

NUCLEAR JIHAD

Ezekiel 38:1 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
Ezekiel 38:2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,
Ezekiel 38:3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.
Ezekiel 38:4 I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company *with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.
Ezekiel 38:5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet;
Ezekiel 38:6 Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah *from* the far north and all its troops - many people *are* with you.

Let me read you a series of quotes:

"No doubt the new wave [of attacks] in Palestine will soon wipe off this disgraceful blot [Israel] from the face of the Islamic world."

"The establishment of the Zionist regime was a move by the world oppressor against the Islamic world."

"The Islamic [community] will not allow its historic enemy to live in its heartland."

"The Zionist regime is on the road to being eliminated."

"The regime that is occupying Jerusalem must be wiped from the map."

These are a small sampling of the rhetoric of the world's most blatantly anti-Semitic leader, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (mah**MOOD** ah-mah-dih-nee-**ZHAHD**), President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As recently as August 3rd (2006), Ahmadinejad (ah-mah-dih-nee-**ZHAHD**) said to Muslim leaders, "the main solution is for the elimination" of Israel.

Iran has been called, "The Mother of Modern Terrorism." In a January 2006 issue of *U.S. News and World Report*, Mortimer Zuckerman wrote:

“Teheran openly provides funding, training, and weapons to the world’s worst terrorists, including Hezbollah, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and it has a cozy relationship with al Qaeda. It has given sanctuary to major al Qaeda terrorists, including... three of Osama bin Laden’s sons... It supports many of the barbaric terrorists in Iraq who are murdering innocent civilians... It is infiltrating troublemakers into Afghanistan, supporting terrorism against Turkey, sustaining Syria, and had a hand in the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia.”

Israel correctly recognizes Iran’s influence on terror. Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev said,

"Our operation in Lebanon is designed to neutralize one of the long arms of Iran - Hezbollah. Hezbollah is their proxy, being used as an instrument of Teheran to advance their extremist agenda and the blow to Hezbollah is a blow to Iranian interests and a blow to all extremist jihadist forces in the region."

One more thing: Iran is going nuclear! Most officials now believe they are very close to having nuclear weapons. They are not years away, as some would falsely hope. They are **not** going to stop pressing forward with their nuclear program; and you are just being silly if you think that all they want are power plants for electricity.

All of this combines to create enormous political, economic, and military difficulties.

But there is something else going on that is far more significant. You see it when you realize or remember that modern-day Iran is ancient Persia of the Bible.

God’s Word has a lot to say about Persia. Author Mark Hitchcock, says that the words *Persia*, *Persian*, or *Persians* appear some thirty-five times in the Old Testament. **Thirty-four of those references have been historically fulfilled!**

The Bible is remarkable in fulfilled prophecy. It’s accuracy is 1000%! If the thirty-four references have already been fulfilled... Then so will the thirty-fifth.

That thirty-fifth reference is in Ezekiel 38:5, which describes a coalition of nations that will invade Israel in the latter days. It is a 2600 year-old prophecy that is coming true before our very eyes.

The Ezekiel passage begins by listing those nations:

1. **Gog**, first on the list, seems to be the proper name or title of a person who leads the coming invasion. He is called a prince and is here and later addressed personally.
2. **Magog** refers to the ancient Scythians. Geographically we're talking about places like Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and (maybe) Afghanistan.
3. **Rosh** really is Russia.
4. **Meshech and Tubal** are, geographically, parts of Turkey.
5. **Ehiopia** is next.
6. **Libya** is next.
7. **Gomer** is also identified with Turkey.
8. As is **Beth-Togarmah**.

It's not hard to see these nations joining together in an invasion of Israel. Iran's president has also said Palestine "will soon be freed"; that the Middle East "will soon be liberated"; that Israel is "heading towards annihilation."

He said,

"The Zionist regime is a rotten, dried tree that will be eliminated by one storm."

Could he be referring to a nuclear storm that would wipe-out Israel in one blow? Regardless what he might mean, this is what God said, in Ezekiel 38:9,

Ezekiel 38:9 You will ascend, coming like a **storm**, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you."

Ezekiel 38:16 says,

Ezekiel 38:16 You will come up against My people Israel like a **cloud**, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes."

Against all human reasoning, Israel became a nation again after centuries of dispersion. Today, for the first time since around 135AD, more Jews live in Israel than anywhere else on earth.

Israel and the world face the threat of a radical rogue nation soon to possess an atomic arsenal – a nation that supports terror, that hates the West, and is committed to destroying Israel once-and-for-all. A nation that God said would be part of the last-days invasion alliance.

The invasion of Israel will fail on account of God's direct intervention on behalf of His chosen nation:

Ezekiel 38:18 "And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," says the Lord GOD, "that My fury will show in My face.

Ezekiel 38:19 For in My jealousy *and* in the fire of My wrath I have spoken:

'Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, Ezekiel 38:20 so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who *are* on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.'

Ezekiel 38:21 I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains," says the Lord GOD. "Every man's sword will be against his brother.

Ezekiel 38:22 And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who *are* with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

Ezekiel 38:23 Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I *am* the LORD."

By earthquake, rain, hail, fire, and brimstone; by the worst friendly-fire imaginable as the invading armies attack themselves; and by disease; God reveals Himself.

When will these things occur? Evangelical Bible scholars and commentators are agreed it has not, nor could it have, occurred in the past. It is yet future.

As to when in the future there are at least two possibilities:

1. It could occur just before the Rapture of the Church.
2. It could occur during the first half, during the opening years, of the Great Tribulation on earth.

I lean towards the latter view, that we will first be Raptured and then, in the opening years of the Great Tribulation, this invasion occurs.

We don't need to get specific. The important thing tonight is this: The stage is being set for God's Word to be fulfilled.

Look at it this way: Regarding Persia, God's score is 34 out of 34. *He will soon be 35 & 0!*

That brings us to the question that the apostle Peter asked, then answered:

2 Peter 3:11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
2 Peter 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

You ought to be *holy* and you ought to be *hastening*.

Holy conduct and godliness describes your daily **activities**.

1. **Holy** means *set apart*. It is keeping yourself away from sin.
2. **Godliness** is the more positive way of looking at it - deliberately living in a way that is pleasing to God.

To paraphrase, this means you should be impatient with your progress as a believer by living everyday moving forward in your walk with God. *being changed to bring change -*

Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God is an incredible phrase that has to do with your **attitude** in all your activities.

1. First, you are **looking for... the coming day of God**. You are to really expect today to be your last day - whether it's the day Jesus Raptures His Church or the day He takes you home through death.
2. Second, you should have the attitude that you can **hasten** His coming. One of the meanings of the word is *to accelerate*. **You should think you can accelerate the coming of the Lord.**

You accelerate His coming by telling more people about Him.
Someone **will** be the last person saved before the Rapture.

Conclusion

All the news and current events point toward the fulfillment of the remaining prophecy about Persia (Iran). All of the other remaining prophecies of the Bible will be fulfilled:

1. There will be a Rapture of the Church.
2. There will be a seven-year Tribulation on the earth.
3. It will begin with an man of peace signing a peace treaty with Israel that allows them to rebuild their Temple.
4. The man of peace will turn out to be the anti-Christ.
5. Jesus Christ will return in His Second Coming at the end of the seven years.
6. The Lord will set-up and reign over a Kingdom on earth for 1000 years.
7. At the end of the thousand-years, there will be a resurrection of the wicked dead from all time. They will be lost for all eternity – thrown alive into the Lake of Fire.
8. There will be a new Heaven and a new earth where we will dwell in joy forever – with no tears or fears.

God only waits because He is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish, but that all would come to repentance.

If you are not a believer: God is longsuffering towards **you**.

When you see what is going on in today's world, you begin to understand that He won't wait much longer...

