

*The seven last plagues poured out upon those who worship the beast*

**2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, 3 and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. - Ezek 38:2-3**

**44 But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him; and he shall go forth with great fury to exterminate, and utterly to destroy many. - Dan 11:**

This Lesson Outline was prepared by John M. Wharton      March 7, 2006

**Sources -**

All bible text, unless otherwise indicated, is the Darby Translation from the HTML Bible at <http://www.htmlbible.com/>. ASV indicates the American Standard Version, with KJV indicating the King James Version. Quotations from the classic Christian commentary series by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown from the Bible.net at <http://www.thebible.net/reference/jfb/JFB00.htm>

**Introduction -**

Ezekiel tells us that in the last days a great ruler of a huge confederation of peoples in the uttermost north will invade Israel. Can we possibly know when during the last days this will happen. Does it in any respect tie in with what is prophesied in the Revelation and Daniel's chapters? Let's compare some of the major points in the three books and see what we can learn.

**Lesson Texts are from Ezekiel 38, Revelation 16 and Daniel 11 -**

**Ezekiel Chapter 38**

1 And the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying,

**2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,**

**3 and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.**

4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and **I will bring thee forth, and all thine army**, horses and horsemen, all of them thoroughly equipped, a great assemblage with targets and shields, all of them handling swords:

**5 Persia, Cush, and Phut with them, all of them with shield and helmet;**

**6 Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah from the uttermost north, and all his bands; -- many peoples with thee.**

**Comments -**

***Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal*** – Many Christian writers have identified these people with Russia, Moscow or the area around it, and the same with the modern city of Tobolsk (pronounced tublosk) in western Russia. In ancient times there were tribes south of the Black Sea with similar sounding names such as *Moschi and Tibareni*.

**Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible (1871) from thebible.net at <http://www.thebible.net/reference/jfb/JFB00.htm>**

...In Ezekiel's time a horde of northern Asiatics, termed by the Greeks "Scythians," and probably including the Moschi and Tibareni, near the Caucasus, here ("Meshech . . . Tubal") undertook an expedition against Egypt [HERODOTUS, 1.103-106]...

And we can see that they were willing to branch out well south of their location at that time as well by invading Egypt. As to their being north of the Black Sea now in modern times, the scholar Gesenius indicates that these tribes did migrate northerly into the steppes of Russia.

***Persia, Cush, and Phut*** – Similarly Persia is modern Iran, Cush is probably the Sudan below Ethiopia, and Phut is probably modern Libya. All three of these countries have been in close alliance with first the Soviet Union and now the new Russian Federation, and are antagonistic to the west.

***Gomer, and all his bands*** – is probably Germany and maybe some of France since some of the ancient Jewish sages saw the tribe of the Franks as Gomer. There was a people so called in ancient times directly south of the Black Sea and the Caucasus Mountains. As with the *Moschi and Tibareni* they are known to have moved west out of the Black Sea area into Thrace and perhaps on further into Europe. If these identifications are accurate we might look for Germany and possibly France to align more closely toward Russia over time.

***the house of Togarmah from the uttermost north, and all his bands*** – possibly other areas within the south(?) and/or western portions(?) of modern Russia.

Notice that these groups are in the uttermost north.

**13 Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to seize a spoil? hast thou gathered thine assemblage to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take cattle and goods, to seize a great spoil?**

**Comments -**

***Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof*** – Tarshish surely refers to modern Western Europe (including Spain where ancient Tarshish was located) and other areas of the Mediterranean. The classic alliances are seen here just as we have known them for several generations now in our times. Russia has power over Eastern Europe and can threaten and sway Central Europe, the more radical of the Islamic nations are in league with them. In current news at this time, Russia is trying to aid Iran (Persia) in their desire to have nuclear refining capabilities even though there is a danger of a falling out with the Western Powers over this. Perhaps Sheba and Dedan may refer to the geographic areas of modern Saudi Arabia. Or perhaps there is a northern area in mind here also.

**14 Therefore prophesy, son of man, and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: In that day when my people Israel dwelleth in safety, shalt thou not**

know it?

**15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the uttermost north**, thou and many peoples with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great assemblage and a mighty army.

Comments -

*And thou shalt come from thy place out of the uttermost north* – Again we see the point made that these peoples are now further north than in the past. The area around the Black Sea was known sufficiently to be aware of these tribes in Ezekiel's time. Abraham and Sarah had themselves come from this area in ancient times. This is described as the uttermost north, as if to say perhaps, as far north as you can go.

**16 And thou shalt come up against my people Israel as a cloud to cover the land -- it shall be at the end of days -- and I will bring thee against my land, that the nations may know me, when I shall be hallowed in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.**

Comments -

*it shall be at the end of days* – From this we can know that the excursion of the Moschi and Tibareni into Egypt at that time is not what Ezekiel refers to. This will take place in that latter time that the prophets looked forward to when God will begin to completely fulfill the remaining things left in the prophecies.

Question -

Can we know when during the last days that this invasion of Israel occurs? Is there any hint of where it might fit into the framework of other prophecies such as Daniel's chapters 10, 11 and 12 and John's Revelation?

### **Revelation Chapter 16**

10 And the fifth poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast; and its kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues with distress,

11 and blasphemed the God of the heaven for their distresses and their sores, and did not repent of their works.

**12 And the sixth poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates; and its water was dried up, that the way of the kings from the rising of the sun might be prepared.**

Comments -

*And the sixth poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates; and its water was dried up-* David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible from Study Light Org at <http://www.studylight.org/com/>

“...The great river Euphrates: The Romans considered the Euphrates River a secure barrier against invasion from the empires of the east. In that day it was 1,800 miles long and anywhere from 300-1200 yards wide...”

*the kings from the rising of the sun* – The Orient, the Kings of the East who are destined to attempt to invade the Middle East. Which modern nations might be involved? There are several modern eastern nations that have modern armed forces that might be able to project their power that far west. China is one example, another is India, and Japan also.

13 And I saw out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast,

and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits, as frogs;  
14 for they are the spirits of demons, doing signs; which go out to the kings of the whole habitable world to gather them together to the war of that great day of God the Almighty.

### **Daniel Chapter 11**

29 At the set time he shall return, **and come towards the south; but not as the former time shall be the latter;**

30 **for ships of Chittim shall come against him;** and he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant; and will practise; and he shall return and direct his attention to those that forsake the holy covenant.

#### **Comments -**

*but not as the former time shall be the latter* - Antiochus Epiphanes had warred with Egypt a few years before this point and had been very successful. But this time the Romans grew concerned that his success in Egypt and his fleet's success in Cyprus would prove a danger to their interests in the Levant. He was met near Alexandria by the Roman consul Gaius Popilius Laenas and told to leave Egypt and Cyprus which he he did. He entered Jerusalem in fury and took out his anger on the population.

*it shall be at the end of days* – The ancient Jewish sages understood this to mean the Romans who they viewed as an Edomite nation. They understood that the prophecies said Edom would strive with them until their defeat in the end times. Antiochus Epiphanes did do many of the things mentioned here. But he fell short of proclaiming himself the god above all gods. He was forced by the Romans to leave Egypt or face their wrath. He did take his wrath out on the Jewish people as he returned back north to his home in Syria.

31 And forces shall stand on his part, **and they shall profane the sanctuary, the fortress, and shall take away the continual sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.**

#### **Comments -**

*and shall take away the continual sacrifice* – Antiochus Epiphanes did also do this, stopping the sacrifices at the Temple in Jerusalem. He placed a statue of Jupiter in the Temple and sacrificed a pig contrary to the Dietary Laws.

36 And the king shall do according to his will; **and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god,** and speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he shall prosper until the indignation be accomplished: for that which is determined shall be done.

#### **Comments -**

*and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god* – But this Antiochus Epiphanes did not do. He did erect a statue of Jupiter in the temple, but he did not declare himself above all gods. That remains to be done by someone yet future.

37 And he will not regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women; nor regard any god: for he will magnify himself above all.

38 And in his place will he honour the +god of fortresses; and a +god whom his fathers knew not will he honour with gold and silver, and with precious stones

and pleasant things.

39 And he will practise in the strongholds of fortresses with a strange god: whose acknowledgeth him will he increase with glory; and he shall cause them to rule over the many, and shall divide the land to them for a reward.

**40 And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him; and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and overflow and pass through.**

41 And he shall enter into the land of beauty, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape out of his hand: Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

42 And he shall stretch forth his hand upon the countries; and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

43 And he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.

**44 But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him; and he shall go forth with great fury to exterminate, and utterly to destroy many.**

**Comments -**

*But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him* – This then will surely occur in the time of this still future ruler. What tidings can it be from the east and the north that troubles him so much? Russia and it's environs, Germany, and France are all to the north of Syria, and Israel. And the place name Magog occurs in Russia, and into the east and the orient also. Perhaps the kings of the east join with Russia in a move into the Middle East.

45 And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the sea and the mountain of holy beauty; and he shall come to his end, and there shall be none to help him.

**Conclusion -**

Ezekiel was shown in chapter 38 that Israel would be invaded in the last days by a great ruler of a very large confederation of peoples from far to the north. Does this event fit into the outline of prophecy we have learned while studying Daniel and the Revelation? The future ruler may follow much of the pattern of Antiochus Epiphanes who invaded Israel after failing to retain Egypt. The current European nations would surely resist a move into Egypt just as the Romans did in Daniel 11:29, forcing Antiochus to leave Egypt and Cyprus. In any respect this future leader will invade Israel. We also know that afterward he will hear reports from the north and the east that trouble him greatly. Gog, the prince of Magog, Meshech, and Tubal with many allies will invade Israel from the uttermost north. In Revelation 16:12 one of the later judgments dries up the Euphrates River making it easier for the kings of the east to move into the Middle East. The combination of these forces from the north and east does fit the pattern given in Daniel 11:44. In may be that these armies from the uttermost north and the east are the troubling news that the future leader of Daniel 11:44 will hear as he roars toward the north to meet them.