

F A K E
ARMAGEDDON
AND THE
COMING ANTICHRIST

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DOUG MCGEE



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work first to my Lord and Savior Jesus, then to Dan Kilgore, to whom I owe so much because of his discipling me for nine months and the prayer I prayed with him about the coming of our Lord.

To my beloved wife, Maxine. Her patient support and encouragement have helped to make this book possible.

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FOREWORD

Doug McGee writes about a coming northern confederacy of nations who will invade the Promised Land after Israel's restoration. There have existed various views as to the time of this prophecy. The writer places the conflict at the beginning of the Tribulation Period. This view has a close harmony with the prophetic scheme of the eschatological passages of the Old and New Testaments. Here we have the resurrection of the righteous people who had died, and I believe that this ties with Ezekiel 38:19 because of this earthquake that our Lord causes at the time these nations come down against Israel.

He ties together four great events for our consideration: (1) the invasion of the Northern Confederacy, (2) the earthquake of Ezekiel 38:19, (3) the Rapture, (4) the beginning of the Tribulation

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Period. Many books have been written and time charts have been designed to lay out a chronology of the end time events. Some have objected to a literal interpretation and have suggested that the prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39 is a prophetic parable. The author, however, deals with plain statements of the Scriptures in formulating his views. I'm sure that each reader of this book will be stimulated toward further study of the "end time events."

—Leroy Mikels, Th.D.
Triune Biblical University

INTRODUCTION

My intention in approaching this work is to present a biblical view on Bible prophecies. I have spent close to nineteen years and many hours studying Bible prophecies and historical events.

I want to let the word of the prophets speak. I also want to blend together the different works of the prophets. This will give the reader a clear picture of current events.

I believe Christians and non-Christians can learn from this book. Bible scholars and Bible students can also profit from it. I intend to expose the true meaning of God's word.

People are seeking the truth. They want answers to the things that are happening all around them. It is my fervent hope that this book will in some way

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accomplish this. Of course, my readers must judge this for themselves, they are given the freedom to accept or reject it.

—Doug McGee

CHAPTER 1

THE PROPHET

Let us look at the prophet Ezekiel and who he is. *Smith's Bible Dictionary* says Ezekiel's name means "the strength of God." The son of a priest named Buzi, he is one of our four greatest prophets. Ezekiel began prophesying in 595 B.C. and continued until 573 B.C, some 2,600 years ago.

Ezekiel was married, but his wife died suddenly during the siege of Jerusalem (Ezekiel 24:18). God gave him this revelation and commanded that Ezekiel not grieve her death.

Ezekiel's sadness at her death matched God's grief over Jerusalem's sins. The harshness of our Lord's command to his prophet emphasizes the Lord's grief over the fate and sufferings of his rebellious people.

We can learn something about the suffering of Ezekiel and the suffering of God himself. Through

Ezekiel, God shows us just how ugly and serious our sins are. Our rebellion brings grief and anguish to our Lord.

We can divide Ezekiel's ministry into two phases: (1) warning of coming judgment on Judah, Jerusalem, and the nations who would carry out our Lord's judgments, (2) messages of encouragement and hope for the future.

Scholars have written much about Ezekiel's personality. They have labeled him as neurotic, paranoid, psychotic, or schizophrenic because of his unusual behavior. For example, lying on one side for 390 days and on his other side for 40 days (Ezekiel 4:4-6); shaving his head, (Ezekiel 5:1-4); and his many visions.

A better explanation for his strange behavior is that some people consider anyone who conscientiously obeys God as strange. It seems that nothing God asked Ezekiel to do was too difficult for him. Only once was he reluctant to obey a command. That command would have made him ceremonially unclean (Ezekiel 4:14). His objection reflected his priestly training (*Holman Bible Dictionary*).

In Ezekiel Chapter 1, the prophet talks of his encounter with The Living Creatures and the Glory of the Lord. He gives us brilliant insight into what he saw and how awesome the four living creatures looked. In Revelation 4:6-9 the Apostle John also saw

the four living creatures. Here we have two different accounts, several hundred years apart, and both describe the four living creatures the same way.

Ezekiel also saw a windstorm coming out of the north, an immense cloud with flashing lightning surrounded by brilliant light (Ezekiel 1:4). This brilliant light is as a throne of sapphire. High above on this throne was a figure like that of a man with the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day (Ezekiel 1:28).

The Apostle John also describes this theme in Revelation 4:3. I believe that we are going to see this type of event take place in Ezekiel 38:20, starting with Ezekiel 38:1 and parts of Chapter 39. It is important to try to bring a true interpretation of the Scriptures.

The word of the LORD came to me: (Ezek. 38:1)

As we read this first verse, we need to understand just how Ezekiel received this word from God. In the first chapter Ezekiel saw the heavens open, and he saw visions of God (Ezekiel 1:1).

Then the hand of the Lord was upon him, and he saw a picture of heaven and what is in it. He fell on his face because of the glory of the Lord. This whole account can be read in the first chapter of Ezekiel.

Again in Ezekiel 8:1-4 the hand of the Lord comes upon him, and he is caught up into heaven again.

GOD GIVES US VISIONS

Throughout Ezekiel our Lord speaks to Ezekiel in these visions. The Hebrew word *dabar* means a matter spoken of as a commandment. It also means something that will happen or cause to happen.

When the word *came* is in the phrase, “The word of the Lord came to me,” the word *came* has a unique meaning. From the *New Webster’s Dictionary* it means to happen, to take place, to take form in the mind. This last part, “to take form in the mind,” confirms how Ezekiel received the Word of God.

From Genesis to Revelation our Lord came to his patriarchs in a vision to express a message. Angels also communicated with God’s people. Our Lord himself would take on the form of an angel to talk to his patriarchs in person.

How important is God’s word concerning a person prophesying? It’s God’s way of confirming who God is to us.

Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the
land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and
Tubal; prophesy against him

(Ezek. 38:2)

One of the unique names that our Lord gives to Ezekiel is son of man. From the very start of his calling, our Lord called him son of man. This phrase appears ninety-three times in Ezekiel. Only one other prophet was addressed this way. That was Daniel, and it was only once.

This shows a special relationship between Ezekiel and the Lord. It emphasizes the prophet's humanity.

The Septuagint applies these references (son of man) to Jesus, the incarnate Son of God. Jesus is both the representative man and the one in whom man's appointed destiny will be fully realized. The Hebrew author uses these words in his testimony of Christ.

Daniel had a vision of heaven at night. "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence" (Dan. 7:13). This is the first reference to the Messiah as the son of man, a title that Jesus applied to himself.

Jesus will be enthroned as the ruler over the whole earth. There is another way of looking at this. Ezekiel was born of the first Adam: man. Jesus was born as the second Adam, being born of spirit and water. Through his death we can be born again

(John 3:3-8). After this, we will finally become the sons of God (Romans 8:14).

Examine the phrase, “Set your face against Gog.” The word *set* means to “turn one’s face toward something.” It also means to direct one’s desires, one’s hope, and one’s focus on someone or something. In this phrase our Lord commands Ezekiel to “set his face against Gog.” In other words, God commanded him to look in the direction where this person lives.

The word *against* means a denoting motion or expression of the face, to look angrily at, or to show sternness at someone. This was not only the expression that Ezekiel was told to use, but it also was the expression that our Lord had on his face.

When you put both these words together, *set against* means to show hostility toward or to make an enemy of. In attempting to express the meaning of the Scripture about our prophetic future, it is important to give accurate interpretation of the Scriptures. With this in mind, let’s look at this person called Gog.

Gog means “golden ornament.” He was the son of Joel and the father of Shimei, one of the descendants of Reuben (1 Chronicles 5:4).

The Bible says very little about Gog. It makes you wonder why the name *Gog* is portrayed as a godless, wicked leader of a country. One answer for this can

be found in Reuben, the firstborn of Jacob. Reuben should have been a leader to his brothers and should have received the birthright, the double portion of the inheritance (Deuteronomy 21:17).

However, his incest cost him dearly. He never lost his legal standing as firstborn, but he forfeited his claim to the birthright. When Reuben made his descent into Egypt with Israel, he was the father of four sons who had been born to him in Canaan (Genesis 46:9).

The Reubenites, led by Beerah son of Reaiah, were taken into exile by Tiglath-Pileser III, king of Assyria (1 Chronicles 5:6,26). Because he lost his birthright he could not be listed in the genealogical records.

Most scholars put Gog as the leader of a confederacy of armies that will attack Israel. Described as “the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal,” Gog is also depicted as “of the land of Magog” (Ezekiel 38:2-3), a “place out of the far north” of Israel (*Nelson’s Bible Dictionary*).

Ezekiel prophetically describes Gog and his allies striking at Israel with a fierce and sudden invasion (Ezekiel 38-39). According to Ezekiel’s prophecy, Gog will be crushed on the mountains of Israel in a slaughter so great that it will take seven months to bury the dead (Ezekiel 39:12) (*Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary*).

In order to find out where this Gog comes from, we must look at Magog's location. *Magog* means "land of Gog," the name of a man and these people in the Bible: the second son of Japheth and a grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:2). The descendants of Magog in Ezekiel 38:2 were possibly those people who lived in northern Asia and Europe.

The Jewish historian Josephus identified these people as the Scythians, a nomad race or collection of races who dwelled mostly in the northern part of the Black and Caspian Seas, stretching indefinitely into inner Asia. They called themselves Scoloti, and their native traditions traced their origin to Targetaus, son of Zeus. Also, in this name *Targetaus* some have seen the origin of the name *Turk*.

The Scoloti were fierce barbarians who "scalped their enemies, used their skulls as drinking cups, and offered human sacrifices." Their form of justice was a rough and ready impartiality (easy when there is no regard for human life). Doesn't this sound just like the kind of people we are fighting against now? They will use themselves as human sacrifices to get their point across. They have no respect for human life. They also behead people on TV to get what they want.

Magog may be a comprehensive term which means "northern barbarians." The people of Magog were skilled horsemen (Ezekiel 38:15) and experts

in the use of the bow and arrow (Ezekiel 39:3,9) (*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*).

Other dictionaries say the same things. None of them give a good description of Magog's location. Following Josephus and Jerome, most modern scholars identify the Magog of Ezekiel 38:2; 39:1-6 as the land where Gog was a prince. This also includes the Scythians and where they were from. In Ezekiel's time they inhabited the region between the Caspian and Black Seas. The word *far* doesn't necessarily mean the farthest northern country. I believe we will find this answer as we look at who Meshech and Tubal are in relation to Gog.

Prince means the same as chief with the exception that it describes this person as a king or sheik, or an exalted one. This puts this person Gog as a leader over a people and their land.

Meshech is a son of Japheth, a people alluded to in Genesis 10:2. Ezekiel also mentions them as engaged in commerce in the emporia of Tyre, dealing in slaves and bronze vessels (Ezekiel 27:13). Musku (Meshech) lies in the mountains on the northern boundary of Colchis and Armenia. Colchis is an ancient country south of the Caucasus Mountains on the Black Sea in Georgian S.S.R.

A former kingdom of southwest Asia, south of the Caucasus Mountains, Armenia is now divided between the USSR, Turkey, and Iran (now known

as Armenian S.S.R.) In Psalm 120:5 they are noted as one of the most remote and at the same time the rudest nation of the world.

Tubal is reckoned with Javan and Meshech among the sons of Japheth (Genesis 10:2). The three are also together in the list of Tyre's sources of wealth (Ezekiel 27:13): Tubal and Javan, (Isaiah 66:19), Mechech and Tubal, (Ezekiel 32:26, 38:2-3; 39:1). Josephus identified the descendants of Tubal with the Iberians, the inhabitants of a tract of country between the Caspian and Euxine Seas which corresponds to modern Georgia.

IS GOG OUR MODERN DAY MOSLEM LEADER?

Through the many years from Ezekiel's time until now, the descendents of Meshech and Tubal migrated throughout the Russian territory. Even though Russia has split up, old Russia remains where it has always been as the most northern country from Israel.

One of the unique things about these prophecies is that the author names all the countries that are going to be involved in this war. But is Russia really part of this conspiracy? Most of these countries are from the Old Russian Empire and are separate from Russia

now. Also we are going to learn that these particular countries have some things in common: One, their religious beliefs are mostly Moslem, for they are in one way or another descendants of Japheth. Also, some of these Moslem people are trying to take over some of these former Russian countries.

We find in the rest of this verse (Ezekiel 38:2) that our Lord commands Ezekiel to “prophesy against him.” The Hebrew meaning for *prophesy* is “to speak by inspiration in prediction and his simple discourse.” It also means to declare or predict something by the influence of divine guidance of a future event in any way.

God declared our future, and the Holy Spirit through divine guidance used man to write the Bible. From the very beginning God declared the way that man has to go. He has given us his divine word as to how we are to live our lives. If we don’t live his way, he gives us a promise of judgment. He has given us these prophecies to warn us to change our ways—as we will see in this prophecy about these people.