



“For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles [vultures] be gathered together.” (Matthew 24:28)

The Scriptural Battle: God Verses Gog and Magog

(Ezekiel Chapters Thirty-eight and Thirty-nine)

“...come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the **mountains of Israel...**” (Ezekiel 39:17)

Introduction

There is no easy way to begin this series of studies on chapters thirty-eight and thirty-nine of the Book of Ezekiel. This is **THE** battle of Scripture of which God spoke of through His ancient prophets: “*Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?*” Ezekiel 38:17. This battle is a battle spoken of and prophesied of throughout the Holy Scriptures and not merely in these two chapters of Ezekiel. Any believer that keeps an open mind and has shed the “traditions of men” in favor of allowing the Holy Spirit to speak from Scripture, should conclude - once he or she has diligently studied these two chapters and everything that branches out from them - that this is indeed the Battle of Armageddon.

Before we begin this series on what has been termed by many as “**The Gog/Magog War,**” let us first give a brief summary from Scripture of who precisely is the target of this Gog/Magog battle. We will do this by looking at the first ten verses of Revelation Chapter Twenty:

Revelation 20:1-10

1 - ¶And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 - And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and **bound** him a thousand years,

<Satan of course was cast out of heaven at the Cross of Christ, Revelation 12:9-10.>

Revelation 12:9-10

9 - And the great dragon was **cast out**, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 - And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **Now** is come **salvation**, and **strength**, and the **kingdom** of our **God**, and the **power** of his **Christ**: for the accuser of our brethren is **cast down**, which accused them before our God day and night.

[Absolute proof that the kingdom of God came down to man as a result of the crucifixion of Christ, and thus Satan was cast out of heaven at that time and cast down into the earth. That is why God states "**NOW** is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ." As Christ states in Mark 3:27 "No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will **first** bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house." Christ first had to bind Satan (the strong man) in order to spoil his house and He certainly did that by His death, burial, and resurrection. The kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ were out of reach for most of humanity until Christ spoiled Satan's house at the Cross of Calvary. The victory is won but not completed as yet:

"¶Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. **Woe** to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having **great wrath**, because he knoweth that he hath but a **short time**," Revelation 12:12.

Satan is bound for this relatively "short time" known as the New Testament Church Age, which is a **symbolical** one-thousand year period.

Excerpt from "**The Numbers in the Scriptures**" by Tony Warren; highlighting added.

Psalms 105:8

"He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a **thousand generations**."

This is a **thousand** used **figuratively** to illustrate the **fullness of time**, not literally a thousand generations. His Word is commanded to all generations, not just literally one thousand. But God is using the number thousand here to show spiritual consistency in representing the fullness. Likewise, in **Revelation chapter 20**, where it speaks of the one thousand year millennial reign of Christ. It is the perfect example of this numerical symbology. It signifies the fullness of time of the reign of Christ, the binding of Satan, and the rest of the dead live not again, before the second Resurrection. Not the totality of time from the beginning, and not literally one thousand years, but the fullness of time between events spoken of there.”

Yes, the **thousand years** in which Satan is bound until he is temporally loosed is symbolical only, representing the fullness of the New Testament Church Age.]

3 - And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, **till** the **thousand years** should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

<After the Church Age ends (symbolical one thousand years) Satan will then be loosed for a little season (the great tribulation) in which he will attempt his final and most aggressive attack upon the true Church of Jesus Christ, known in sections of the Old Testament and the Book of Revelation as the **Third Part**. Please see “The Church: The Third Part” at spiritualbiblestudies.com.>

4 - And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 - But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 - Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

7 - And when the **thousand years** are **expired**, Satan shall be **loosed** out of his prison,

<Satan is to be loosed at the end of the Church Age when God's true Church (the two witnesses of Revelation Chapter Eleven) have finished their testimony. Satan will be loosed for the purpose of silencing the true witnessing of the Word of God; that is to spiritually slay these **two witnesses** which is the true Church of Jesus Christ upon the earth at that time. God is still fully in control and is allowing Satan to trample the true Gospel of Salvation as judgment upon the apostate and unbelieving church.

Revelation 11:7 - And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall **make war against them**, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

[God is putting hooks in Satan's jaw and drawing him down to make spiritual war against the "**camp of the saints**," which is the true Church as opposed to the corporate and unbelieving apostate church, the outer court of God's true temple, Revelation 11:2. This is Satan's finest hour! God Himself is pouring out His judgment upon the tares within the global congregations of the world. God is thus judging the apostate global harlot church (Revelation Chapter Eighteen) by removing His very truth (the narrow Gospel of Jesus Christ; the **only** Gospel that eternally saves) from the midst of this global church for her sins of apostasy. God is allowing Satan, the beast, to spiritually ravage, desecrate, destroy, and **desolate** the true Church of Christ; thus Christ warned us two thousand years ago:

Matthew 24:15 - 21

15 - When ye therefore shall see the **abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16 - Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 - Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18 - Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19 - And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 - But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21 - For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.] >

8 - And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, **Gog and Magog**, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

<When the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations! This has been Satan's age-old plan from the beginning - to silence and stop the truth of the Gospel of Christ from reaping souls into God's eternal kingdom. **NOTICE** carefully that the above verse most definitely identifies who Gog and Magog are. Satan is loosed for the purpose of deceiving the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth - **Gog and Magog**! When studying Ezekiel chapters thirty-eight and thirty-nine we need not ponder or wonder who Gog and Magog might represent, for God

has just shown us! God reveals their identity here in Revelation Chapter Twenty. Gog and Magog do not specifically represent the country of Russia, or any political entity as the multitudes are teaching in the global churches of today. They love to detach and separate God's teachings of Ezekiel chapters thirty-eight and thirty-nine and isolate them from Revelation Chapter Twenty as though this chapter of the Book of Revelation were the Black Plague! They fear it because it would destroy their ideology, and it certainly does. Gog and Magog represent not merely the unsaved masses of the world, but much more deceptive than that, Gog and Magog represent Satan and the "**religious**" Christian appearing masses of the unsaved throughout the four quarters of the world. This is why Christ warned us in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew Chapter Twenty-four) "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, **if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect,**" Mathew 24:24. We of course have much more on this later in the study.>

9 - And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the **camp of the saints** about, and the **beloved city**: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

<Satan and his religious army (and we say "religious army" because Scripture shows us that Satan is the imitator of God); therefore Satan and his army of imposters encircle the camp of the saints, the beloved city. This is the **Abomination of Desolation** without question! The beloved city is none other than the true Church of Jesus Christ, otherwise known as the "camp of the saints." That beloved city is the spiritual Jerusalem. "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all," Galatians 4:26.

These first nine verses that we have just quoted from Revelation Chapter Twenty is a miniature view of the Gog/Magog War that is taught in Ezekiel chapters thirty-eight and thirty-nine. As we mentioned earlier, there are many other passages in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament that speak of this great spiritual battle.>

10 - And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Shed the Traditions of Men!

Before one can truly understand the **key** to correct biblical interpretation one must depart from the "traditions of men" at any cost! Before we can think about attempting to understand these chapters in Ezekiel we must first understand one key element which is a requirement in order to grasp how God speaks and teaches throughout Scripture. We must study Scripture in the light and knowledge of who the true believer is. God, much of the time, speaks through the use of parables containing symbols, allegories, metaphors, etc., all in **picturesque** language. It is imperative to understand that we are **NOT** dismissing the literal and historical events of the Old Testament as mythical or fables in any way. God forbid! No, but rather we know without doubt that God moved the events of ancient Israel as examples, 1 Corinthians 10:11, and as our

schoolmaster, Galatians 3:24, for the purpose of instructing His Church, the then future Bride of Christ, including both Jews and Gentiles. Today God's Church is identified as the **Elect of God**, Colossians 3:12; the **Bride of Christ**, Revelation 21:9; **The Church**, Matthew 16:18; **Christians**, Acts 11:26; **The Holy City**, Revelation 2:11; **The New Jerusalem**, Revelation 21:2; **Mount Zion**, Joel 2:32; **The Whole House of Israel**, Ezekiel 37:11, and **The Israel of God**, Galatians 6:16. There are certainly more titles that God places upon His Church, no doubt. The one main ingredient or key to understanding the symbolism of Old Testament Scripture is in understanding the fact that Old Testament Israel was a prefigure or foreshadow of the New Testament Church - the Israel of God, Galatians 6:16. Once we come to truth on this matter Scripture will then open up to us with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and many more marvelous truths will then begin to fall into place. The true worshipper of Christ must know and understand who we really are! One cannot truly understand the Gog/Magog Battle apart from realizing that the true believer in Christ is a New Testament spiritual Jew. Our eternal kingdom, our eternal life resides within and upon the spiritual "mountains" (kingdom) of Israel. Why? Because **Jesus Christ is the Israel of Scripture!**

Exodus 4:22 - And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, **Israel is my son, even my firstborn:**

Matthew 2:14-15

14 - When he arose, he took the **young child** and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15 - And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Out of Egypt have I called my son.**

Hosea 11:1 - ¶**When Israel was a child**, then I loved him, and **called my son out of Egypt.**

Isaiah 49:1-3

1 - ¶**Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.**

<Jesus Christ is the long awaited Messiah. He is God incarnate. From the bowels of His earthly mother (the Virgin Mary) God has made mention of Him - The Christ.>

2 - And he hath made my mouth like a **sharp sword**; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

<Revelation 19:15 confirms verse 2, for it speaks of Christ having a mouth like a sharp sword: "... and out of his mouth goeth a **sharp sword** ..." >

3 - And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O **Israel**, in whom I will be glorified.

<Jesus Christ the Messiah is indeed **the Israel** of Scripture. Mountains many times throughout Scripture represent kingdoms, thus the **Mountains of Israel** is a term denoting the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. This is where the real and invisible battle in the latter days will be raged and not some literal war upon the mountains of the nation of Israel. Christ warned us in Matthew Chapter Twenty-four that when we see Satan residing in the church (holy place), then we who are in spiritual Judaea (a term for the true Church)

are to depart out of the church and flee to the mountains or in other words we are to depart and flee to the kingdom (mountains) of Christ. If this were to be understood in a literal manner, then we would be forced to admit that Christ is speaking only to those people who are living in the nation of Israel, that is the ancient land of Judaea, and that certainly cannot be the case.

Matthew 24:15 -16

15 - When ye therefore shall see the **abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the **holy place**, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16- Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the **mountains**:

We who are true worshippers of Christ must flee from this abomination of desolation that is turning the global church of Jesus Christ into an abominable desolation. Satan and his host - Gog and Magog - are bombarding the earthly church of Jesus Christ (**the mountains of Israel**) to such an apostate extent that true believers **must** flee from this apostasy. >

Let it be known that we are not taking anything away from the literal nation of Israel; all nations are under the curse of God and therefore led by Satan, the prince of this world, John 12:31; 14:30; and 16:11. God's righteous view of our worldly nations is this:

Isaiah 40:15 - Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a **very little thing**.

I don't suppose we as "nations" can fall much lower than this, can we? The nations of the earth are counted less than dust in God's eyes. How dare the apostate congregations to exalt the U.S. (or any other heathen nation for that matter) upon the altar of Christ! On the other hand there is one nation that God blesses tremendously and it isn't the physical nation of Israel, for it is a spiritual nation and yes, you guessed it - it is the true Church of Jesus Christ, the spiritual Israel:

1 Peter 2:9 - But ye are a **chosen generation**, a **royal priesthood**, an **holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Everything about the true child of God has spiritual ramifications in place of the physical. Again the true worshipper of God must know who he is in God's eyes. For more information on this essential topic please see "God's Spiritual Israel" at spiritualbiblestudies.com. We will now briefly cover an overview of the New Testament believer - the true spiritual Jew:

Romans 2:28-29 -

28 - For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

29 - But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Romans 9:6-8 -

6 - ¶Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are **not** all Israel, which are of Israel:

7 - **Neither**, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

8 - That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are **not** the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

We must understand these basic facts of Scripture in order to begin to understand the truth of God's Word. We, as God's **ELECT** are without question the true Jews and the true Israel of Scripture. All true believers in Christ (Christ who is Israel) are indeed spiritual Jews in God's view, just as His completed and invisible Church is indeed God's bride, the **ISRAEL OF GOD**. Once we come to a full understanding of this truth we can then read and study Scripture in a new light as it opens up to us as never before and the pieces begin to fall into place.

Hebrews 9:13-14 -

13 - For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

14 - How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

24 - For Christ is **not** entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the **figures** of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

We must realize that in order to come to the real truth of God's Word, our interpretations must have a spiritual outcome rather than resulting once again back to the carnal and earthly figures. Therefore the battle of Ezekiel chapters thirty-eight and thirty-nine appear in all probability to be the battle mentioned in Scripture as **Armageddon**. This of course is spiritual in nature as opposed to what the corporate church is teaching - a great and literal war upon the physical mountains of the Middle Eastern nation of Israel.

“And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue **Armageddon**.” (Revelation 16:16)