

End Times Bible Prophecy – Russia, Iran, Turkey and kings of the East Part-3 Sunday September 15, 2024

We are currently doing a 4-part sermon series on End Times Bible Prophecy. In this series we will cover:

Sun Sep 01: The Middle East Conflict

Sun Sep 08: Antichrist, False Prophet, Mark of the Beast Sun Sep 15: Russia, Iran, Turkey and kings of the East

Sun Sep 22: The Battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Today: Russia, Iran, Turkey and kings of the East

Our objective today is to consider End Time Bible Prophecy in relation to the alignment of nations and the build up to the battle of Armageddon. We would like to consider what the Bible says and what is currently happening.

We outline the sequence, starting with some of the details we covered in the sermon last Sunday about the Antichrist and the false prophet. And then we consider how the build up towards the battle of Armageddon will play out.

BUILD UP TO THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

- #1, The Rise of the Antichrist and his global influence
- #2, The Abomination of Desolation
- #3, The Great Tribulation, The Time of Jacob's Trouble
- #4, The Instigation of Nations and the Gathering of Armies
- (A) Russia and its allies invade Israel (Ezekiel 38-39)
- (B) Invasion of Israel by the nations (Revelation 16:12-16)
- #5, The Final Event The Second Coming of Christ

#1, THE RISE OF THE ANTICHRIST AND HIS GLOBAL INFLUENCE

The Antichrist, also referred to as the "man of sin" or "lawless one" in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, is a leader who rises to power, initially offering peace but eventually revealing his true nature. He is able to influence many leaders consolidating power over many nations including economic, political, religious and military influence.

The Antichrist will make a covenant of peace with Israel for seven years, which he will break midway.



Daniel 9:27

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

Revelation 13:7

It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

#2, THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

At the midpoint of the seven-year period, the Antichrist will desecrate the Jewish temple in Jerusalem.

Matthew 24:15

Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

#3, THE GREAT TRIBULATION, THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE

During the seven years of Tribulation, the book of Revelation tells us that God will pour out His judgments on the earth. There will be three series of judgments, with seven judgements in each and are described as seal, trumpet and vial (or bowl) judgments. A total of 21 judgments falls on the earth.

In the middle of the tribulation, once the Antichrist has set himself up as god, he will begin to persecute the Jewish people and Christians. During this time, the Antichrist and the false prophet will enforce the image of the beast to be worshipped (a global religious system) and the mark of the beast (a global financial system), without which people cannot buy or sell (Revelation 13:16-17).



The second half of the Tribulation is referred to as the Great Tribulation. The Great Tribulation is a time of incomparable judgment from God (Daniel 12:1, Joel 2:2, Matthew 24:21). This is also referred to as the "Time of Jacob's Trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7). Time of Jacob's trouble is so named because of Jeremiah's prophecy:

Jeremiah 30:7

7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

Daniel 12:1

"At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book.

Matthew 24:21-22

21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

While the earth is plunged into its most horrendous hour Israel faces its worst ever during the second half of the Tribulation. Revelation 12 indicates that satan knows that his time is short and so does everything possible in vengeance against Israel and those who believe in Jesus Christ. (Revelation 12:13-17; Luke 21:20-26)

#4, THE INSTIGATION OF NATIONS AND THE GATHERING OF ARMIES

During the period of the Great Tribulation, the Antichrist and his forces will gather the armies of the world to invade Israel and wage war against God's people. Evil spirits will go out to deceive the leaders of the world, gathering them together for the final battle (Revelation 16:12,14,16).

We can envision this to unfold in two stages:

#4(A) Russia and its allies invade Israel (Ezekiel 38-39).

Note, other than stating that this will happen in the latter times (Ezekiel 38:8,16) the exact timing of Ezekiel 38-39 is not indicated. The reasons we consider this happening as a first step towards the battle of Armageddon is that (a)in Ezekiel 39:17-20 we have the same "Supper of the Great God" depicted as in Revelation 19:17-18; Matthew 24:28; Luke 17:37) and (b)Ezekiel 39:29 states "I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of



Israel,' says the Lord GOD" which is very similar to Zechariah 12:8-10, both having to do with the end of Armageddon.

#4(B) Invasion of Israel by the nations (Revelation 16:12-16).

#4(A), RUSSIA AND ITS ALLIES INVADE ISRAEL (EZEKIEL 38-39)

In Ezekiel 38-39, we see an invasion of Israel by Russia and its allies.

The Battle of Gog and Magog - Precursor To The Battle of Armageddon

This will happen at a time when Israel is at rest or peace – because of the earlier peace treaty

Ezekiel 38, Daniel 11.

Ezekiel 38

- 1 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,
- 2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,
- 3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, <mark>O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.</mark>
- 4 I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.
- 5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet;
- 6 Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.
- 7 "Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them.
- 8 After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.
- 9 You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you."
- 10 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan:
- 11 You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'—
- 12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.
- 13 Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?' "'



14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it?

15 Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army.

16 You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes."

Summary of modern-day countries corresponding to the names mentioned in Ezekiel 38 as identified based on historical and linguistic analysis:

Ezekiel 38:1-2

Gog: Title, likely linked to a leader from Russia. **Magog**: Modern Russia and parts of Central Asia.

Rosh: Possibly Russia.

Meshech and Tubal: Likely Turkey or Russia.

Persia: Iran. Persia was the heart of the Persian Empire, and the name "Persia" was historically synonymous with the land now known as Iran. In 1935, the name was officially changed from Persia to Iran.

Ethiopia (Cush): Possibly modern Ethiopia and Sudan.

Libya: Libya (North Africa).

Gomer: Turkey or parts of Eastern Europe.

Togarmah: Turkey, or the Caucasus region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia).

Russia, and its allies: **Iran, Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia, Sudan,** (possibly other nations), form a coalition that will attack Israel in the end times, according to Ezekiel's prophecy.

Russia's Present Political Relationships With Iran, Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia, Sudan:

Russia is strategically deepening its relationships with key countries in the Middle East and Africa, including **Iran, Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia, and Sudan,** through a mix of military, energy, and diplomatic engagements. Russia's goal is to expand its influence, secure access to energy resources, and challenge Western dominance in these regions.

Ezekiel 38:13

Sheba: Yemen.

Dedan: Saudi Arabia.

Tarshish: Possibly the western Mediterranean (Spain, France, Italy, and other nations)

These nations ask why the invasion.



In Ezekiel 38-39, Israel is able to push back this Russian coalition. God causes these armies to fall upon the mountains of Israel.

Ezekiel 39:1-16 the destruction of Russia and its allies at the first invasion. We read just the first 5 verses.

Ezekiel 39:1-5

- 1 "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal;
- 2 and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel.
- 3 Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand.
- 4 You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.
- 5 You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken," says the Lord GOD.

The term "Hamon Gog" (Ezekiel 39:11,15) means the "multitude of Gog" or "hordes of Gog." The valley is thus named to signify the mass burial of Gog's defeated army. It emphasizes the vast number of soldiers who will be killed in the battle and buried in this valley, marking the end of the invasion. The exact location of the Valley of Hamon Gog is not specifically identified in modern geographical terms. However, it is described as located "east of the sea," likely referring to the Mediterranean Sea (Ezekiel 39:11). After the battle, the people of Israel will spend seven months burying the dead (Ezekiel 39:12), and this valley will become a memorial to God's deliverance of Israel from its enemies. The passage suggests that the valley will be a significant and well-known place, obstructing travelers due to the large-scale burial of the dead. They will use the weapons to make fire for seven years (Ezekiel 39:9-10).

#4(B), INVASION OF ISRAEL BY THE NATIONS (REVELATION 16:12-16)

In the context of the sixth bowl judgment during the Great Tribulation, there is a reference to the Euphrates river drying up to prepare for the invasion of the "kings of the east." The "kings of the east" could refer to a coalition of powerful nations east of Israel. Some associate this with China, possibly in alliance with other Asian nations. The drying of the Euphrates is seen as a supernatural event that makes way for these armies and "the kings of the earth and of the whole world" to march toward Israel for the Battle of Armageddon.



#5, THE FINAL EVENT - THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Revelation 19:11-16,19-21

The Tribulation period will end with the Battle of Armageddon and with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to set up His government (kingdom) on earth. Revelation 19:11-16

The final event leading in the Battle of Armageddon is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. As the nations gather for battle, Christ will return to defeat the Antichrist and his forces. The Antichrist is defeated at Armageddon by Jesus Christ (Zechariah 12, 14; Joel 3; Revelation 16, 19). Armageddon is prophesied as the largest and bloodiest battle in history - with a river of blood flowing for 200 miles about five feet deep (Revelation 14:20)!

WHY THE FINAL BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON?

What could be possible reasons why God has ordained this final gathering of nations for war against Israel, culminating with the battle of Armageddon? We consider these as seen in Scripture:

- 1. To Fulfill God's Sovereign Judgment on the Nations—God's Wrath and Vengeance
- 2. Nations Keen Intent On Destroying Israel
- 3. Satan's Influence and Global Rebellion
- 4. Satan's Ambition To Oppose the Return of Christ
- 5. The Antichrist's Control and Deception

1. TO FULFILL GOD'S SOVEREIGN JUDGMENT ON THE NATIONS—GOD'S WRATH AND VENGEANCE

The overarching Biblical reason for the involvement of these nations is to fulfill God's plan for judgment on rebellious humanity and the nations that have opposed Him and His people. God draws these nations together for His purposes, even as they seek to follow their own agendas. The battle of Armageddon serves as the culmination of God's judgment on the world system that has opposed His rule and persecuted His people.

Ezekiel 38:4 indicates that it is God who sovereignly draws Gog and the other nations into the battle, to accomplish His purposes.



While these nations may have their own reasons for attacking Israel: political alliances with the Antichrist, economic interests, or territorial ambitions, they are ultimately being used by God for judgment. However, from a divine perspective, they are part of God's judgment, as He uses them as instruments to bring about the final confrontation at Armageddon.

2. NATIONS KEEN INTENT ON DESTROYING ISRAEL

Another Biblical reason these nations gather is their opposition to Israel. Throughout the Bible, Israel is seen as the focal point of God's plan for redemption, and in the end times, many nations gather to destroy Israel, which leads to the final confrontation. Nations like Gog (Russia), Persia (Iran), and Meshech/Tubal/Togarmah (Turkey) are prophesied to invade Israel. The Bible indicates that the motivation of these nations is to plunder Israel, take its resources, and destroy God's chosen people (Ezekiel 38:8-9,12). This suggests a desire for economic and territorial conquest, likely motivated by political and military ambitions, but also under the divine orchestration of God.

3. SATAN'S INFLUENCE AND GLOBAL REBELLION

The Bible makes it clear that these nations are influenced by demonic forces, leading them into a final rebellion against God. Satan plays a key role in deceiving the nations and gathering them for war against God and His people at Armageddon. The Antichrist and false prophet (both empowered by Satan) will deceive the nations, including Russia, Iran, Turkey, and others, to unite for the final battle. The demonic deception causes these nations to gather against Israel and God, thinking they can defeat His plan (Revelation 16:13-14).

4. SATAN'S AMBITION TO OPPOSE THE RETURN OF CHRIST

This is satan's attempt to try and stop Christ's rule. The kings of the earth and the whole world, which include the kings of the East and other global powers, are gathered at Armageddon to oppose the return of Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:19). The Antichrist leads the kings of the East, the kings of the earth and nations of the earth to resist Christ. They are deceived into thinking they can prevent or overthrow Christ's coming kingdom.

5. THE ANTICHRIST'S CONTROL AND DECEPTION



The Antichrist plays a significant role in drawing these nations into the conflict. Through his charisma, deception, and military control, the Antichrist gains the allegiance of many world leaders and nations, convincing them to participate in his final stand against God (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10).

Next Sunday: The Battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Christ

We will cover this next Sunday as we wrap up this series on End Times Bible Prophecy.

SUMMARY

THE ALIGNMENT OF NATIONS

As we consider how nations are aligning themselves, we must remember what has been foretold in the Bible. We are seeing prophecy being fulfilled before our eyes.

JESUS IS COMING BACK FOR A GLORIOUS CHURCH

Amidst all this God is at work in the Church. Jesus is coming back for a glorious Church. We are here at a time like this, to see the Church function in greater glory.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads





End Times Bible Prophecy – Russia, Iran, Turkey and kings of the East Part-3 Sunday September 15, 2024

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. There is no need to read the entire sermon notes during the Life Group.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: see below.

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

The Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to contribute. Please discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Consider Ezekiel 38:1-16, written about 570 BC. Consider the names of modern-day countries that are referenced in Ezekiel 38 (Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya, Sudan, possibly Egypt), and their alignment and alliances. Do we see prophecy being fulfilled?



- 2, Ezekiel 39:1-5 indicates that Israel will be able to defeat Russian and its allies. Do you think this is literally possible?
- 3, In Revelation 16:12-16, the kings of the East, and the kings of the nations mobilize for war and move against Israel for the battle of Armageddon. Discuss some of the reasons that were given as to why this final battle will take place:
- 1. To Fulfill God's Sovereign Judgment on the Nations—God's Wrath and Vengeance
- 2. Nations Keen Intent On Destroying Israel
- 3. Satan's Influence and Global Rebellion
- 4. Satan's Ambition To Oppose the Return of Christ
- 5. The Antichrist's Control and Deception

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.





Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore

WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: https://apcwo.org

FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons

FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional

JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools

COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org

MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app

CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org

SERMON OUTLINE

Bible prophecy is history written in advance. In this sermon series on End Times Bible Prophecy, we consider topics such as: The Middle East Conflict where we addressed the land of Israel, the city of Jerusalem and the Temple (Third Temple). The Antichrist, False Prophet, and the Mark of the Beast. Russia, Iran, Turkey and the kings of the East. The Battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. In this sermon we focus on the build up to the battle of Armageddon:

- #1, The Rise of the Antichrist and his global influence
- #2, The Abomination of Desolation
- #3, The Great Tribulation, The Time of Jacob's Trouble
- #4, The Instigation of Nations and the Gathering of Armies
- (A) Russia and its allies (Iran, Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia) invade Israel (Ezekiel 38-39)
- (B) Invasion of Israel by the nations the kings of the East, and the kings of the earth (Revelation 16:12-16)
- #5, The Final Event The Second Coming of Christ

We also consider why the final battle of Armageddon will take place:

1. To Fulfill God's Sovereign Judgment on the Nations—God's Wrath and Vengeance



- 2. Nations Keen Intent On Destroying Israel
- 3. Satan's Influence and Global Rebellion
- 4. Satan's Ambition To Oppose the Return of Christ
- 5. The Antichrist's Control and Deception

KEYWORDS

end times, bible prophecy, middle east conflict, Antichrist, False Prophet, Mark of the Beast, Image of the Beast, kings of the East, Russia, Iran, Turkey, Armageddon, Second Coming of Christ, Daniel, Revelation, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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