

Kingdom Report

www.kingdomvision.co.za

Week of 10 August 2024

Israel and Gog, Magog Prophecy Speculation

As the crisis deepens in Israel, Iran and Palestinians, once again the prophetic media is filled with expositions on Gog, Magog and End Times war. But Ezekiel 38-39 has already happened and a disaster is developing in the Middle East.

You can sense from international media reports...something bad is developing in the world of finance, politics and culture. The trouble that the charismatic prophetic church has is to fit the world crisis into a coherent and Biblical framework.

The default interpretation of international crises always trends to “Israel and the End Times.” But the fear in the evangelical prophetic community is that the very existence of Israel as a nation is very much in question. I cannot begin to describe to you the crisis in the church if Israel loses the coming disaster in the Middle East. Apart from the humanitarian tragedy of millions of lives at stake...if Israel falls then you will see an apocalyptic “falling away” from the church as people will lose faith in the veracity of scripture itself along with a wide strata of evangelical leaders.

Central to this “end times” interpretation is the prophecy of Ezekiel chapters 36-39. The return of Israel as a nation miraculously resurrected in Ezekiel’s “valley of dead bones” in chapters 36-37. After the return of the Jews and the new nation re-constituted then comes a dramatic war of Ezekiel 38-39 of Gog, Magog invading a peaceful and prosperous people to not only wipe out the Jews but steal their wealth.

The interpretation common for the last 75 years has been the fulfillment lies in the return of Israel as a nation in 1948 and now every time Israel is threatened the natural response is “it is time for Gog, Magog”. In these interpretations the invading alliance would be Russia (“rosh”, Gog, Magog) and Iran and Turkey et al.

I offer an alternate more plausible fulfillment of Ezekiel’s prophecies by turning your attention to Queen Esther, the Book of Esther and the Jews famous feast of Purim that celebrates the famous miraculous delivery of the Jews from their arch foe Haman the Agagite.

I will do this for a simple reason: If things go very bad in the Middle East and Israel ceases to exist as a nation then you will need an alternate explanation for what has happened prophetically. And I very much expect things to go very bad. This 1948 Israel state is not “God’s planting”, it is a “fig tree” alright, but all leaves and no fruit.

So in case of emergency I give you an outline for your own future study of Ezekiel 38-39 already fulfilled in the Book of Esther and memorialized by the Jews in their Feast of Purim.

Ezekiel's Background

Ezekiel was one of original elite young men taken by Nebuchadnezzar after he invaded and overcame the kingdom of Judah around 604-603 BC. The city and temple were left intact and subject to Babylonian rule.

Then in 586 BC the prophets of Judah persuaded the vassal king of Judah to rebel against Babylon because God was with Israel. Jeremiah stood alone against these false prophets and warned them God had sold the people of Judah to Babylon for 70 years of captivity but they would be returned back to their land.

So they rebelled and lost and Babylon destroyed both the city and the temple and wasted the land and sold the rest of the population into slavery.

Now after this national disaster Ezekiel is in mourning and asking God what is going to happen to Israel and Jerusalem and the temple? Where are the promises of God to the forefathers.

God's answer to Ezekiel came in chapters 36-39.

The famous vision of the valley of dry bones in chapter 36 about the miraculous restoration and return of Israel was prophesied. This happened just as Isaiah 45 said it would. Cyrus the Great would conquer Babylon and release the Jewish captives to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city and the Temple...this occurred in 533 BC.

Now we come to the 38-39 chapters of Ezekiel: After the return of the people and the rebuilding of the temple and Ezekiel describes an invasion of a peaceful Israel by a malignant alliance to destroy the Jews and 'take much spoil'.

This force attacking the Jews would be miraculously defeated.

Now the prophetic questions have always wondered : Who are these enemies of Israel and when would this take place? A very important clue to Gog's identity lies in Ezekiel 38: 17 the Lord says of Gog....

"Thus saith the Lord God Art thou he of whom I have spoken of old time by my servants the prophets of Israel which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them. And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel says the Lord God that my fury shall come up in my face."

Question? Where in the "old times" before Ezekiel did the prophets talk about an enemy of Israel? Did they talk about Russia? Here is the prophecy the Lord was referring to:

Shortly after the Israelites left Egypt—even before they arrived at Mount Sinai—the Amalekites attacked them in order to steal the wealth that they had taken out of Egypt. The story is told in Exodus 17:8-16. We will quote Exodus 17:13-16,

¹³ So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. ¹⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."¹⁵

Moses built an altar and named it The Lord is My Banner¹⁶ and he said, “The Lord has sworn; the Lord will have war against Amalek from generation to generation.”

This is the enemy that the Lord spoke of in Ezekiel 38:17-18. Who is Amalek? Amalek was the son of Eliphaz who was the son of Esau. (Gen. 36:8-12) Now this is important. Saul as king of Israel was called upon to execute judgement upon Amalek (1 Samuel 15:1-3) Saul however failed to execute Agag the king of Amalek. One of Agag’s descendants was Haman the Agagite (Esther 3;1).

And here is the clincher: If you read the Septuagint version of scripture which is the Greek translation of the Hebrew text that was the scripture that was the common Bible for hundreds of years for all the apostles and early church....then in Numbers 24;7 the Septuagint translates “Agag” as “Gog”

So the descendants of Esau have been the people who are enemies of Israel and one of them, the tribe of Amalek is headed by “Agag” (a title) who is also known as “Gog” and Haman the enemy of the Jews in Esther is described as a “Agagite” or a “Gog”.

Now lets see where the other clues lie between Ezekiel 38-39 and the story of Ether and Haman and the delivery of the Jews from their enemy Haman and his sons and their confederates.

Ezekiel 38:5–6 tells us that Israel’s enemies come from “Persia, Cush, and . . . from the remote parts of the north, all within the boundaries of the Persian Empire of Esther’s day. From Esther we learn that the Persian Empire “extended from India to Cush, 127 provinces” in all (Esther 8:9). Ethiopia (Cush) and Persia are listed in Esther 1:1, 3 and Ezekiel 38:5: “Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet.” The other nations were established in the geographical boundaries “from India to Ethiopia” in the “127 provinces” over which Ahasueras ruled (Esther 1:1). In other words, the explicit idea that the Jews were attacked by people from all the provinces of Persia is in both passages.

There is another link between Haman the Agagite in Esther and Gog in Ezekiel 38– 39. According to Ezekiel 39:11 and 15, the place where the army of Gog is buried will be known as the Valley of Hamon-Gog, and according to verse 16, the nearby city will become known as Hamonah. The word hamon in Ezekiel is spelled in Hebrew almost exactly like the name Haman

Haman is the “prince-in-chief” of a multi-national force that he gathers from the 127 provinces with the initial permission of king Ahasuerus to wipe out his mortal enemy—the Jews

Consider these words: “King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and established his authority over all the princes who were with him” (Esther 3:1; also see 1:3). Having “authority over all the princes who were with him” makes him a “chief prince.”

In Esther 3:12 we read how Haman is described as the leader of the satraps, governors, and princes. The importance of this title identifies the “chief prince” in Ezekiel 38:2–3 and 39:1 as Haman.

Ezekiel writes that the forces gathered to fight against Israel are after silver, gold, cattle, and goods (Ezek. 38:12–13). The Jews who had returned to Jerusalem brought silver, gold, goods, and cattle with them (Ezra 1:4–11; 2:69; 5:14; 6:5; 7:15–16, 18, 22; Neh. 7:71–72), the same items mentioned by Ezekiel.

Haman promises to “pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who carry on the king’s business, to put into the king’s treasury” (Esther 3:9; see also 3:11; 4:7; 7:4). Where did Haman plan to get the silver to pay the king? From the Jews who had previously returned to Israel with these valuable commodities. “And the king said to Haman, ‘The silver is yours, and the people also, to do with as you please’” (3:11). Haman’s goal was “to seize their possessions as plunder” (Esther 3:13). He believed the Jews would be an easy mark since they had no standing army, and they were in the process of repairing their defenses.

There is obviously lots more research and explanation that can be done in this scenario but you get the idea.

There is no need to make Ezekiel’s prophecy 2500 years into the future when the Lord tells Ezekiel “in the latter days” it means “in days to come”. And the story of Ruth is a factual historical fact recorded in the Bible and backed up by the history of that time about 100 years after Ezekiel’s time.

Ezekiel 36-37 a miraculous return of the Jews to rebuild their nation after the devastation of the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple...when there was no hope. All prophesied by Jeremiah, Isaiah and Ezekiel,

Ezekiel 38-39 the miraculous deliverance of the Jews from an ancient enemy coming at them from all sides with a Jewish Queen of Persia as the heroine all recorded as fulfilled prophecy and still memorialized by the Jewish feast of Purim.

Jesus warned His disciples about prophecy in Matthew 24....”let no man deceive you”. Paul warned Titus to be warned about “Jewish fables” and endless “genealogies” meaning what your genealogy of “DNA” qualifies you as “Israel”.

I urge you to do what Paul told the Galatians who were caught up with “Dual Covenantalism”. Meaning that the Covenant with Jewish Israel was still in force which was why Peter and other Jewish disciples could not eat at the same table with Gentile believers...under Jewish law they would be “unclean”.

Here is what Paul told the Galatians.

Earthly Jerusalem is finished. It is no longer the city of God. He called it “Hagar” the bondswoman servant of Sarah who bore Ishmael for Abraham in order to get an heir to the promises of God.

Paul said we now have a heavenly Jerusalem and called her Sarah. She will bear the true heirs of Abraham...spiritual Israel. We are the heirs of the promises.

Here is Paul’s command which is God’s command in inspired scripture and a command you must obey in your heart and mind.

“Gal 4:25 Now this Hagar is mount Sinai in Arabia and answereth to the Jerusalem that now is: for she is in bondage with her children.

Gal 4:26 But the Jerusalem that is above is free, which is our mother

Gal 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.

Gal 4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, so also it is now.

Gal 4:30 Howbeit what saith the scripture? Cast out the handmaid and her son: for the son of the handmaid shall not inherit with the son of the freewoman.

If you didn’t understand that scriptural analogy let me make it clear.

Earthly Jerusalem now in Palestine/Israel is not under God’s blessing or plans. It is Hagar and her children ‘Ishmael’ are the current Israeli’s.

The current Israeli/Jews are “Ishmael”. The Church is New Jerusalem from heaven and we are the Israel of God.

When scripture says “Cast out the bondswoman” it means that God is going to cast out the “bondswoman” Hagar/earthly Jerusalem. It has no future. That is why last year’s international prayer and fasting by millions of Christians in 7-28 May to “make Jerusalem a praise in all the earth” was ignored by the Lord. Instead a year later Jerusalem is despised in all the earth.

The same prophetic spirit that lied to Judah to rebel against Babylon and resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem, the same spirit that lied to multitudes that the Messiah was coming to save Jerusalem from the Romans caused the destruction Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Regardless of how many “prophets” are talking miracle salvation for Jerusalem and prayers and “stand with Israel” there is no miracle heavenly intervention coming.

God has long past “cast out the bondswoman”, it is time the Church does the same.