

Set Your Face Against Gog, of the land of Magog, the Chief Prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal

Ezekiel 38: 1-6

DIG: What is the fate of Meshech and Tubal in Ezekiel 32:26? What country are Rosh, Meshech and Tubal in today? What other nations are a part of the alliance? Where do all these other nations come from? What does this infer?

Concerning the question, who, here Ezekiel named the people involved in the invasion.

The word of God came to Ezekiel to introduce a new prophecy. **Son of man, set your face, or prophesy, against Gog (Ezekiel 38:1-2).** Gog is not a proper name, but the title of the king of the land of Magog, just like pharaoh is not a proper name, but the title for the king of Egypt. Gog is a shortened form of Magog. In **Genesis 10:2** we learn that Magog was the second son of Japheth. He and his descendants lived between the Black and Caspian Seas in what is today southern European Russia. **The rabbis had a name for this leader. They called him Armilus, who is the offspring of Satan and a virgin. They teach that Armilus is the anti-Messiah who will deceive the whole world into believing he is God and will reign over the entire world in the last days.**

Besides being the king of Magog, Gog was also the chief prince of three other territories, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.

First, he is the chief prince of Rosh. Some versions of the Bible do not translate this word to mean Rosh, but rather *head prince or chief prince*. The problem with that is that Rosh is a place, not a person. **The rabbis generally understood these prophecies to refer to Russia.** Rosh was in the northern part of European Russia. In fact our modern word Russia, stems from the root word Rosh.

Secondly, Gog will be the chief prince of Meshech. In **Genesis 10:2** we also learn that Meshech was another son of Japheth. His descendants are mentioned in **Ezekiel 27:13** and **Ezekiel 32:26.** Meshech eventually became known as Moscow. The consonants are similar in both names: Meshech, *M . . . sk sound* and Moscow, *M . . . sk sound.* Meshech was also in the northern part of European Russia.

Thirdly, he will also be the chief prince of Tubal. Again, we learn from **Genesis 10:2** that **Tubal** was a third son of Japheth. He is also mentioned along with his brother **Meshech** in **Ezekiel 27:13** and **Ezekiel 32:26**. **Tubal** is today the modern Russian city of Tobolsk, the capital city of Siberia, which is the Asian part of Russia. It is also the city where the communists assassinated Czar Nicholas and his family. Therefore, **Gog** was not only the king of **Magog**, but also the chief prince of **Rosh, Meshech and Tubal**. Therefore, all these areas are in modern Russia.

According to the rabbis, **Armilus** will lead a hostile army against **Isra'el** before the coming of the **Messiah, the Son of David**. It is also the war in which the **Messiah, the Son of Joseph** will be killed. Their theology is rooted in the difficulty they had in interpreting some prophecies that refer to a suffering and dying Messiah on the one hand, and conquering and reigning Messiah. Believers understand that Christ will have two comings. But because Judaism rejects the concept of two separate comings, the **Rabbis** invented a concept of two separate **Messiah's**. The first **Messiah** would be called **Messiah the Son of Joseph**. They believed He would come to make war against **Armilus** only to be killed. In their view, when **Messiah son of Joseph** died He will have fulfilled the suffering passages. Then **Armilus** would bring much distress upon Israel. However, the rabbis teach that later the second **Messiah** would come. They say He will be called **Messiah Son of David** who will fulfill the reigning passages. They teach that He will kill **Armilus**, the anti-Messiah, along with his alliance then set up the **Messianic Kingdom**. At that point the rabbis believe that the second **Messiah, Messiah son of David**, will bring the first **Messiah, Messiah son of Joseph**, back to life.

In the next two verses we see divine opposition. This is what **ADONAI Elohim** says: **I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal (Ezekiel 38:3)**. **Gog** will be diverted away from a planned attack. He will plan an attack in one direction, perhaps toward the north. But **God** declares: **I will turn you around and put hooks in your jaws**. The **LORD** is pictured as being so much in control that **Gog** can do nothing else. As a wild beast is turned around from his natural desire for prey, so **Gog** will be seduced from his initial purpose. **ADONAI Elohim** will bring this invasion about, saying: **I will bring you out with your whole army – your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords (Ez 38:4)**. The mention of **horses** and **horsemen** is not to mean that the army would consist primarily of cavalry. But how else could an ancient writer have described modern warfare? He knew nothing of planes and guns.¹³¹

There will be other **nations** allied with **Gog** in this invasion. **Ezekiel** mentions **Persia**, who was also a son of Japheth. Today this is modern Iran, which is north of Isra'el. **The prophet** also mentions **Cush**, who was the son of Ham (**Genesis 10:6**). **Cush** is Ethiopia today. Then **the Holy Spirit** mentions that **Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets (Ezekiel 38:5)**. **Put** is the son of Ham (**Genesis 10:6**), and is known as Somalia today. **Put** and **Cush** are south of Isra'el. All three nations, **Persia**, **Cush** and **Put** will join the invaders from the north and will be prepared for war.

Finally, the list of invaders is completed with the reference to **Gomer** and **Beth Togarmah with all their troops**. **Gomer** is the son of Japheth (**Genesis 10:2**). His descendants were found along the Danube and Rhine, later forming the German people. **Beth Togarmah** became the Armenians from the far north (**Ezekiel 38:6**). **Togarmah** was the son of **Gomer** and the grandson of **Japheth (Genesis 10:3)**. Looking at any map, if you go directly north from Jerusalem, you will find Moscow.

Consequently, the alliance will consist of Russians, Germans, Armenians, Ethiopians, Iranians and Somalians. These **many nations** will be numerous indeed. They will all be summoned by **Gog, or as the rabbis teach, Armilus** and gathered together for an attack upon **God's** people. The chief prince of Rosh, **Meshech** and **Tubal** will ignore the ominous warning from **ADONAI**, commander of heavens armies (**Joshua 5:14a**): **Whoever touches Zion touches the apple of My eye (Zechariah 2:8)**. If ever an invasion could succeed because of superior numbers, this would be it. But there is more to the story.