Israeli branch of Motorola, which has its largest development center in Israel.
- Most of the Windows NT and XP operating systems were developed by Microsoft-Israel.
- The Intel Pentium chip technology was designed in Israel.
- Both the Pentium-4 microprocessor and the Centrino processor were entirely designed, developed, and produced in Israel. In January 2005, an upgraded version of its Centrino chipset
was, like its predecessor, conceived in Intel's development center in Haifa. The product features new graphics and audio capabilities, faster processing, and greater security features. Intel’s next major endeavor, a chipset to support the more advanced WiMax standard for wireless Internet, is also being spearheaded in Israel.

- The Pentium microprocessor in your computer was most likely made in Israel.
- Internet voice-mail technology was developed in Israel.
- Both Microsoft and Cisco built their only R&D facilities outside the U.S. in Israel.
- Four young Israelis developed the technology for the AOL Instant Messenger ICQ in 1996.
- Checkpoint, the world's leader in online security and inventor of Firewall, is an Israeli company.
- Nobel prizes have been awarded to 167 Jews and persons of half-Jewish ancestry, accounting for 22% of all individual recipients worldwide between 1901 and 2004 and constituting 37% of all U.S. recipients during the same period. In the scientific research fields of chemistry, economics, medicine, and physics, the corresponding world and U.S. percentages are 26% and 39%, respectively. Jews currently make up approximately 0.25% of the world’s population and 2% of the U.S. population. Yet they have won prizes in these fields:
  - CHEMISTRY: (28 prize winners, 19% of world total, 28% of U.S. total)
  - ECONOMICS: (21 prize winners, 38% of world total, 53% of U.S. total)
  - LITERATURE: (12 prize winners, 12% of world total, 27% of U.S. total)
  - PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE: (52 prize winners, 29% of world total, 42% of U.S. total)
  - PEACE: (9 prize winners, 10% of world total, 11% of U.S. total)
  - PHYSICS: (45 prize winners, 26% of world total, 38% of U.S. total)
- In 1955, Jewish doctor Jonas Salk gave the world the polio vaccine, which was composed of "killed" polio virus that retained the ability to immunize without running the risk of infecting the patient.
- Jewish entertainers, musicians, artists, comedians, singers, and film producers have blessed the world in a percentage far greater than their proportion in the world’s population.
- Israel has the fourth largest air force in the world (after the U.S., Russia, and China). In addition to a large variety of other aircraft, Israel’s air force has an arsenal of over 250 F-16s. This is the largest fleet of F-16 aircraft outside of the U.S.
- Israel’s US $100 billion economy is larger than all of its immediate neighbors combined.
- Israel has the world’s highest percentage of home computers per capita.
• According to industry officials, Israel has designed the airline industry’s most impenetrable flight security. U.S. officials now look to Israel for advice on how to handle airborne security threats.

• Israel has developed an in-flight cell-phone system that will allow cell-phone use on airlines at an affordable price.

• Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees to the population in the world; 24% of Israeli workers hold university degrees, ranking third in the industrialized world, after the U.S. and Holland, and 12% hold advanced degrees.

• Israel produces more scientific papers per capita than any other nation by a large margin—109 per 10,000 people—and have one of the highest per capita rates of patents filed.

• In proportion to its population, Israel has the largest number of start-up companies in the world. In absolute terms, Israel has the largest number of start-up companies compared to any other country in the world, except the U.S. (3,500 companies, mostly in high-tech). And with both high-tech companies and start-ups, Israel has the highest concentration of high-tech companies in the world—apart from the Silicon Valley in the U.S.

• The first PC antivirus software was developed in Israel in 1979, and Israel continues as the world leader in developing antivirus software programs.

• Israel is ranked number two in the world for venture capital funds, right behind the U.S.

• Outside the U.S. and Canada, Israel has the largest number of NASDAQ-listed companies.

• Israel has the highest average living standards in the Middle East.

• The per capita income in 2000 was over US $17,500, exceeding that of the United Kingdom.

• On a per capita basis, Israel has the largest number of biotech start-ups.

• Israel is the only liberal democracy in the Middle East.

• In 1984 and 1991, Israel airlifted a total of 22,000 Ethiopian Jews, at risk in Ethiopia, to safety in Israel.

• When Golda Meir was elected prime minister of Israel in 1969, she became the world’s second elected female leader in modern times.

• Israel has the third highest rate of entrepreneurship—and the highest rate among women and among people over 55—in the world.

• Israel has the highest density of startups companies in the world some 3,850, according to the Israel Venture Capital Research Centre.

• Relative to its population, Israel is the largest immigrant-absorbing nation on earth. Immigrants come in search of democracy, religious freedom, and economic opportunity.
- Israel was the first nation in the world to adopt the Kimberley process, an international standard that certifies diamonds as “conflict-free.”
- Israel has the world’s second-highest per capita of new books.
- Israel is the only country in the world that entered the 21st century with a net gain in its number of trees, a remarkable feat because this was achieved in an area considered mainly desert.
- Israel has more museums per capita than any other country.
- In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra played a concert wearing gas masks as Scud missiles fired by Saddam Hussein fell on Tel Aviv.
- Israeli scientists developed the first fully computerized, no-radiation diagnostic instrumentation for breast cancer.
- Israel has two official languages, Hebrew and Arabic, with both English and Russian spoken widely.
- An Israeli company developed a computerized system for ensuring proper administration of medications, thus removing human error from medical treatment. Every year in U.S. hospitals, 7,000 patients die from treatment mistakes.
- Israel’s Given imaging developed the first ingestible video camera, so small it fits inside a pill. It is used to view the small intestine from the inside to detect cancer and digestive disorders.
- Israeli start-up, Veterix, has developed an innovative new electronic capsule that sits in the stomach of a cow, sheep, or goat, sending out real-time information on the health of the herd, to the farmer via Email or cell phone. The e-capsule, which also sends out alerts if animals are distressed, injured, or lost, is now being tested on a herd of cows, in the hopes that the device will lead to tastier and healthier meat and milk supplies.
- Researchers in Israel developed a new device that directly helps the heart pump blood, an innovation with the potential to save lives among those with heart failure. The new device is synchronized with a camera and helps doctors diagnose the heart’s mechanical operations through a sophisticated system of sensors.
- Israel leads the world in the number of scientists and technicians in the workforce with 145 per 10,000, as opposed to 85 in the U.S., over 70 in Japan, and less than 60 in Germany. With over 25% of its workforce employed in technical professions, Israel places first in this category as well.
• A new acne treatment developed in Israel, the ClearLight device, produces a high-intensity, ultraviolet-light-free, narrow-band blue light that causes acne bacteria to self-destruct—all without damaging surrounding skin or tissue.

• An Israeli company was the first to develop and install a large-scale, solar-powered, and fully functional electricity-generating plant in southern California’s Mojave Desert.

• Israel is a not only a world leader in high tech, bio-technology, life sciences and computers but also in green technology involving agriculture, water treatment and solar power.

• In response to serious water shortages, Israeli engineers and agriculturalists developed a revolutionary drip-irrigation system to minimize the amount of water used to grow crops.

• Netafim changed the world of agriculture by developing drip-irrigation technology. Israeli companies continue to lead the world in this field.

• Date palms have been growing in the Middle East for centuries. The average tree is about 18 to 20 feet tall (about 5.5 to 6.1 meters) and yields about 38 pounds (about 17.2 kilograms) of dates a year. Israeli trees are now yielding 400 pounds (181.4 kilograms) per tree each year and are short enough to be harvested from the ground or a short ladder.

• Through Israel’s problems associated with water scarcity, they have helped several African farming communities with drip irrigation schemes as well as establishing 1,000 water projects in 500 Romanian villages.

• Israel recycles 75% of its wastewater – a world record.

• It will soon be possible to order rain in Israel. A group of Israeli, Belgian and American researchers from Ben Gurion University in the Negev hope to transform this myth into a reality. “The Geshem Project” (‘geshem’ means rain in Hebrew) could significantly reduce world hunger. A virtual simulation is planned for the near future in the Negev: For 80 million Euros, the system put in place over a surface of 9 kilometers squared could bring rain to a region measuring 40 to 100 km2.

• Israel airlifted over 14,000 threatened individuals to their country in the space of 36 hours who would have otherwise faced widespread persecution.

• Israel was one of the first countries to respond after the Pakistani earthquake in 2005 even though they have still not recognized Israel as a legitimate state.

• An award-winning scientist at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev developed a biological control for mosquitoes and black flies that cause malaria and river blindness, saving the sight and lives of millions of people in Africa and China.
• Microsoft has one of its three "strategic development centers" outside the US in Israel. It is based on several startup companies that Microsoft has acquired in Israel, which are now part of this development center.

• The Israeli company M-Systems developed the USB-Flash Drives, used for portable storage all over the world. The company was recently bought by SanDisk, an American company, the world’s leader in the flash storage market, established by an Israeli guy.

• IBM, Kodak, Cisco, HP, Google, Novell and many more, also have large scale research and development centers in Israel.

Videos:
1. Israel – Defying the Odds
2. Israel - From Innovation to Freedom
3. Start-up Nation, the story of Israel’s Economic Miracle
4. Environmental technologies developed by Israel
5. Novel Efficient Water Technologies
6. Truly Amazing Advanced Solar Cell from Israel
7. Israel Boasts Agricultural Innovations
8. Eliminating Rural Poverty
9. eFuture of Israel
10. Israel - Your NEXT best investment
11. Before you boycott Israel
12. I am Israel

Articles:

1. Unmatched Israeli Innovation Praised in New Book
2. Israel’s impact on the world
3. Israel and the Arab World - Their Contribution to Mankind
4. Science and Technology in Israel
The Great Rift Valley

Islam in Prophecy:  
The Future Islamic Invasion of Israel

The last hour would not come till the Muslims fight against the Jews and the Muslims kill them, until the Jews hide themselves, and the stones and trees would speak up saying, "There is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him."

—Saying of the Prophet Muhammad  
Hadith Sahih Muslim, Book 40:6985

According to Islam, at the end of days, Islam will be victorious over all nations and religions, particularly the Jewish people and Israel. This perspective was plainly evident in a Jerusalem Post interview with some Palestinian Muslims shortly after the 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States. A Muslim named Karam argued that the United States and Israel were trying to resist an inevitable historical process. "Everyone knows that in the end the whole world is going to become Muslims."

When the interviewer asked what will become of the state of Israel, another young Muslim who was listening interrupted by saying, "Israel? Israel will be the world capital of Islam."1

This view of the future governs modern militant Islam. Muslims who adopt an aggressive posture against Israel believe Islam is ascendant and Israel will be defeated. Nevertheless, the Bible has a competing end-time scenario. The Bible anticipates an Arab-Israeli conflict in which Islamic nations one day will unite, surround Israel, and then invade the Jewish state with the intention of destroying it. However, the Bible outlines a wholly different outcome. The prophet Ezekiel previewed the final Arab-Israeli conflict and its ultimate outcome.
The Roles of Iran, Sudan, and Libya

Additionally, Ezekiel describes three other nations that will join the attack on Israel from the north: “Persia, Cush and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets” (38:5). Today Persia is called Iran. As noted above, it is dominated by a strict Islamic government and is a source of anti-Israel terrorism. Tehran’s heated rhetoric against Israel along with its missile development and nuclear aspirations has led Israel to view Iran as its most dangerous enemy in the Middle East.

Moreover, the Hezbollah terrorists that frequently attack Israel from Lebanon are funded, supplied, and trained by Iran. Recall that Iran sent the Karrine A weapons ship to the Palestinian Authority, which Israel seized before it could drop its terrorist cargo. It will be no surprise if Iran joins an attack on Israel.

The second ally named by Ezekiel is Cush, now called Sudan, a country known for its Islamic militancy. It harbored Islamic terrorist Osama bin Laden prior to his establishment of a base in Afghanistan.

The last ally mentioned by Ezekiel is Put, which is modern-day Libya. Led by Mohamar Khadaffi, Libya has long been known for its extremism and radical anti-Israel posture. Based on Ezekiel’s prophecy, militant Islam will coalesce and form an alliance that will one day attack Israel. The alliance will include the Islamic republics that were formerly part of the USSR, Turkey, Iran, Sudan, and Libya—all joining to surround and invade Israel. According to the Bible, the hatred of Israel among militant Muslims will increase to the point of all-out war with the Jewish state.

The Time of the Invasion

When will the Islamic invasion of Israel take place? In his description of the invasion, Ezekiel gives some clues that this will take place sometime in the future period of tribulation on the earth.

Clue One: A Restored Israel

First, this will take place after Israel has been restored as a nation. Ezekiel makes this clear when he writes, “In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety” (38:8).
an earthquake fault line running north-south through the heart of the land, any earthquake can have a devastating effect. In the confusion of broken roads and bridges, the invading armies will turn on each other. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother” (verse 21). Perhaps the earthquake will disrupt command and control of the invading armies or maybe the different languages spoken by the armies (Persian, Turkish, Arabic) will bring confusion, or possibly a combination of these two factors. The result will be the invaders will be killing each other with friendly fire; then, as the bodies pile up, God will send plague and further bloodshed (verse 22).

In the midst of this confusion, God will bring “torrents of rain” (verse 22) on those who attack Israel. In Israel, which is dry nine months a year, a heavy rain can cause flash floods and swell rivers and wadis to such an extent that armies can be entirely halted or swept away. While they are stopped in their tracks, God will rain “hailstones and burning sulfur” (verse 22) on the invading armies, devastating the armies of militant Islam.

Both Israel and its invaders will understand that Israel did not rescue herself with her own military strength but that God delivered His nation with supernatural intervention. God says, “I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations” (38:23). God alone will send a massive earthquake, plague and bloodshed, torrential rains, hailstones, and fiery sulfur to defeat the Islamic invasion of Israel.

How Soon?

How soon these events will take place is unknown to anyone. The Bible promises that the next event on the prophetic calendar is the removal of the followers of Messiah—the church—prior to the Tribulation (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9). Yet the rise of Islamic militancy in our day and its associated hatred of Israel could be hints that these events are certainly getting closer. Militant Muslims, citing the prophet Muhammad’s words in Hadith 40:6985 (see the opening quotation), fully expect Islam to dominate the world in general and Israel in particular. On the other hand, the Scriptures paint a drastically different outcome. When these Islamic militiamen attack, the God of Israel will rush to the aid of His people and use His protection as a means of ultimately bringing them to trust in the Messiah Jesus.

But what of the Arab nations that surround Israel? They are not mentioned in Ezekiel 38–39. What does the Bible say about them? It is to this we next turn our attention.
The Empires of The Times of the Gentiles
1. The Babylonian Empire
2. The Medo-Persian Empire
3. The Hellenistic Empire
4. The Fourth Empire: Rome / Imperialism
   a. The United Stage
   b. The Two Division Stage
      The Russian Invasion of Israel
   c. The One World Government Stage
   d. The Ten Division Stage
   e. The Antichrist Stage
5. The Messianic Kingdom
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<th>East-West Balance of Power</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Israel</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Continued growth in prosperity and world-wide influence</td>
<td>1. Continued shift back towards the East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Control of the West Bank (a Palestinian State will be temporary)</td>
<td>2. United States unwilling/unable to support Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Increasing world-wide anti-Semitism</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Russia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Continued leadership of the East</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Serious military alliances with:</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. Iran</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Libya</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>c. North Sudan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Turkey</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Germany? Ukraine?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Armenia? Georgia? Azerbaijan?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Other countries?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>