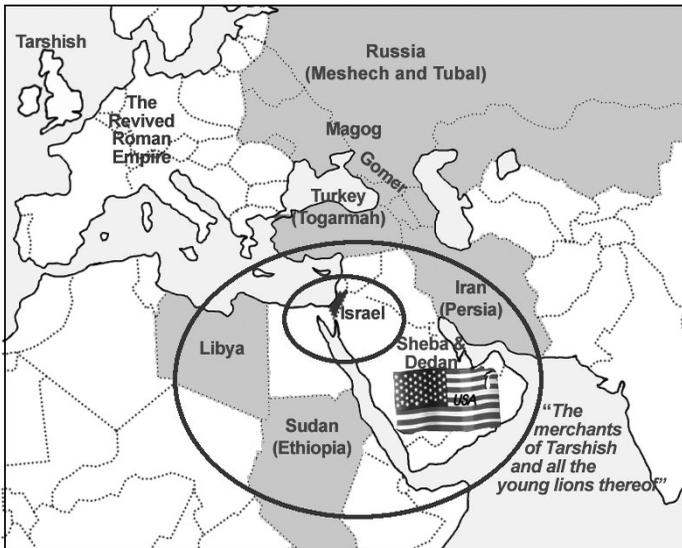


Section 4

The Russian / Muslim

Alliance

and Israel's Repentance



"So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from THAT DAY AND FORWARD" Ezek. 39:22

The Russian/Muslim Alliance

During the coming Tribulation a universal state of war will exist, and to this all the prophecies of the last days bear strong testimony. Usually the Old Testament prophets refer to this time as the “day of the Lord”. Ezekiel, Joel, and Daniel draw attention to a massive northern invasion of Israel early in this period by Muslim nations led by Gog, the ruler of Russia. Because of the terrible persecution of Israel during the Great Tribulation, Jeremiah describes it as the “time of Jacob’s trouble”:

“For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it... Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it”(Jer.30:3,7).

For His Saints



With His Saints



Time of Jacob's Trouble
7 years Tribulation

PHASE I
Jo.14:3, 1Cor.15:51-52.
1Thess.4:16-17.

PHASE II
Acts 1:11,
Rev.19:11-16.

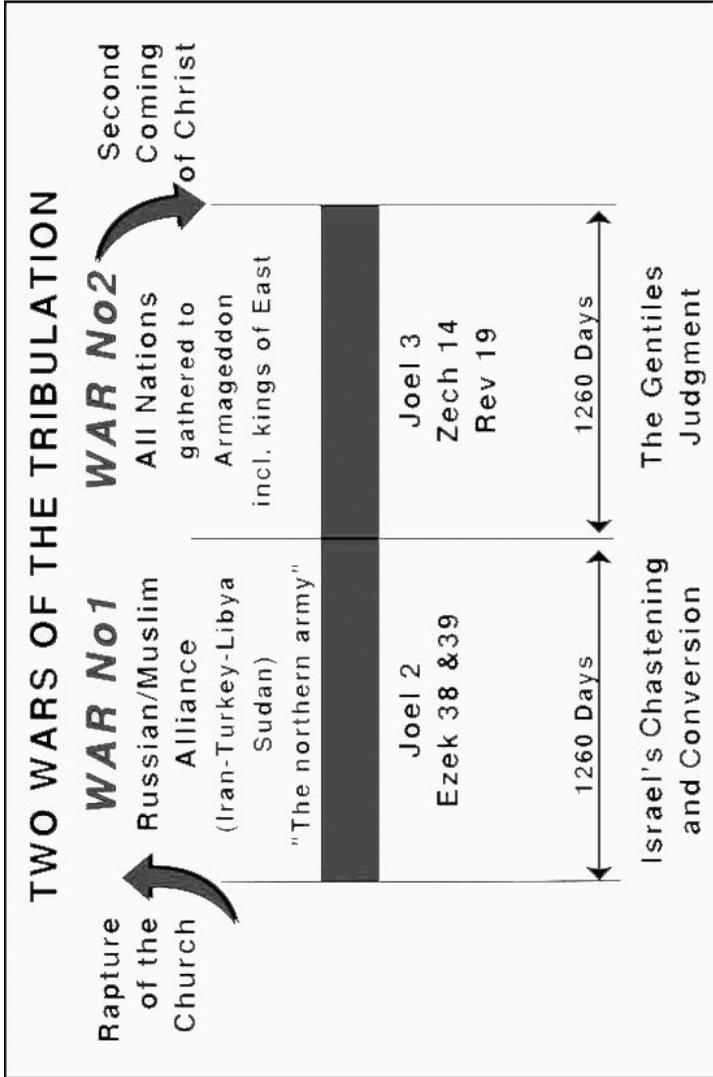
The reason why Ezekiel and Joel have given details of the Russian phase of the universal conflict is because of its bearing on the nation of Israel. It will be this invasion that brings God’s covenant people to repentance, and so both of these prophets make strong appeals for them to repent. Joel also describes the **final phase** of the Day of the Lord when **ALL NATIONS** will converge upon Jerusalem, thus indicating that the northern invasion is separate from, and precedes the battle of Armageddon (Joel 3).

In the foreknowledge of God, the Almighty is able to tell us what the outcome of both the Russian/Muslim invasion **and** the battle of Armageddon will be. The Russian invasion will bring Israel to repentance:

“The house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from THAT DAY AND FORWARD” (Ezek. 39:22).

The battle of Armageddon will rescue Israel, judge Antichrist and the nations(Rev.19:11-21; 20:1-7), and bring in Christ’s millennial kingdom.

“The day of the LORD cometh...For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle...Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle...And the LORD shall be king over all the earth...but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited” (Zech.14:1-11).



The Nations that will Invade Israel

Ezekiel prophesies a massive invasion of Israel and provides much detail as to the combatants and the outcome. A confederacy will be led by “Gog, the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.”

The King James Version translates “Rosh” as “chief” (Ezek.38:2-3), which is the correct meaning of the name. We note that all Hebrew names have meanings, and the translators have simply given us the meaning of the name “Rosh” instead of the name itself. The name “Gog” is in all probability a title given to an individual, such as President, King, Prime Minister or Pharaoh. The land which he rules is Magog, Meshech and Tubal.

Josephus, the first century Jewish historian, wrote:

“Gomer founded those whom the Greeks call Galatians (Galls) but were then called Gomerites. **Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are by the Greeks called Scythians...**from Javan, Ionia and all the Grecians are derived” (*Antiquities*, Book I Ch VI).

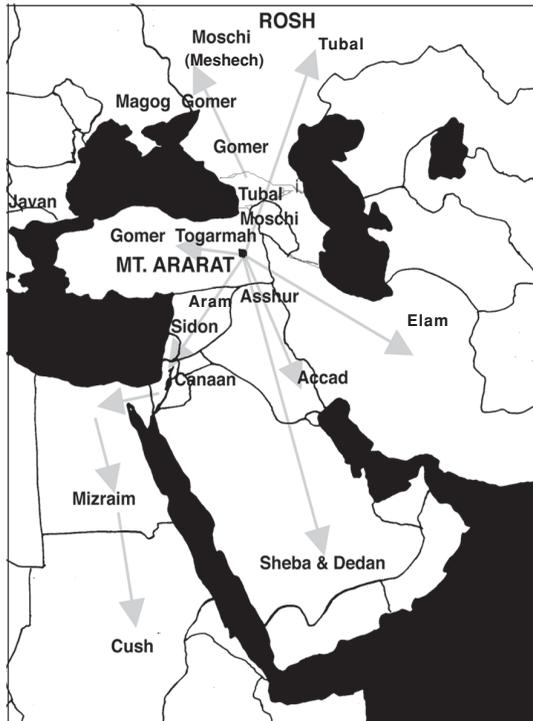
The location of the Scythians is well known in history so we can identify the land of Magog with precision. It is present-day Russia and Ukraine.

J.B.Bury, *History of Greece* (Page 234) states:

“**North of the Danube...**Walachia and Moldovia lived tribes which...the Greeks included under the general name of Scythian”.

Philips’ *World History - People, Dates and Events*, (Page16) records:

“Scythian peoples from **the steppes** begin raiding the Middle East 650BC”.



Halley's Bible Handbook (Page 310) quotes Rawlinson as follows: About 626BC, "Pouring through the passes of **the Caucasus**...horde after horde of the Scythians blackened the rich plains of the south".

The *Oxford Encyclopedia of World History* describes the Scythians as: "A group of Indo-European tribes that briefly occupied part of Asia Minor in the seventh century BC before being driven out by the Medes. They subsequently **established a kingdom in southern Russia...**"

The Scythians were obviously the **descendants of Magog**. In all probability Meshech and Tubal gave their names to Moscow in western Russia and to Tobolsk which is east of the Ural Mountains where the Tobol River flows. Assyrian inscriptions state that the dominion of Sargon king of Assyria reached to "Tabal as far as Muski", and "speaks several times of Mita, king of the Moschians" (*New Biblical Guide* Urquhart Vol II page 416). In any case, Meshech and Tubal are located in the land of Magog, which is fixed by the location of the Scythians north of the Black Sea.

With Gog are listed peoples identified by their ancient family or tribal names.

"Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee" (Ezek.38:5-7).

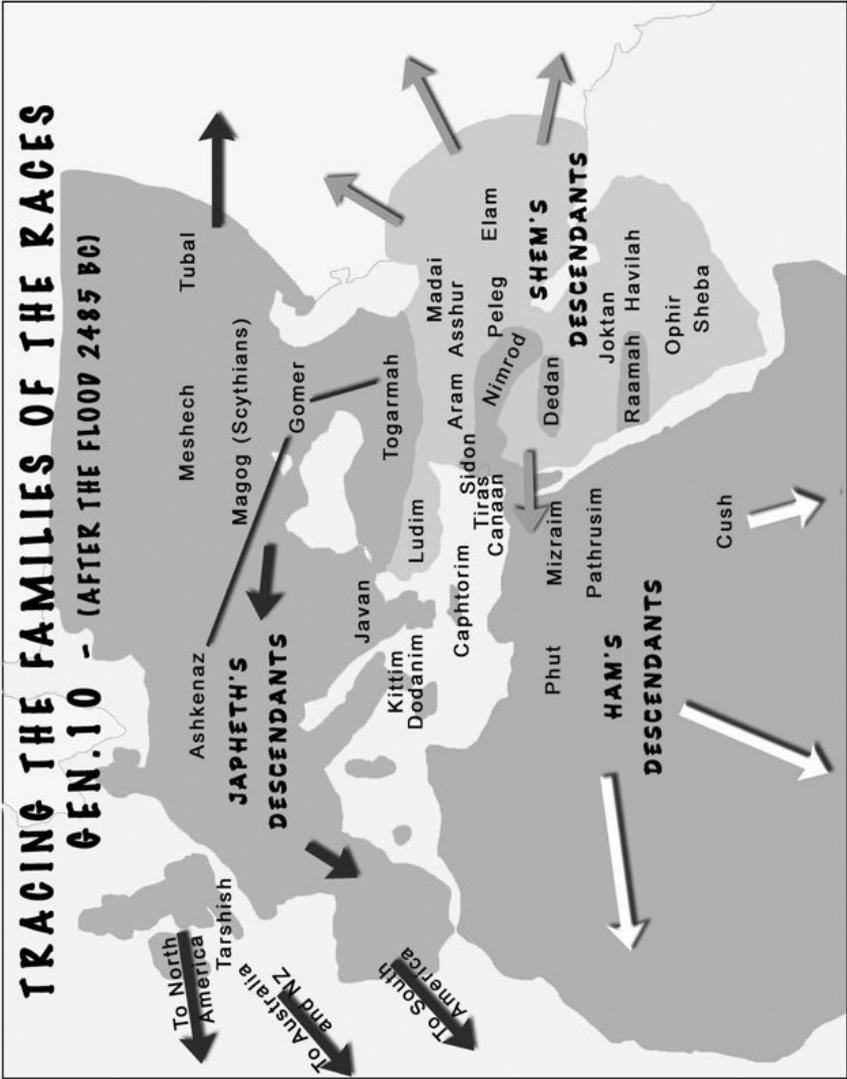
If we go back to the days just after Noah's flood we will find the human race beginning all over again, and the names of the descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, are given in Genesis chapter 10. All the nations can trace their roots back to one of these three families.

Broadly speaking:

- a) The sons of Japheth travelled north and west from Ararat.
- b) The sons of Shem settled in the east. Abraham came from the line of Shem, and his descendants displaced the Canaanites.
- c) The sons of Ham settled in the land of Canaan, Egypt and Africa.

Many of the names occurring in Genesis 10 are preserved on ancient historical records in Assyria, in the writings of Herodotus (died 424BC), Josephus (first century AD), or other ancient histories. From these ancient historical sources it is clear that Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, the House of Togarmah, Sheba and Dedan all settled in areas as shown on the adjoining map, and as time went by no doubt they continued to push further afield.

Gomer is mentioned in Gen 10:2-3 as the first son of Japheth. He had three sons, Ashkenaz, Riphath and **Togarmah**. German Jews have long called themselves "Ashkenazi Jews", and Gomer and Togarmah



are both said to belong to the “north quarters”(Ezek.38:6). **Togarmah settled in Armenia, or eastern Turkey** as we know it today, and has been identified with Phrygia in Asia Minor. Gomer and Togarmah occupied what we know as Turkey and spread around the Black Sea.

At the head of the list of countries joined to Russia is Persia (Iran). Ethiopia was known as Cush in Bible times and represented the black races of Africa south of the Egyptian border, or Sudan as we know it, while Libya represented the North African races who had different ethnic origins from the Arabs, notwithstanding their common Muslim culture. Today they are Muslim nations.

When will Israel be Invaded?

The timing of the prophecies concerning the invasion of Israel is identified and there can be no mistake. There are actually four indications of **when** this invasion will occur:

1. It will be in the “*latter days*”.
2. It will be in the “*day of the Lord*” (the Great Tribulation).
3. It will be when Israel has returned to the land, has developed the waste lands, and achieved a militarily secure position.
4. It will be at a time when the nations of Sheba and Dedan (ie the countries of the Arabian Peninsula) are identified with Tarshish and its young lions (eg. the U.S.A.).

(1) In the “Latter Days”

This invasion of Israel cannot be confused with other invasions from the north which have occurred throughout history, for the Assyrians came long before Ezekiel was born, and the last of the three Babylonian invasions had been completed one year before this prophecy was given.

There have been wars in the land involving Grecian, Roman, Arab, Ottoman Turk, and Crusader armies, but not one of these matches the description of Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, nor have they involved the same nations. This invasion described by Ezekiel will occur in the “*latter days*”. He says,

“In the latter years thou shalt come into the land...against the mountains of Israel...and thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days” (Ezek.38:8,16).

(2) It will be in the “Day of the LORD”

Joel places the invasion in the Day of the Lord, a term synonymous with the Great Tribulation, which immediately precedes Christ’s return to reign as King of kings. He says,

“The day of the Lord cometh...there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it”(Joel 2:1-2).

(3) *It Will be When Israel has Returned*

When Israel rejected Messiah and crucified Him, the nation brought itself under the chastening hand of God and received the judgments pronounced in the Palestinian Covenant (Deut 28-30). In AD70 the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and scattered the Jews throughout the empire.

For nearly 1900 years the Jews had no national home, but in 1948 Israel proclaimed itself a nation in the land and was recognized by the United Nations.

Since 1948 Israel has expanded both its population and its borders. In 2001 the **Jewish** population was 5.2 million and they can boast a defence force that has won four major wars against superior numbers. It has developed a high-tech defence industry which produces military equipment equal to the best in the world. It has 200 nuclear warheads, missiles, its own spy satellite, an aircraft industry and much more. In fact Israel exports its military technology to other nations and is jointly developing the most advanced laser weapons with the United States.

While Israel is under increasing threat, they nevertheless are secure with their own resources and the support of the United States. Scripture indicates that after the Rapture Antichrist will confirm a covenant "*with many*" for seven years, and there is no doubt that this will include Israel, who will then have the added security of EU armies to support her. Ezekiel says of Gog:

*"Thou shalt say...I will go to them that are at rest **that dwell safely**...upon the people that are **gathered out of the nations**, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land" (Ezek.38:11-12).*

*"Say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel **dwelleth safely**, shalt thou not know it?"(Ezek.38:14).*

(4) *It Will be When the Arabian Peninsula is Identified with the United States.*

The advances made by modern industry during the 20 th century have been inextricably linked to the supply of vast quantities of oil. World War I was lost by Germany because she failed to capture the oilfields at Baku on the Caspian Sea.

In WWII Germany again failed to secure her oil supply, and when her synthetic oil plants were bombed the wheels stopped. Japan's war machine ground to a halt as the US submarine fleet sent most of her oil tankers to the bottom of the ocean.

The industrial nations are highly dependent on oil for transport and industry, and 66% of the world's known oil and natural gas resources

are located in the Middle East. Western oil companies have led the field in oil and gas exploration, and as a result a strong link has been forged between the West and six Arab States in the Persian Gulf. Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Oman, all have strong ties with the US involving military treaties which guarantee their defence against rogue states such as Iraq and Iran. The 1991 "Desert Storm" was a demonstration of Western resolve to defend their oil and gas interests in the Persian Gulf.

When the Russian/Muslim armies move on Israel, the Bible says they will be challenged by

"Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof".

They will say,

"Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?"(Ezek 38:13).

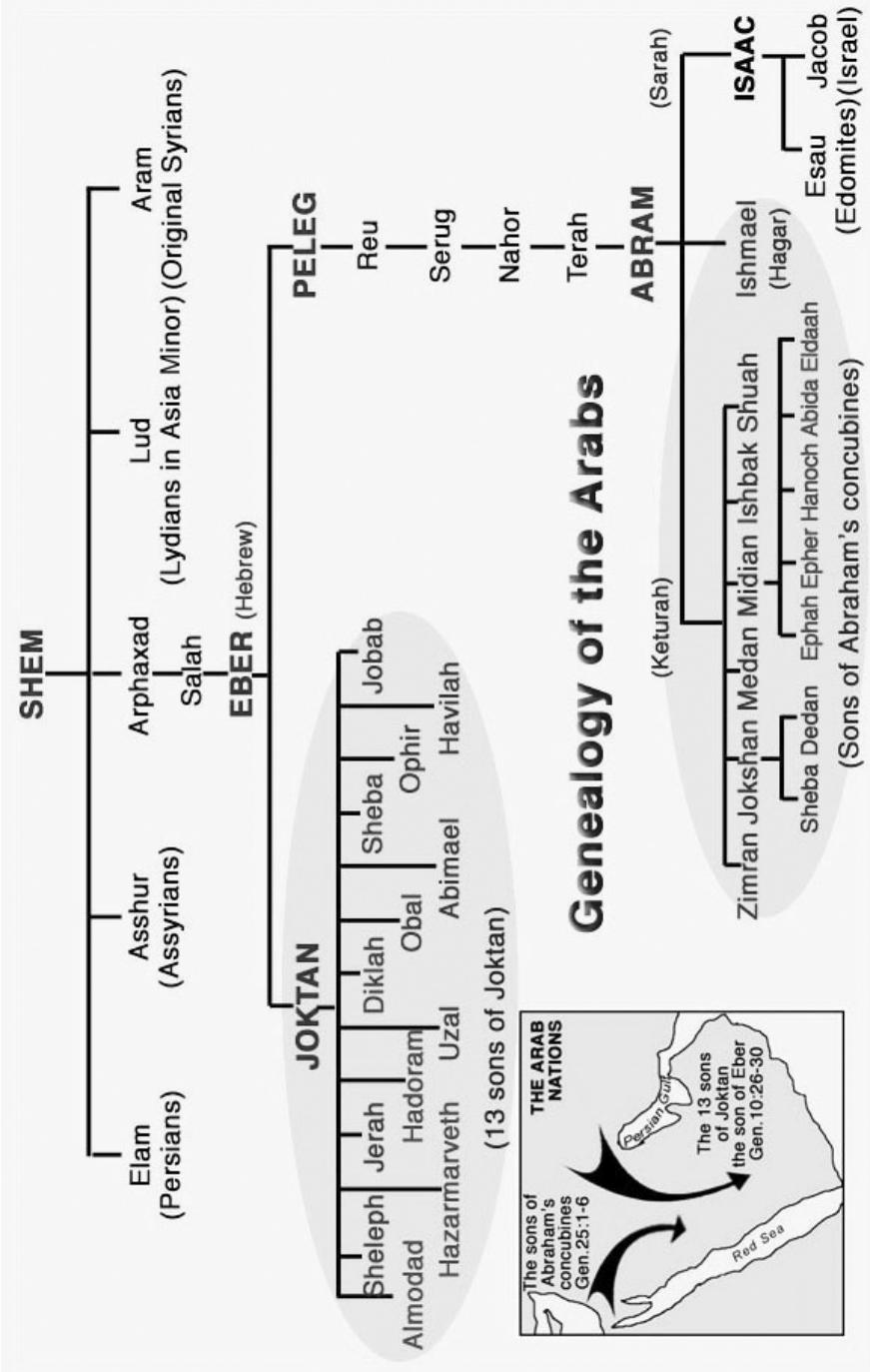
Sheba and Dedan, the Arabian Peninsula

Sheba and Dedan's descendants (Gen.10:7; 25:3) undoubtedly are the people who settled in the Arabian Peninsula.

There are two Sheba and Dedans recorded in Scripture, and both can be traced to the Arabian Peninsula. The descendants of Abraham to Hagar and Keturah were given gifts and sent "*to the east country*" from Beer-sheba before Abraham died, so they would not contend for the land that God had given to Isaac for an everlasting possession. The land east of Beer-sheba is northern Arabia, and we know from other Scriptures that these sons of Abraham to his concubines spread south over the full length of the Arabian Peninsula. These were one line from which the Arab people came.

The Arabs also descended from Eber's son **Joktan**, the brother of **Peleg**. Why did God bother to give us the names of Joktan's thirteen sons when the divine line was to continue through Peleg to Abram, Isaac and Israel? The reason is clear: they were to occupy the Arabian Peninsula and be used of God to bring the nation of Israel to repentance in the last days. They were also to be part of the promises that God would make to Abraham about 250 years later, and would integrate with his seed born to his concubines Hagar and Keturah.

We sometimes forget that the Abrahamic Covenant includes unconditional promises that Abraham would become not only the father of "*a great nation*" (Gen.12:2), Israel, but also that he would be "*a father of many nations*" (Gen.17:5). The Arab nations are the fulfilment of that promise.





When Abraham sent the sons of Hagar and Keturah “away from Isaac his son...eastward, unto the east country” (Gen.25:6), he was sending them to their cousins, the descendants of Eber through Joktan, who had been established in Arabia for more than two centuries.

According to *Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, all of the thirteen sons of Joktan became heads of tribes which settled in Arabia. Havilah was one of them, and when Moses wrote the Book of Genesis he mentioned the land of Havilah:

“where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good” (Gen.2:11-12).

He also stated that “bdellium and the onyx stone” were to be found there (Gen.2:12).

Ophir was another of Joktan’s sons, and we know that the goldfields at Ophir were located in southern Arabia, now Yemen. Servants of Solomon and Hiram sent ships to the goldfields at Ophir and brought 450 talents of gold for the Temple (2Chron.8:18).

Sheba was a son of Joktan, and Abraham also had a grandson named Sheba. Archeologists have established that the kingdom of Sheba,

The Basics of Bible Prophecy

namely the Sabaeans, who took Job's oxen (Job 1:15), were well established in Arabia. The Queen of Sheba, who was described by the Lord as *"the queen of the south"* (Matt.12:42), came by camel with a great company to witness the wisdom of Solomon. She brought *"spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones"* (2Chron.9:1).

We may safely say that over the past 4,000 years the sons of Abraham to Hagar and Keturah have mingled with the descendants of Joktan and now comprise the Arab people. Jeremiah refers to the *"kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mingled people that dwell in the desert"* (Jer.25:24).

The secular history of the Arabs, recorded by Josephus in the first century and by Greek and Roman historians, describes the original dwellers of Arabia in the main as nomadic people living in tents and refusing to be involved in agriculture or construction of cities. For this reason they have left few records.

The Rechabites referred to in Jeremiah chapter 35 appear to have been Arabs (Nabataeans), for they were faithful to their father who commanded them:

"Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever: neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers" (Jer.35:6-7).

It seems there were three types of Arabs who made up the Nabatu kingdom and were known as Nabataeans. All were traders. In the south of Arabia there was the kingdom of Sheba (Sabaeans) that engaged in trade as far afield as India and China, and imported spices, frankincense, myrrh, animals, ivory, pearls, cotton, ginger, cinnamon, sugar, medicines, gold and silk (Ezek.27:20-22). The seafaring Nabataeans were well known in the Red Sea as pirates who plundered commercial vessels.

The desert Nabataeans took the imported goods northward by camel train to the western markets of Tyre, where they were transhipped to Greece and Rome (Ezek.27:20-22).

The northern Nabataeans settled in the land of Edom after 586BC when Nebuchadnezzar's armies swept through as foretold by Ezekiel (Ezek.25:12-14). Nabataeans replaced the Edomites and established a city called Rekem or Rekmu, which was renamed by the Romans, Petra. Its narrow entrance extends for over a kilometre and is no more than a few metres wide. This remarkable city carved out of the rock became a trading metropolis, and was so famous that mention of it is found in ancient Chinese writings.

The early families of the Nabataeans were descendants of Shem and had the knowledge of the true God. Moses' father-in-law was a priest of Midian, and records indicate that the Arab tribes were originally ruled over by priest-kings, just as Melchisedek was a priest-king. The Queen of Sheba acknowledged the LORD, for she said to Solomon: "**Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel...**" (1Kings 10:9).

Over the centuries no doubt the truth of God became confused among the Arab races, and when Muhammad presented his false god, Allah, many became ardent Muslims, taking up the sword in jihad to convert the nations.

By AD638 Arab armies had captured Jerusalem and moved on to conquer the Middle East and North Africa. They reached Spain in AD711, but were finally driven out in 1492.

The Islamic culture has changed the Arab people from desert nomads living in tents to city dwellers.

Early in the twentieth century Arabs in Arabia rose up against the Ottoman Turk rulers and began to lay claim to the land of Palestine. After WWI they were given the land east of the Jordan River, Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. The land west of the Jordan has been partitioned, and in 1948 Israel declared its independence.

It is clear from history that there has never been a Palestinian nation. Arab empires have waxed and waned, ruled from Damascus, Baghdad, Riyadh and Cairo, but never from Jerusalem.

The Queen of Sheba came by camel to prove the wisdom of Solomon and Jesus called her the "*queen of the south*" (Matt.12:42). Archeological evidence has uncovered a stone wall with the names inscribed on it of all who reigned over the kingdom of Sheba, and there are a number of queens among them. The "dig" was found north-east of the capital of Yemen in the south-west of Arabia. The location is known by the Arabs as Mahram Bilquis, meaning "the Queen of Sheba's place" (See *Time* magazine 10 September 2001).

We know that the Midianites dwelt along the north-west coast of the Arabian Peninsula, and these were descendants of Abraham through Keturah.

During the seventh and eighth centuries of the Christian era Islam conquered all of the Middle East and drove out the previous inhabitants, so that many of the people of Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and those who today call themselves Palestinians, are descendants of Abraham and are ethnically Arabs.

The Basics of Bible Prophecy

Dedan is linked with Sheba and also with Teman, the grandson of Esau, who lived in northern Arabia (Jeremiah 49:7-8). Sheba will finally be blessed during Christ's millennial kingdom. Isaiah says:

"All they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; they shall show forth the praises of the LORD"(Isa 60:6).

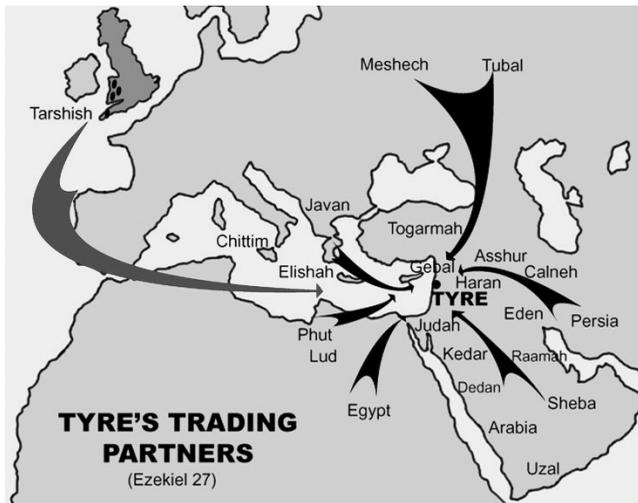
The Merchants of Tarshish and the Young Lions Thereof

The "merchants of Tarshish" and their "young lions" are off-shoots of Britain. Herodotus, the Greek historian, wrote that Tarshish lay **beyond the Pillars of Hercules**, which are the large rocks on either side of the Strait of Gibraltar that leads to the Atlantic Ocean.

In Gen.10:4-5, Tarshish was one of the sons of Javan to whom God gave "the isles of the Gentiles"(Gen.10:4-5). The "*ships of Tarshish*" are referred to at least ten times throughout Scripture (eg. Isa.2:16; 23:1,14; 60:9; Ezek.27:25).

About 2,500 years ago Ezekiel wrote concerning the great trading centre of Tyre that she traded in TIN which was brought from Tarshish:

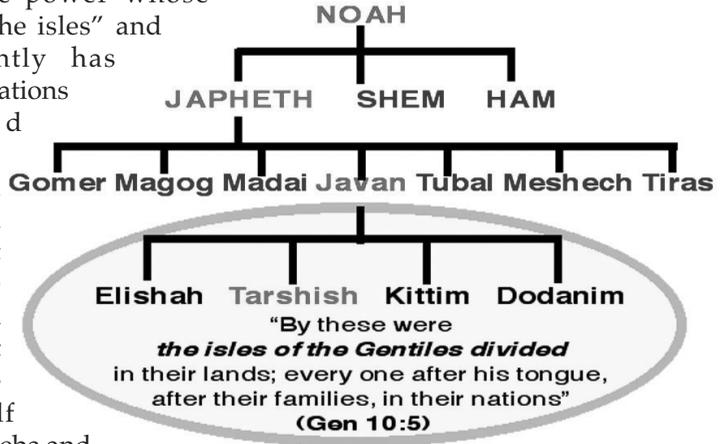
"Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kinds of riches; with silver, iron, TIN, and lead, they traded in thy fairs" (Ezek.27:12).



The name Britain is from the Phoenician "Baratanic", meaning "country of tin". Aristotle called it Britannic about 350BC. The *New Twentieth Century Encyclopedia* indicates that Cornwall was the source of tin in ancient times. Speaking about tin, it confirms, "its use was known in the ancient world and the mines in Cornwall were being worked in the Bronze Age" (Page 1036). Silver, lead, and iron were mined nearby in Wales.

The 19 August 1997 edition of the *Independent International* reported: "After a history stretching back at least 2,500 years tin-mining is to end in Cornwall. The last surviving (tin) mine in Britain and Europe announced on Thursday that it will close with the loss of 270 jobs."

The report also points out that during the nineteenth century Cornwall's major industry employed "30,000 people, spread through 400 mines". The "merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof" are identified with the Anglo-Saxon races and include the United States, a "maritime power" whose land is in "the isles" and who currently has defence obligations and commercial interests in the Arabian Peninsula. It is the American fleet that patrols the Persian Gulf protecting Sheba and Dedan!



David's prayer for his son Solomon, who is prophetic of Christ, links Sheba with Tarshish, and indicates that both are blessed in the millennial kingdom. "The kings of **Tarshish and of the isles** shall bring presents: the kings of **Sheba and Seba** shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him" (Ps 72:10-11).

Is it a mere coincidence that Saudi Arabia, the ancient kingdom of Sheba, is aligned with America, the **young lions** of ancient Tarshish? Is it surprising that the politics of the Middle East has made the Arabian oil sheikhs dependent on the US for protection from their aggressive neighbours?

What hope would the Arabs from Kuwait and along the Persian Gulf to Saudi Arabia have, if America withdrew her military support?

The common denominator in this equation is oil, but over and above all of the economic and security considerations there is the providence of God. **America needs Arabian oil, and Arabia needs American protection.**

A Northern Invasion

Both Ezekiel and Joel refer to this invasion as coming from the north. Joel says,

“I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate”(Joel 2:20).

Ezekiel says,

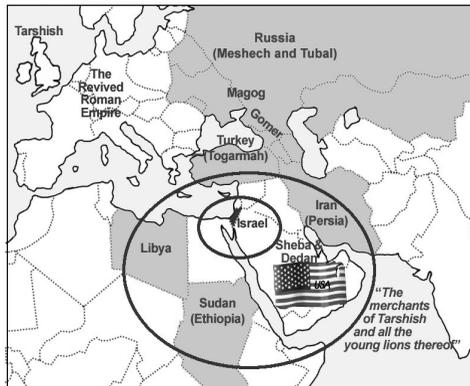
“Thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts...and I will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel” (Ezek.38:15; 39:2).

One of the nations that will join with Russia is described as *“the house of Togarmah of the north quarters”*(Ezek.38:6), which is the ancient name for tribes that migrated into Asia Minor, or Turkey as we know it. The geographic north from Jerusalem runs along longitude 35.13E and crosses the coastline south of the border of Lebanon, passes through the heart of Turkey, across the Black Sea and through Ukraine and Russia to the Arctic Sea. We shall see that both Ukraine and Turkey are identified as members of this confederacy. Actually the original Hebrew of the text is more specific than our English translation and conveys the thought of *“far north,”* or *“uttermost north”*, which means that the prophecy is not referring to near neighbours Lebanon, Syria, or Iraq, to the immediate north of Israel.

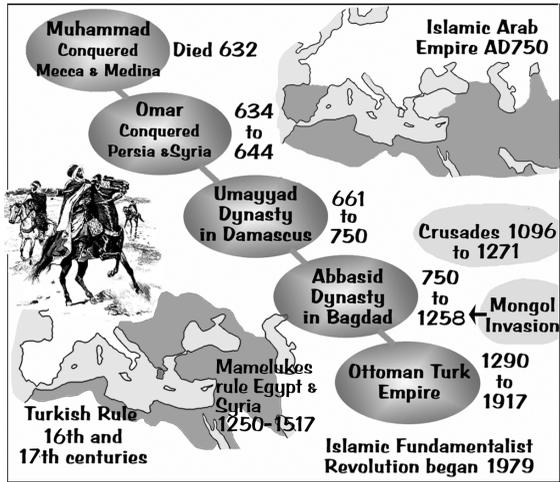


The Encirclement of Israel

Today Israel is in an exceedingly vulnerable position. A glance at a map of the Middle East will indicate that Israel is encircled by two rings of hostile nations. The **inner ring** is comprised of Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt, and has a population of 100 million, whereas the **outer ring** consists of Turkey, Iran,



Sudan, and Libya, and has a population of 200 million. If Russia, Ukraine and the states of the Caucasus are added to the outer ring, their total rises to 425 million, against Israel's 5.4 million **Jews** (2004). Turkey's military-backed regime continues to support Israel in 2004, but for how long?



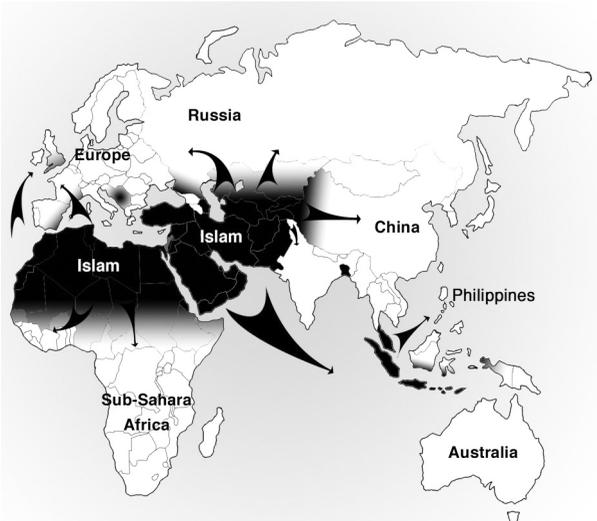
The Rise of Islamic Fundamentalism 1979

The preparation for the final invasion of Israel by the Russian / Muslim alliance actually began in 1979 with the fall of the Shah of Persia and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism as a political force. Under the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini a new era of revolution commenced, ironically, just one year after Israel signed a Peace Treaty with Egypt (1978).

Since 1979 the world has seen the growth of violent Islamic fundamentalism as it seeks to fulfil a three-point program:

- 1) The overthrow of moderate Islamic governments.
- 2) The destabilization of Western nations.
- 3) The destruction of the State of Israel.

In 2003 there were more than 1 billion Muslims, one sixth of world population, and their influence extends across North Africa down into Sudan, Chad, Niger and even Nigeria. In the east, Indonesia and Malaysia are Muslim, and of course



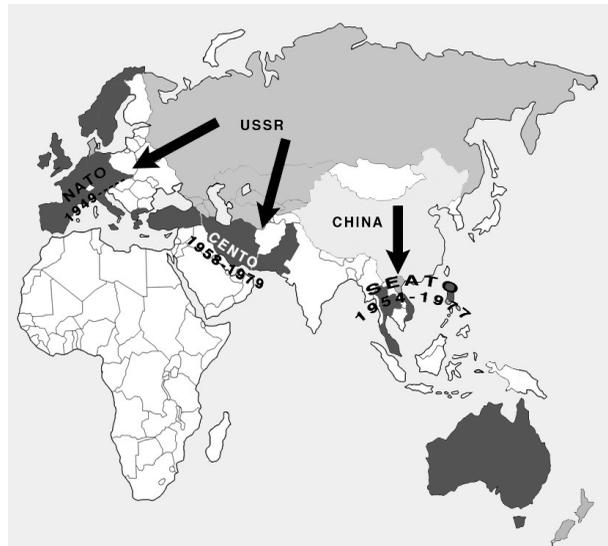
Central Asia and the Middle East. Islam is expanding its influence into the west of China and there are 20 million Muslims in Russia.

The Demise of the Soviet Union 1989

In 1917 the Bolshevik Revolution overthrew Tsar Nicholas II, and for 70 years Communism became the scourge of the Free World. After WWII there began a period of confrontation between International Communism headed up by the Soviet Union (USSR) and the Western Powers. In 1961 the Berlin Wall was erected and the threat of a nuclear holocaust hung over the world.

In 1949 the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was established to meet the military threat from the USSR, and in 1955 the USSR countered

by forming a military alliance of eastern European countries under the Warsaw Pact. In order to prevent the spread of Communism into the oil-rich Middle East with its warm-water ports, the West established a line of defence along the southern border of the USSR. Under the



Bagdad Pact (1955), and later the Central Asian Treaty Organisation (CENTO 1958), Turkey, Iran and Pakistan were armed by the West, denying the USSR access to the Indian Ocean and Middle East oil.

After the fall of the Shah of Persia and the subsequent rise of militant fundamentalism, the CENTO line of defence along the southern front of the USSR was broken, but by this time the USSR had problems of its own which led nine years later to its disintegration.

The year 1989 saw the most amazing events transpire in eastern Europe. The Warsaw Pact nations one after another broke away from USSR control, in the following sequence of events:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Poland | April 16 | The ban on the Solidarity Movement which had opposed the Communist regime was lifted. |
| | June 5 | The Solidarity Movement won an election. |
| | Aug. 24 | A non-Communist Prime Minister was elected. |
| Hungary | Sept 11 | The border with Austria was opened. |
| | Oct 10 | The Hungarian Communist Party was dissolved. |
| East Germany | Oct 18 | The Communist leader resigned. |
| | Nov 7 | The Communist Cabinet resigned. |
| | Nov 9 | The Berlin Wall was torn down. |
| Bulgaria | Nov 10 | The Communist leader resigned and was replaced. |
| Czechoslovakia | Nov 24 | The entire Politburo resigned and the exiled Alexander Dubcek returned. |
| Romania | Dec 22 | The infamous Nicolae Ceausescu was removed, and executed on Christmas Day. |

The following two years saw more changes as East and West Germany were reunited in 1990, Boris Yeltsin resigned from the Communist Party, the USSR was dissolved along with the Warsaw Pact military alliance and COMECON, an economic alliance, in 1991. Following the disintegration of the USSR, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was formed including all of the former Republics with the exception of Georgia.

Why did the USSR Collapse?

Communism is atheistic. To be a Communist one must first renounce any belief in God and adopt an anti-God stance. Such an attitude placed the USSR under the judgment of God. The Bible says:

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God..." (Ps.14:1).

And Psalm 2 says:

"Why do the heathen (nations) rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?...He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision"(Ps. 2:1-4).

If nations want the blessing of God on their economy and industry, they had better seek after the Lord.

By 1990 Russia's economy was in tatters and the nation imploded. Many workers waited months for their pay. But there is another reason for the demise of the USSR. The nation of Israel is returning to the land which God gave to Abraham and his seed for an everlasting

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possession and several million Jews were locked behind the “iron curtain”. God says to Israel:

“I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far”(Isa.43:5-6).

In the decade following the collapse of the Soviet Union almost one million ex-USSR Jews returned to Israel.

Russia is Hooked!

In Ezekiel 38:4 God says to Gog the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal,



*“I will turn thee back, and put **hooks into thy jaws,** and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army...”*

Like a fish caught with a hook in its jaws and dragged against its will, so God would force Russia into an alliance with Persia (Iran), Ethiopia (Sudan), Libya and Turkey (the house of Togarmah), in order to judge them on the mountains of Israel. Russia is being compelled by force of circumstances to align itself with Iran and the other Muslim nations against Israel.

On Russia’s western border the EU is assembling all the Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant nations, soon to become a United States of Europe with 500 million people.

On Russia’s southern border the Muslim nations from Pakistan to Sudan provide a developing market of 400 million, in addition to the 200 million in the eleven CIS countries. Russia’s economic future is geographically tied to Muslim nations that with her share much of the world’s oil and natural gas resources.

With all of the old Warsaw Pact nations now aligned with the EU/ NATO group of nations, Russia finds the door to the West closing and the door to the Muslim world opening. In the Middle East, Israel is supported by America and is now an Associate-Member of the EU, so it is logical that Russia’s foreign policy should be pro-Arab.

Prepare !

The preparation for this final battle between Islam and Israel is the responsibility of Russia by Divine command. God says to Gog:

*“Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and **be thou a guard** unto them”* (Ezek.38:7).

As we look at the capability of the nations involved in the Middle East wars there is no doubt that Israel has the technological edge on

the Muslim nations. Although less than 6 million **Jews** (2004) live in the land, they have nuclear warheads, satellite surveillance, sophisticated laser weapons and guidance systems, and an airforce that is the envy of every other airforce in the world. Their defence industry is manufacturing and selling weapons to the rest of the world in competition with the United States and Europe!

It only stands to reason therefore, that if the Muslim nations plan, as they say they do, to attack Israel, they are going to need modern weapons that match the Israeli arsenal. They know that without outside technical assistance the chance of success over Israel is minuscule, and they have already turned to Russia to prepare them for the coming battle.

The *Guardian Weekly* 24 May 1998 and the *Jerusalem Post* 30 May 1998 both carried reports of plans to instal Russian S-300 missiles with their sophisticated "Tombstone" radar guidance system in Syria. This radar system has a range of 320km radius, and has the capability of monitoring all aircraft and missile movements from Turkey to Egypt. Britain's largest overseas base is at RAF Akrotin on Cyprus.

The report says:

"Britain and the United States fear Moscow will be able to collect information that is highly valuable to Russia's Middle East allies: Syria, Iraq, and perhaps Iran."

When Russia moves on Israel she will need to have her guidance systems in place if she wants to use modern weaponry.

In addition, Russia assisted Iran to build a nuclear power plant worth \$1 billion, and has worked with Iran in the development of missiles which can reach Israel. Successful tests were carried out in 2004.

Intelligence reports indicate that Russia has struck an agreement to assist Iran in the development of weapons on condition that the Islamic revolution is not taken within her borders. Other reports indicate that Iran has already acquired a number of nuclear warheads from intercontinental ballistic missile sites in Kazakhstan following the break-up of the USSR.

As far back as 1997, Iran engaged in war games involving 200,000 troops which were moved a distance equal to the distance from Iran to Israel. The code name of the exercise was "Road to Jerusalem!"

Within Russia there is a growing nationalistic movement that has a strong anti-Semitic policy. Public statements have been made by its leaders blaming all of Russia's woes on the Jews.

Turkey's Future

One of the nations which join with Russia in the Russian/Muslim alliance against Israel is the "house of Togarmah of the north quarters". Ancient records indicate that the descendants of Togarmah settled in eastern Turkey or Armenia after the Flood and spread across Asia Minor, or Turkey as we know it. Armenia today is only eastern Armenia, since western Armenia has been absorbed into eastern Turkey after the Turks force-marched 1.7 million Armenians to Syria in an act of genocide in 1915-16. A total of 750,000 people died by starvation or Turkish bullets.

Since World War II Turkey has been a member of NATO, and in 2004 had the largest army in the Middle East.

Turkey's population is 95% Muslim and is ruled by a secular government installed by the military. In past elections the Islamist Welfare Party gained power and ruled in coalition until the army declared it illegal. New elections were called and the Virtue Party gained government, but it too was declared illegal. In 2003 the Development Party won power in its own right, and needs only four more seats to gain a two-thirds majority which will empower it to change the constitution.

Turkey's military has a treaty with Israel, and Israel has completed military contracts for Turkey. However Muslim leaders have stated that when they win power all contracts with Israel will be cancelled.

If the Islamists were to win power in Turkey, this would dramatically change the balance of power in the Middle East.

The *Guardian Weekly* 12 July 1998 reported on one attempt by Turkey to join the European Community (EU). The application was again rejected, and Turkey

"described (it) as a disgrace, a slap in the face, prejudice, a blunder, and discriminatory....The real reason why they are being kept out, say the Turks, is that Europe sees itself above all as a 'Christian club' and feels threatened by a possible influx of (Muslim) immigrants from Anatolia."

In Section 3 we pointed out that the EU was a revival of the old Roman Empire and was being ridden to power by the harlot woman (apostate Christendom). Continued rejection of Turkey by the EU on the grounds that she is Muslim will of course play into the hands of the Islamic fundamentalist movement. The Islamists are already saying that when they come to power they will break off any relationship with the EU.

The Destruction of Gog's Army

When faced with such overwhelming odds, and challenged by 144,000 Jewish preachers early in the 7-year Great Tribulation (Rev.7), Israel will at last repent and acknowledge Jesus Christ as Messiah and Lord. God will then respond with devastating judgments against the invading armies, which will be destroyed in four ways:

1. Earthquakes

"Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel ...the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground" (Ezek.38:19-20).

It is interesting that seismic engineers in 2004 predicted a strong earthquake in Israel that will affect Jerusalem, Haifa, and Tel-Aviv. Already several shocks around 5 on the Richter scale have occurred, but seismologists believe it is only a matter of time before the big one strikes.

2. Disunity

"And I will call for a sword against him...every man's sword shall be against his brother" (Ezek.38:21).

This is reminiscent of the time when King Jehoshaphat was attacked by a confederacy of the Ammonites, Moabites and Edomites. We read that the King

"set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah" (2 Chron.20:3).

The prophet Jahaziel then told Jehoshaphat,

"Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord" (2 Chron.20:17).

Judah then went to the battle and began to sing praises to the Lord, and

"when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir... and they were smitten... every one helped to destroy another. And when Judah came...behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped" (2 Chron.20:22-24).

Likewise, Israel will heed the words of Joel 2:12-20 and *"sanctify a fast"*. The priests will

"weep between the porch and the altar," and say, "Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?"

God will respond in fearful judgment on the nations that come against

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Israel, and *“every man’s sword shall be against his brother!”* Iranian, Turk, Russian, Sudanese, Libyan, and all the other people with them, will turn on each other as Israel acknowledges Jesus Christ as Messiah and Lord! The result - only one sixth of the invaders survive! (Ezek.39:2).

3. Disease

“And I will plead against him with pestilence”(disease) (Ezek.38:22).

We recall that on another occasion, in the days of King Hezekiah, the Assyrian army had captured all the land of Judah and only Jerusalem remained. Rabshakeh, the *“chief butler”* of Sennacherib, mocked the God of Israel, and when Hezekiah humbled himself before the Lord, God responded and in one night 185,000 Assyrian soldiers perished in their tents (2Kings19:35). How the angel of the Lord did this we are not told, but we do know that in this last-days battle disease will be used by God.

It is interesting that biological warfare (germ warfare) is one of the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) which Iran and Iraq are preparing for the final conflict!

4. Hailstones

“And I will rain upon him, and upon his bands...an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone”(Ezek.38:22).

So great will be this destruction that only one sixth of the armies will escape (Ezek 39:2), and Joel tells us they will be removed

*“far off...into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward **the east sea**, and his hinder part toward the **utmost sea**”*(Joel 2:20).

Perhaps this indicates that the remnants of the great army will retreat to Siberia (Joel 2:20), where Russia has banished its prisoners for decades. The location is “far off”, and the east sea could only be the Pacific Ocean. The utmost sea would have to be the Arctic Sea in the utmost north.

Gog’s Burial

Joel says,

“His stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things”(Joel 2:20).

Ezekiel describes the aftermath of this conflict:

*“In that day, I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers (travellers) **on the east of the sea**: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers...And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land”* (Ezek39:11-12).

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A valley on the east of the Dead Sea, in the land of Jordan, will be used to bury the hundreds of thousands of corpses. It will be called "Hamon-gog", ie *Gog's Multitude* (Ezek39:11), and it will be seven months before the land is cleansed.

A Fire on Magog and the Isles

Not only will the army of Gog receive judgment from the Lord at this time, but we read that **Gog's country, the land of Magog**, will be burned so that the possibility of another attack will be eliminated.

"And I will send a fire on Magog and on them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the Lord"(Ezek.39:6).

The statement, "them that dwell carelessly in the isles", suggests that the sons of Javan, to whom were given the "isles of the sea", are in view. We have already seen that Tarshish was one of the sons of Javan (Gen10:4), and that it is "the merchants of Tarshish and all the young lions thereof" who, together with Sheba and Dedan, challenge the Russian/Muslim invasion.

It may be that America and/or Britain will be incapacitated for any major military role at the same time as Russia is burned with fire. Perhaps a shoot-out between Russia and America, or it could be Divine judgment similar to that experienced by Sodom and Gomorrah.

Jane's Intelligence Digest has suggested that Islamic terrorists are planning to use weapons of mass destruction on American cities in the event that America assists Israel when Iran finally invades. In September 2004 a report indicated that 15 sensitive targets had already been identified in the US.



Time will tell, but the Christians won't be here to witness these events which will occur during the Great Tribulation. The Church will be raptured before that dreadful day.

God's Purpose for Israel

The outcome of the events described is that the nation of Israel will repent and *"keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ"* (Rev.12:17). We read,

"So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God FROM THAT DAY AND FORWARD. And the heathen (Gentiles) shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies ... Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD" (Ezek.39:22-29).

If the Russian invasion and conversion of Israel happened **before** the Rapture the whole nation would become members of the Body of Christ, the Church, and would be part of the Rapture. They would not then be on earth during the Tribulation to greet their Messiah when He returns to earth. Scripture states that ALL Israel will be saved **after** the fulness of the Gentile Church is come in:

"Blindness in part is happened to Israel, UNTIL the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so ALL Israel shall be saved" (Rom.11:25-26).

In any case, Joel plainly states that this northern invasion will occur in the *"day of the Lord"*. There has to be a saved nation of Israel here to greet their Messiah when He comes to the Mount of Olives.

"They shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn" (Zech.12:10-14).

When the sons of Israel stood before Joseph, they admitted they were in great distress because of what they had done in selling him into slavery over 20 years before. They said,

"We are verily guilty concerning our brother (Joseph), in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us" (Gen.42:21).

Likewise, the day will come when the sons of Israel will acknowledge that they are in great distress because they rejected God's only begotten Son nearly 2,000 years ago, and nailed Him to a cross, refusing to hear Him!

Just as Joseph's brethren were then blessed under the reign of Joseph, so, during the reign of Jesus Christ, Israel will be exalted and become the head of the nations. All of Israel's present efforts to re-establish

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in the land will utterly fail until they bow at Jesus' pierced feet. Then, as with Joseph,

"the fame thereof was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, Joseph's brethren are come!"(Gen.45:16).

The world will only understand the mystery of Israel's 2,000 years of persecution and dispersion when they see God's reponse to a truly repentant nation. It will take the Russian/Muslim invasion to bring it to pass! Ezekiel wrote:

"And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword" (Ezek.39:23).

The Russian/Muslim alliance indicates that Christ is coming soon!

