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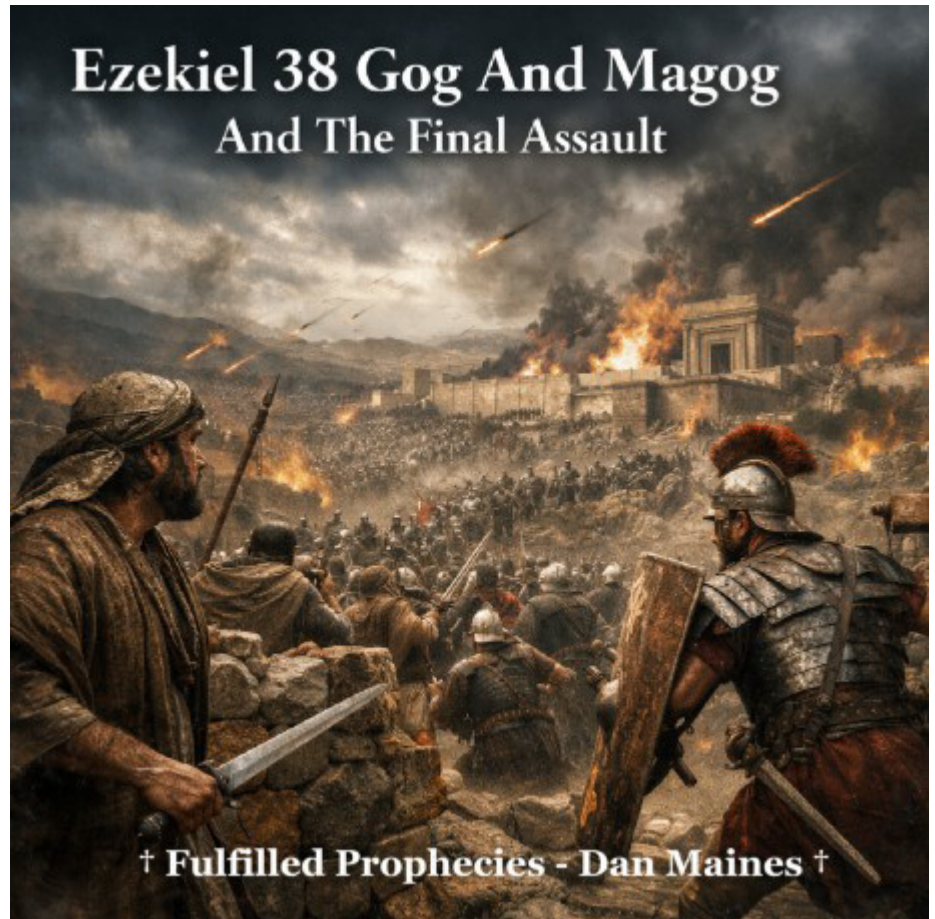
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Ezekiel 38 Gog And Magog And The Final Assault



By Dan Maines

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Introduction

† Ezekiel 38 describes a great enemy rising against God's restored people, but this isn't a future end-of-world battle, it's covenantal judgment language pointing to the final conflict surrounding Israel before her judgment was completed (Ezekiel 38:8)

† The language is symbolic and apocalyptic, just like Revelation, showing a massive gathering of nations against God's people, which we see fulfilled in the Roman siege leading up to AD 70 (Luke 21:20)

† This chapter isn't about modern nations or a distant future war, it's about the last great opposition before the Old Covenant system was completely removed and the kingdom fully established (Hebrews 12:27-28)

Ezekiel 38:1-3

And the word of the Lord came to me saying, Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, This is what the Lord God says: Behold, I am against you, Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal

† Gog represents a symbolic enemy leader, not a specific modern nation, just like Pharaoh or Babylon were used as types of opposition against God (Ezekiel 29:3)

† The gathering of names like Meshech and Tubal points to known hostile regions surrounding Israel, showing a coalition of enemies rather than a single identity (Genesis 10:2)

† God declaring I am against you shows this isn't about the enemy's success, it's about God's sovereign judgment over those who oppose His covenant people (Isaiah 13:6-9)

Ezekiel 38:8-9

After many days you will be summoned. In the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual place of ruins, but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them. You will go up, you will come like a storm, you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all

your troops, and many peoples with you

† The phrase latter years doesn't mean thousands of years later, it refers to the last days of that covenant age, the same period Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24:34

† Israel being regathered and dwelling securely fits the first-century restoration under Christ, not a modern political state (John 11:51-52)

† The overwhelming army like a cloud matches the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem, exactly as Jesus warned (Luke 21:20)

Ezekiel 38:10-12

This is what the Lord God says: It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil plan, and you will say, I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will go against those who are at rest, who live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates, to capture spoils and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places which are now inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and property, who live at the center of the world

† The idea of unwalled villages shows a false sense of security, Israel thought they were safe because of their covenant identity, but judgment was already decreed (Jeremiah 7:4)

† The enemy coming for spoil reflects Rome's destruction and plundering of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Matthew 24:2)

† This isn't about a peaceful modern nation being invaded, it's about first-century Jerusalem thinking it was secure while rejecting Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

Ezekiel 38:18-20

And it will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel, declares the Lord God, that My fury will mount up in My anger. In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will certainly be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, and the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the people who are on the face of the earth will quake at My presence, and the mountains will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground

† This is classic prophetic judgment language, not literal global destruction, the same kind used when Babylon fell (Isaiah 13:10)

† The shaking of the land represents the collapse of the Old Covenant system, not the physical end of the planet (Hebrews 12:26-27)

† Every wall falling points directly to Jerusalem's destruction in AD 70 when the temple and city were torn down (Luke 19:44)

Ezekiel 38:21-23

And I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains, declares the Lord God, every man's sword will be against his brother. With plague and with bloodshed I will enter into judgment with him, and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and brimstone. So I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations, and they will know that I am the Lord

† Internal conflict, pestilence, and destruction all match the historical record of Jerusalem's fall, where factions fought each other inside the city (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5)

† Fire and brimstone imagery shows divine judgment, not literal weather events, just like Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:24)

† God making Himself known to the nations was fulfilled as the Old Covenant ended and the gospel spread to all nations (Matthew 28:19)

Historical References

† Josephus records that during the siege of Jerusalem, the city was filled with internal violence, famine, and destruction, matching Ezekiel's imagery of chaos and judgment (Wars of the Jews 5.1-6)

† Tacitus describes the overwhelming Roman force and the devastation of Jerusalem, confirming the scale of the invasion described symbolically in Ezekiel 38 (Histories 5.13)

† Eusebius records that believers recognized these events as fulfillment of prophecy and fled Jerusalem before its destruction (Ecclesiastical History 3.5)

How It Applies To Us Today

† This shows us that God keeps His word exactly when He says He will, judgment came in their generation just as Jesus said (Matthew 24:34)

† We don't need to fear future Gog and Magog wars, that misunderstanding comes from ignoring the time statements and covenant context

† Christ's kingdom is already established, and we're living in it now, not waiting for a future battle to bring it in (Colossians 1:13)

† The destruction of Jerusalem proves that rejecting Christ has real consequences, but it also confirms that redemption has already been accomplished

† We can have confidence that everything Jesus promised has been fulfilled, and we're not waiting for unfinished prophecy

Q & A Appendix

Q When was Ezekiel 38 fulfilled?

A It was fulfilled in the events leading up to and including the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Luke 21:20-22)

Q Who is Gog in Ezekiel 38?

A Gog represents a symbolic enemy leader over a coalition of nations, fulfilled in the Roman forces and surrounding nations involved in Jerusalem's destruction (Ezekiel 38:3, Luke 21:20)

Q Is this a future war involving modern nations?

A No, the time indicators place it in the last days of the Old Covenant age, fulfilled in the first century (Ezekiel 38:8, Matthew 24:34)

Q What does the shaking of the land mean?

A It represents the removal of the Old Covenant system, not the destruction of the physical earth (Hebrews 12:26-28)

Q Why does it sound like global destruction?

A Because prophetic language uses cosmic imagery to describe covenantal judgment, just like in Isaiah and other prophets (Isaiah 13:10)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 38

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews Book 5; Tacitus, Histories 5.13;
Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

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