

20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 3 (January 15-21, 2017)

I recommend David Jeremiah's wonderful book, [What In The World Is Going On?](#) for more detailed information on the future Israeli war with Russia and Iran. He covers the identity of the nations as well as the events leading up to the war. In this week's devotions, I will cover only the Scriptures that describe the battle.

Sunday, January 15 (read Ezekiel 38:1-6)

"I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army" . . . (Ezekiel 38:4a)

I could write a book on this passage, but my mentor, David Jeremiah has already done that. I highly recommend any of his books for your Biblical knowledge. In today's text, God sends a message to Gog, the ruler of the coalition that will attack Israel soon after the rapture of the Church (v. 1). A short study of history will reveal this leader to be the head of the government of Russia. The nations that come with Russia to attack Israel come from the Muslim nations that surround God's chosen land. The most significant of these on today's scene is Iran (Persia). In the past few years, the United States has aided Iran by signing a treaty enabling them to produce nuclear weapons. My main point for today is in the printed verse above: God is the One who lures these enemies into the land of Israel! Why would He do that? So that the Jews will finally be so outnumbered that they will call on Him!

Monday, January 16 (read Ezekiel 38:7-9)

"Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them." (Ezekiel 38:7)

In verse 6 from yesterday's reading, we saw that the enemy approaches from the far north. Biblically, Jerusalem is the center of the earth, so Russia is the only nation located to the far north. God will call them to arms (v. 8), but He will use the greed and aggression that characterize them now. Following the rapture of the Church, the Antichrist will be elected. This man will sign a seven years peace treaty with the Jews and allow them to rebuild their temple. In exchange, they will tear down their walls of protection (v. 8,11). This false peace will trick them into thinking that the new world leader is really the Christ. Russia and Iran will become greedy (v. 10-11) and will make their way toward the mountains of Israel. We will continue the story in tomorrow's devotion.

Tuesday, January 17 (read Ezekiel 38:10-13)

You will say, "I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars." (Ezekiel 38:11)

Russia's greed and aggression will cause their leader to think that the time is right to invade Israel and to carry off her many treasures (v. 10-13). Obviously, the Jews have never lived in peace in their land, nor have they ever been able to feel safe living in unwalled villages. They have never been unsuspecting of a potential attack. This will happen, however, during the early part of the tribulation, after the Antichrist has taken charge of the new One-world Global Government. Many scholars think that Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish represent America and Europe. As has recently been the case, we will try to negotiate with the enemies by asking questions instead of getting directly involved (v. 13). Notice that's it's all about the economy! Instead of worrying about the Jews, these countries are concerned about the economic implications. The more things change, the more they stay the same!

Wednesday, January 18 (read Ezekiel 38:14-16)

"You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, O Gog, I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me when I show myself holy through you before their eyes." (Ezekiel 38:16)

Ezekiel sees the people from the far north riding on horses (v. 14-15). In his day, it would have been tough to describe tanks and trucks, but if he really does mean horses, Russia has more of them than any other nation. Why would God allow these pagan nations to attack His chosen people in His Promised Land? Great question and it is answered in the printed verse above. He wants the whole world to know Him and His mercy and grace! He wants those who survive this battle to realize that it is "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty (see Zechariah 4:6). Once again, Israel will come up against unbelievable odds, but God will save His chosen nation!

Thursday, January 19 (read Ezekiel 38:17-23)

"I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him." (Ezekiel 38:22)

God is the One who will bring the coalition of nations against Israel, and God is the One who will defeat their armies. He begins by sending a terrible earthquake (v. 19). This will devastate the area, causing the animals and fish to tremble at His presence. As chaos ensues, the soldiers of the enemy will turn on one another. God has always used the natural hatred between different groups of the Muslims to surface during times of battle, (v. 21; see 2 Chronicles 20:22-23). The Lord sends a plague among the invaders and finishes them off by pouring down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur (v. 22). Does this sound like nuclear fallout to you? Why does He send all this? The answer is always the same, "Then they will know that I am the Lord" (v. 23).

Friday, January 20 (read Ezekiel 39:1-8)

"I will make known my holy Name among my people Israel. I will no longer let my holy Name be profaned, and the nations will know that I the Lord am the Holy One in Israel." (Ezekiel 39:7)

The passage for today reminds us that God is the sovereign Lord who drags Russia and Iran into Israel. Their own natural greed and aggression is already apparent, but it is God who lures them into the land because they are seeking treasures as well as the destruction of His holy people (v. 1-2). God will destroy the invading armies and give their bodies to all kinds of carrion birds (v. 3-5). His reason for doing this is reiterated over and over again (v. 6-8)! He wants glory when Israel, as well as their enemies, realize that He is the Lord of all!

Saturday, January 21 (read Ezekiel 39:9-29)

"From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am the Lord their God." (Ezekiel 39:22)

Take the time to read the entire text and take note of the way God plans every detail, providing for the people of Israel during the entire seven years of the tribulation (v. 9). He provides employment for His people (v. 14-16) and even provides plenty of food for His birds and animals (v. 17-20). Finally, the Jews will begin to trust Him and the other nations will know that Israel went into captivity because of their own sins (v. 21-24). The Lord will reveal Himself to the Jews in their own land and they will finally live their lives under the power of the Holy Spirit (v. 25-29).