

Gog and the Antichrist

and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. - Ezekiel 38:3
Little children, it is the last hour, and, according as ye have heard that antichrist comes, even now there have come many antichrists, whence we know that it is the last hour.- 1 John 2:18

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October 24, 2004

Sources -

All bible text, unless otherwise indicated, is the Darby Translation. ASV indicates the American Standard Version, with KJV indicating the King James Version. Quotations are often included from various classic Christian commentaries such as John Gill's Expositor, Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures, and others. Greek and Hebrew word definitions are often included from the Strong's Concordance and sometimes from other sources as indicated. Unless otherwise indicated all of these sources, both the bible text's, commentaries, and Strong's definition's are taken from the e-Sword Bible Program or sometimes from THE WORD from Online Bible.

Introduction

The ruler Gog named in Ezekiel 38 and the evil future ruler often called the AntiChrist are not the same individuals. Really the antichrist is an evil spiritual being who will control a future evil ruler called the Beast in the Revelation. They will though, exist at the same time in the prophecies. In fact they will come from different areas of the world with Gog invading Israel from the far north and the Beast will arise to power in the area of the Middle East. They will almost certainly be opposed to each other in their efforts to gain land and power in the Middle East and especially in Israel. To someone studying these prophecies of Ezekiel and those of Daniel and the Revelation for the first time the names of the magor parties and their allies may be confusing. This little study sheet is meant to give a very broad overview of these matters. Hopefully it will help in understanding what these great prophecies of the Bible are referring to.

Who is Gog?

Gog is the name of the ruler of a large confederacy of several areas from very far in the north who will invade Israel.

Ezekiel 38:2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, **the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal**, and prophesy against him,

Ezekiel 38:14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy, and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: In that day when my people Israel dwelleth securely, shalt thou not know it?

Ezekiel 38:15 **And thou shalt come from thy place out of the uttermost parts of the north**, thou, and many peoples with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company and a mighty army;

Rosh has been identified by more than one scholar or prophecy writer as an early form of the name of Russia today. Ancient writers do mention tribes with names like *rosh* in the vicinity of the south and north sides of the Black Sea.

Gog's allies in the north

It seems that Gog has other allies from the north quarters of the world.

Ezekiel 38:6 Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah from the uttermost north, and all his bands;
--many peoples with thee.

Gomer has been variously identified as portions of Germany and of France.

Interestingly both of those countries are moving closely into alliance with Russia at this time in world history even though they have been bitter opponents in recent times.

Gog's allies in the Middle Eastern area

Gog and his far northern confederacy are in alliance with several countries in the Middle East also. The Middle Eastern allies of Gog are from the area south and west of Israel.

Ezekiel 38:5 Persia, Cush, and Phut with them, all of them with shield and helmet;

Persia is modern Iran, Phut is identified by many commentators as Libya and Cush refers to eastern Africa generally so perhaps the Sudan is in mind here.

Western Europe and others are opposed to Gog's invasion of Israel

When Gog does invade Israel several countries are very concerned about the situation and ask Gog (surely through the diplomatic channels used by nations today) why he is attacking Israel. These countries seem to probably be in both the northwestern quarter of the world and in the Middle East itself.

Ezekiel 38:13 Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take the spoil? hast thou assembled thy company to take the prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take great spoil?

Sheba is on the south western edge of the Arabian Peninsula where Yemen exists today. Dedan is an ancient name of the northwestern edge of modern Saudi Arabia. Tarshish was the name of more than one area of colonies of the ancient Phoenicians. Writers make the point that an earlier Phoenician colony that Israelite ships of King Solomon joined with them in sailing to was somewhere in the Orient. By the time of the invasion of the northern kingdom of Israel the emphasis of the Phoenicians (and I suspect others including Israelites) had shifted to pushing the colonies further west in the Mediterranean Sea area. A major port of the Phoenicians on the south edge of Spain had the ancient name of Gadiz, today called Cadiz. It is my understanding that the Phoenicians had sailed past the Straights of Hercules (today the Straights of Gibraltar) into the Atlantic and up the western coast of Europe to Britain and perhaps areas further north by this time (if not some before). So *the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof* must surely have in mind western Europe, perhaps Spain specifically, and probably other areas of the coasts of northwestern Europe.

This then is an overview of the northern alliance lead by the future ruler Gog. We have also seen that he is opposed in his efforts by at least some nations of northwestern Europe. This would be expected of the nations of the modern North Atlantic Treaty Organization (or NATO) alliance.

Who is the antichrist?

The Anti-Christ (which is what John calls this evil future ruler in his epistles) is known in the Revelation as the Beast.

1John 2:18 Little children, it is *the* last hour, and, **according as ye have heard that** antichrist comes, even now there have come many antichrists, whence we know that it is *the* last hour.

1John 2:19 They went out from among us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have surely remained with us, but that they might be made manifest that none are of us.

Actually John's usage of the word shows that the term antichrist refers more properly to the spiritual forces against God's Kingdom and the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and perhaps even more specifically to the evil angelic being who seems to be used by Satan in this effort. But in common usage many Christians would refer to the Beast (the man that will be used by this antichrist spirit) as the antichrist himself. It is only in that sense of common usage that I refer to this man as the antichrist.

Remember, that actually the antichrist is really the evil spiritual being that will control the man who John also calls the Beast in the Revelation.

Paul calls him the *man of sin* and the *son of perdition* in his epistle to the Thessalonians.

2Thessalonians 2:3 Let not any one deceive you in any manner, because *it will not be* unless the apostasy have first come, **and the man of sin have been revealed, the son of perdition;**

2Thessalonians 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself on high against all called God, or object of veneration; so that he himself sits down in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

The Beast

I believe this man who Paul called a *son of perdition* is the same as the one that John later calls the Beast in his Revelation. He is a ruler who will arise in the Middle East himself, not in the far north as Gog does.

Revelation 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea; **and I saw a beast rising out of the sea**, having ten horns and seven heads, and upon its horns ten diadems, and upon its heads names of blasphemy.

Revelation 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like to a leopardess, and its feet as of a bear, and its mouth as a lion's mouth; and the dragon gave to it his power, and his throne, and great authority;

If you look closely at the description of the Beast John sees you should notice that the symbolisms are very similar to those we have seen in Daniel's prophecies. Surely this Beast is the final manifestation of the little horn seen by Daniel.

Daniel 7:8 I considered the horns, and behold, **there came up among them another, a little horn**, before

which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots; and behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

He is also represented in an earlier limited manner by Antiochus Epiphanes a latter ruler of the Seleucid Syrian Greek Kingdom.

Daniel 11:21 And in his place shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom; but he shall come in peaceably and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. But he did not fulfill the prophecies to the complete degree. Antiochus Epiphanes never went to the point of elevating himself above every God as this still future beastly ruler will.

Daniel 11:36 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.

The Beast will be given control of a confederacy of nations concerned with affairs in the Middle East. He will succeed in establishing a Peace Accord with Israel. But at some point he will turn on them and invade when their guard is down. This seems to be what is referred to in the last week of seven years seen by Daniel but not yet fully accounted for.

Daniel 9:27 And he shall confirm a covenant with the many *for* one week; and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and because of the protection of abominations *there shall be* a desolator, even until that the consumption and what is determined shall be poured out upon the desolate.

He may himself be taken by surprise at Gog's invasion of the Middle East and Israel.

Daniel 11:40 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.

Daniel 11:44 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.

Summary

The ruler Gog named in Ezekiel 38 will come from the far north of Israel. He is identified by many writers as from modern Russia. He will invade the Middle East and specifically Israel to take spoil at the very time that the Beast is in control of the area. The Beast is from the area of the Middle East and will arise to power there. It appears from the verses that we have seen in this overview that he will be surprised at the invasion from the north and will move to attack the invading forces of Gog. Hopefully this short but broad overview of the future rulers known as Gog and the Beast has helped and given you a better understanding of how the pieces of the puzzle fit together.

