

Noah's family started a whole bunch of history. Ezekiel 38 and 39, written over 2600 years ago, prophetically foretells of a vicious attack on Israel in the far distant future. Israel, as we now know, disappeared from the face of the earth after Christ's crucifixion and then miraculously reappears nineteen centuries later. Because there was no country called Israel for so long, many thought Ezekiel's prophecy had no validity until this unpredictable event unfolded in the 20th century.

It is rather amazing to note, as we observe current events, that the potential coalition of Israel's aggressors are Islamic and Islam wasn't even imagined in the minds of man for another thousand years after Ezekiel's prophecy was written.

Let's take note: The many (well over a hundred) prophetic declarations described in Old and New Testament Prophecies already fulfilled are staggering. Consider the mathematic probability in just the Old Testament alone happening coincidentally: The odds have been calculated to be 1 in 10 to the 17th power. That's 17 zeros (1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000); it could never have happened!!!

According to Ezekiel 38:2-6, this attack on Israel will be led by a country founded by Gog of the land of Magog. Gog was the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. He was also a son of Ham and grandson of Noah.

Libya, a land just west of Egypt, was named Put in Ezekiel's time, after its founder by the same name, another son of Ham and grandson of Noah. The present leader, Momar Khadafi, is a sponsor of Islamic terrorism and an enemy of Israel. Among those joining in this invasion are Persia (changed to Iran in 1935 and then the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979) along with the geographical area now recognized as Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea, all founded by Cush, another son of Ham, grandson of Noah. The entire area is well known for supporting Islamic terrorism. Iran, under the powerful influence of the Shiiti clergy, openly hates Israel and all western nations, especially the USA. Its leader, Ahmadinejad blatantly asserts his desire to wipe Israel off the face of the earth.

The attack described in Ezekiel has amazing similarities with the New Testament vision described by the Apostle John in Revelation 20:7-10. In John's version Israel's enemy is also identified as Gog and Magog. John's account declares that the armies joining the attack will come from the four corners of the earth and are all totally directed by Satan's influence. In both the Old Testament and New Testament accounts, the enemy is destroyed by fire from heaven. The exact timing remains a mystery; John's account indicates it will be after the defeat of the antichrist and false prophet.

In addition to the countries mentioned in the coalition, Turkey should be of considerable concern today. While its government has tried valiantly to maintain separation of state and religion, the tribes and people identified by Ezekiel virtually leave no way to exclude this country from the invasion. Ezekiel 38:6 identifies Gomer and Beth-Togarmah as part of the coalition. Both can be traced to modern Turkey. In addition Meshech and Tubal in verse 2 and 6 were also sons of Noah's son, Japheth. The roots of these grandsons of Noah can also be traced to Russia and northern Iran as well as to Turkey.

Before the re-establishment of Israel in 1948, it was thought the Jewish people would never possess their own country again; they had been so scattered and so many had been terribly massacred. Therefore, as stated, the invasion accounts described in Ezekiel and Revelation were discounted to the point of having no historical or prophetic meaning until that unbelievable fulfillment of prophecy less than three years after World War II.

At the time of Christ, Romans controlled the land of Israel. When the majority of the Jewish people, God's chosen race, rejected Him as prophesied in Isaiah 53:7-9 centuries earlier, He was crucified. Rome laid siege on Jerusalem and destroyed it including the Temple. Once the Romans overran the city,

the people of Israel were either killed or dispersed throughout the Roman Empire. This fulfilled the judgments decreed in Leviticus 26 centuries earlier.

It was thought by the whole world that the end of such a land as Israel was forever, but in spite of what was considered impossible, more Prophecy was to be fulfilled.

Ezekiel 20:34 written centuries earlier says: *I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered—with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath.*

Jewish people have remained scattered for 1900 years. Late in the nineteenth century there was a Zionist movement that began to catch the imagination of some Jewish people regarding the idea of promoting a return to the land that had once been Israel and Judea to, once again, become a nation. In the early 20th century there was a gathering back to the Holy Land. Jews began settling in the area, mostly from Arab nations to the east of Israel. However the idea of pulling up stakes and moving to the middle-east from comfortable lives throughout Europe and the Americas didn't catch on too much.

However, once Hitler and then Stalin proceeded to exterminate so many, the idea took on an entirely different seriousness, especially in Europe. The Holy Land, by this time called Palestine, miraculously came under the control of Great Britain who in 1917 declared Palestine a homeland for Jewish people and in 1948 turned over control of the area.

It is very interesting to study how Great Britain gained control of this land after WW1 and how one Jewish man helped the British in their battles with Germany to such a great extent that, in their desire to express appreciation, they published the Balfour Declaration proclaiming this Holy place the homeland of Israel. Political considerations though kept this from actually happening until 1948. When it was officially declared their homeland many Western European Jewish people began moving into the area and the population swelled to about 600,000. They immediately petitioned the United Nations for acceptance as the nation of Israel. On the momentous date of May 15, 1948 the U. N. voted to accept their petition with United States President Harry Truman casting the official deciding vote.

The area promised to Israel as defined in Numbers 34:1-12 and also in Ezekiel 47:13-30 is projected to be much larger than that currently occupied. The northern, southern and western boundaries of the prophesied Promised Land appear to be fairly well agreed upon by nearly all Old Testament scholars. The northern boundary reaches as far as the Euphrates River. The southern boundary extended as far south as the river of Egypt, not the Nile, but the Wadi Al Arish. The Mediterranean Sea, of course, remains a boundary and the eastern boundary; depending on which scholar you side with, will either be the Jordan River or perhaps may encompass all of Jordan, all of Syria and significant portions of Iraq and Saudi Arabia. In either scenario Israel's boundaries will be expanded to take in a portion of Egypt, all of the west bank and Gaza strip (Palestinian territory), all of Lebanon and a sliver of Syria that extends all the way to the Euphrates.

The areas named in this attack are the very ones, with the exclusion of Iran and Iraq, that are housing, arming and/or financially supporting the terrorist activities in and around Israel. Iraq's involvement has been somewhat neutralized by the overthrow of Saddam Hussein and we don't know for certain what direction they will take in the months to come.

Iran, although a staunch advocate of the overthrow of Israel seems to not involve themselves (at this time) with this attack other than possibly arming some of the other nations and peoples involved. If, or should we say when, this attack manifests a resounding defeat of the attacking forces could be the catalyst that brings about several milestones regarding the last days.

The recent ISIS advancements further confirm OT prophecy and will follow in another article.

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