

Armageddon Scenario – Revelation 19:11-21

Gog/Magog Invasion of Ezekiel 38-39 not the same as the campaign of Armageddon

Israel is God's Prophetic Timepiece

Deut. 32:8-9 – When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.

Ezekiel 5:5 -- “This is what the Lord God says: ‘This is Jerusalem; I have placed her at the center of the nations, with lands around her.

Acts 17:26 – And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

The Armageddon Campaign (Revelation 19:11-21)

The Location: Plain of Meggido

- Jabin + 900 chariots were overwhelmed
- Gideon's 300 defeated the Midianites, Amalekites & children of the east
- Samson triumphed over the Philistines
- Barak & Deborah defeated Sisera
- Saul was slain by Philistines
- Ahaziah slain by arrows of Jehu
- Pharaoh Necho slew King Josiah
- Saracens, Christian crusaders, Egyptians, Persians, Druses, Turks, Arabs
- Napoleon's disastrous march from Egypt to Syria

Begins with the 6th Bowl Judgment (Rev. 16:12-16)

Rev. 16:13-16 – And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the entire world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. (“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and people will not see his shame.”) and they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Maggedon. (not the 200 million man army of Rev. 9. They are part of the Trumpet Judgments and they are demons-not men).

Rev. 19:11-21 – Jesus wages war

The engagement involves a global confederacy led by the coming world leader. The campaign

includes the following stages:

1. The Assembly of the Army (Rev 16:12-16): The Valley of Jezreel is the staging area for the armies coming against Jerusalem and, thus, against God the Father and His Messiah. Gods viewpoint is one of mockery (Joel 3:9-11; Ps 2:1-6). This is the Day of Vengeance (Isa 61:2).
2. The Fall of Jerusalem (Zech 12:1-9; 14:1-2; Micah 4:11-5:1). More than half the city will be taken into slavery by the Gentile forces from the Valley of Jezreel.
3. The Armies at Bozrah (Jer 49:13-14; Micah 2:12): The world army pursues a faithful remnant, which fled to the mountains of Edom in Jordan.

Bozrah (Sheepfold): Bozrah is pinpointed, which was located in the region of Mount Seir, on the western side of Edom in southern Jordan (Micah 2:12). An ancient sheepfold had a narrow entrance so that the shepherd could count his sheep, and, once inside, he could guard a single entrance to contain them. (Cf. I am the door, John 10). Sela, now Petra, fits the description, shaped like an ancient sheepfold, with a narrow passageway (the Siq) opening up to a spacious city surrounded by cliffs.

4. The National Regeneration of Israel: Israels required confession (Lev 26:40-42; Jer 3:11-18; Hos 5:15) and pe-titioning the Messiah (Zech 12:10) inaugurates the final three days of the campaign with pleading and petition (Hos 6:1-3; Isa 53:1-9), fulfilling Romans 11:25-27 (see also Zech 12:10-13:9; Joel 2:28-32; Isa 64:1-12; Ezek 20:33f; Ps 79:1-13; 80:1-19). When the faithful remnant petitions Jesus to return, He comes to rescue them.
5. The Second Coming of Christ (Isa 63:1-6): If this battle wasn't stopped, all mankind would be destroyed; however, the Lord interrupts it, at Petra in Edom, fighting for His remnant of believers. He is described as covered with the blood of His enemies. (Note: His armies are not required in the fighting.)
6. From Bozrah to the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Isa 63:1-4; Rev 19:13; Isa 34:5-6, 8). The Antichrist is powerless before Christ (Hab 3:13; 2 Thess 2:8; Isa 14:3-11, 16-21). His armies are destroyed (Zech 14:12-15; Joel 3:12-13) at Bozrah (Jer 49:20-22), then Megiddo. Bozrah to Megiddo is 176 miles; 1,600 furlongs (Rev 14:20).
7. The Victory Ascent upon the Mount of Olives: (Zech 14:3-4; Rev 16:17-21; Mt 24:29; Joel 3:14-17.) His ultimate victorious return to the Mount of Olives is described in Zechariah 14. That leads to the establishment of the Lords Millennial Kingdom on the Earth.

Sequence of Pre-tribulational Events (The Rapture is imminent – not the Tribulation)

1) **The Reestablishment of Israel as a nation** (fulfilled today)

First, there is to be a worldwide regathering **in unbelief** in preparation for the judgment of the Tribulation (see **Ezekiel 20:33-38; 22:17-22**). This regathering was an offshoot of World Wars I & II. The events of World War I (1914-1918) gave birth to the 'Zionist Movement' and World War II set the stage for the literal establishment of the nation of Israel.

The Old Testament 'type' (example) of this gathering for judgment is found in the Exodus. God brought His people out of Egypt but entered into judgment in the wilderness with that first generation and everyone over the age of 20 years old (except the two witnesses [spies] – Joshua and Caleb) all perished. This regathering of Israel in unbelief is to take place prior to the 7-year Tribulation (**Zephaniah 2:1-2**).

Second, there will be a future regathering **in belief** in preparation for the blessings of the Millennium (ie. The Messianic Kingdom). The regathering in belief takes place before the regeneration (**Ezekiel 36:22-24**) leading to God pouring His Spirit into Israel – the regeneration of **Ezekiel 37** – Valley Dry Bones.

See also **Romans 11:1-2, 5, 25-27** (Romans chps. 9-11 answer the question, “what about Israel now that God has established the church?”)

See also Isaiah 11:11-12 – Isaiah promises a second worldwide regathering of Israel by God which raises the question, “when was the first regathering.” Replacement Theologians say the establishment of the nation of Israel in 1948 is an accident of history and is meaningless. Rather, May 14, 1948 and what lead up to the nation of Israel being reestablished is that initial gathering **IN UNBELIEF** which is still going on in our lifetimes. The first gathering could not have been the regathering from the Babylonian captivity (as Replacement Theologians try and assert) because the was not worldwide. It was the return of the exiles from Babylonia back to the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Since Isaiah 11:11 claims the future worldwide regathering **IN BELIEF is the second one**, **there could have only been one prior to the Tribulation (not several)**. That initial worldwide regathering has happened in our very lifetimes and continues on today as Jews flock back to their ancestral home of Israel from all over the world.

2) **Jerusalem Under Jewish Control** (fulfilled today)

As of 1948-49 (The War of Israeli Independence), Israeli forces were in control of West Jerusalem (the newer city) but the Old City (biblical Jerusalem) fell into the hands of the Jordanian Legion forces and was annexed into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Jerusalem

became a divided city until the Old City was recaptured by Moshe Dyan's forces in the 'Six-Day War' (June 1967). The Old City had to fall back into Jewish control in order for the Tribulation Temple to be rebuilt. The temple does not exist today.

Daniel tells us the temple will be rebuilt: (Daniel 9:27)
Jesus tells us the temple will be rebuilt: (Matt. 24:15)
Paul tells us the temple will be rebuilt (2 Thess. 2:3-4)
John tells us the temple will be rebuilt: (Rev. 11:1-2)

Please note: the temple must be rebuilt and standing by the mid-point of the Tribulation BUT it does not need to be rebuilt prior to the Rapture taking place.
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3) Gog/Magog Invasion (NOT yet fulfilled)

Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 describe an invasion of Israel from a confederacy of nations led from the North.

a. The alliance (Ez. 38:1-6): “Gog” is not a proper name. It is a title for the ruler of Magog – a title like Czar (Russian) or Pharaoh (Egyptian) or Kaiser (German). Gog, Meshech and Tubal occupied areas between the Black and Caspian Seas, part of modern-day Southern Russia.

Other nations involved include “persia” (modern-day Iran), Cush (Ethiopia), Put (Somalia). The next one listed stirs much controversy: Gomer. The Hebrew Midrash and the Talmud both refer to Gomer as 'Germania' or modern-day Germany (*Midrash Rabbah 37:1*). The last listed is Togarmah or Modern-day Armenia (Georgia, Azerbaijan). Ezekiel 38:6 adds, “and many peoples with you” (unspecified).

NOTE: The Ezekiel 38 alliance does not include one Arab nation in the invasion. Some listed are Muslim controlled – but not Arab. Also, some nations listed are North and some are South but the leader is Russia so the invasion is referred to as being from “the North”.

b. The Object: (Ezekiel 38:7-9)

Forces like a storm that covers the entire land. The invasion will take place on the mountains of Israel.

- 1) a land brought back from the sword
- 2) a land gathered out of many peoples
- 3) a land that had been a continual waste (from 70 A.D. Until the 20th Century a wasteland)
- 4) a land brought forth out of many peoples

c. The Goal: (Ezekiel 38:10-13)

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Spoils: cattle, goods, gold, silver, the mineral wealth of the Dead Sea, etc. (really to control the center of the Middle East.)

(Ezekiel 38: **Verse 13:** nations objecting to Russia's invasion)

Sheba & Dedan: Northern Arabia

Tarshish: Some say this is Spain (which means it's 'young lions' are Central & South America, except for Brazil).

Other believe this is England (which would include the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc.).

d. **God's Purpose:** (Ezekiel 38:14-16)

That God might be sanctified (seen as separate and unique) among the nations, particularly in the light of what is about to occur (Tribulation on the horizon).

e. **Place of the Destruction:** (Ezekiel 39:1-6) Follows the Hermeneutical '*Law of Recurrence*'. This means Chapter 39 gives further details/descriptions regarding Chapter 38.

1. The invaders specifically fall on the Mountains of Israel
2. The entire invading army will be destroyed
3. Russia itself will experience God's fire and brimstone being rained upon it (vs. 6) and she will cease to be a major world power.
4. Ez. 39:7-8 – revival in Israel with many Jews turning to the Lord
5. Ez. 39:9-10 – Take seven years to dispose of all the military equipment left behind
6. Ez. 39:11-16 – Take seven months to bury all the dead

The seven years of burning and seven months of burial are critical in determining the timing of the Invasion.

Ezekiel 38:8, 11-12, 14 state that *four things must be in place* for this to happen . . .

- 1) Israel is a nation again
- 2) The waste places are again inhabited
- 3) Israel is dwelling in unwalled villages (present-day *kibbutzim*)
- 4) Israel is dwelling securely (note: nowhere in the text does it say Israel is dwelling in “peace”. It says she is dwelling “securely” meaning, “in confidence in their own abilities”. All four prerequisites are true.

Greatest controversy is the timing of the invasion. There are five primary views:

1) **Mid-tribulational Invasion**

Objections: Israel on the run by the mid-point. Who will be burying and burning troops and weapons for 7 months and 7 years respectively? Also, why would God intervene at the mid-point of Trib when the 'Great Trib' (last 3-1/2 years is about to be unleashed along with all that comes with it)? Note: Dan. 11:40 'King of the North' is not Russia, the context dictates it must be Syria in Daniel chapter 11 so that is not relevant here.

2) **Post Trib/Armageddon Invasion**

Objections:

<u>Ezekiel's Invasion</u>	<u>Armageddon Invasion</u>
who: specific allies	Kings of the Earth
scope: limited in number	worldwide invasion force
location: comes from the North	all nations assembled
Purpose: to take spoil	to destroy the Jews
other: some nations protest	all nations involved
outcome: armies destroyed by forces of nature	word from Jesus mouth
where: destroyed on Mountains of Israel	destroyed between Petra & Jerusalem
when: Israel dwelling securly/in confidence	Israel on the run and in hiding

3) **Period between Tribulation and Millenium**

There is an interlude between the end of the 7-year Tribulation and the beginning of the Millenium but Daniel 12:12 limits this interlude to only 75 days. The second half of the Tribulation is declared to be 3-1/2 years, 42 months, or 1260 days. Daniel 12:11 states there will be a total of 1290 days during which time the rebuilt temple will be desecrated. In other words, the Temple's desecration will extend 30 days beyond the Tribulation. However, in Daniel 12:12, those who make it to the 1335 day (an additional 45 days) are promised a unique blessing {entrance into the Millenial Kingdom without having died yet}. The fact Daniel limits the interlude to 75 days means there won't be enough time for the Ezekiel events to transpire. Also, 7 months of burying the dead equals 210 days which would require burials to continue 135 days into the Millenium. The burying of bodies and burning weapons is not consistent with the nature of the Millenial Kingdom described in scripture.

4) **Invasion at the End of the Millenium** (again, seven years and 7 months do not fit the timing. At the end of the Millennium we go on into eternity.)

5) **Pretribulation viewpoint** (note: this is my personal view)

Support

Description of Israel in Ezekiel 38-39 fits Israel today.
Jews returning from 90-100 different nations.

Waste places restored and inhabited.

They dwell in security (preeminent military in the world).

Dwelling in “unwalled villages” (the Kibbutzim).

Russia still a world power but financially destitute after Ukrainian War “worldwide” sanctions.

Pretribulation invasion leaves plenty of time for the 7-month burying of the dead and 7-year burning of the military weapons.

4) **One World Government** (Daniel 7:23) (The Great Reset, World Economic Forum, etc.)

5) **Ten-Kings/Powers Divide the One-World** (Daniel 7:24)

6) **The Beast (Antichrist) consolidates his dictatorship** (2 Thess. 2:1-3; Rev. 6:2)

7) **Period of peace and false security** (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3)

8) **Seven-year Covenant between The Beast and Israel** (that act starts the Tribulation)

Dan 9:27 – And he (the Beast) shall make a strong covenant with *the* many (Israel) for one week (heb. 'shabua' – a period of seven), and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering (mid-point of the 7-year Trib) shall make your covenant of death And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”

Isa 28:14-18 – Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers, who rule this people in Jerusalem! Because you have said, “We have made **a covenant with death**, and **with Sheol** [hell] we have an agreement, when the overwhelming whip passes through it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter”; therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, **a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation**: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’ And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter.” Then your **covenant with death** will be annulled, and your **agreement with Sheol** will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be beaten down by it.

Role and Placement of Ezekiel 38

I hold the view (which is disputed by many Bible scholars) that Ezekiel 38 is not part of Armageddon scenario:

1. In Ezekiel, the invasion comes from the north; Armageddon, from the whole earth;
2. Specific armies from the north (Magog); not all nations of the world;

3. Egypt not involved (cf. King of the South in Dan 11:40);
4. Russias invasion is for spoil; Armageddon, to destroy the Jews;
5. Seven-month cleanup inconsistent with Israels flight;
6. Cleansing may be preparation for rebuilding the Temple;
7. Seven years energy requirement would carry into the Millennium.

Surprise Arab invasion in Psalm 83 prior to Gog/Magog Invasion?

The attackers listed in Ezekiel seem to exclude any of the bordering nations: Where are the Palestinians? The Lebanese? The Syrians? The Iraqis? The Jordanians? The Egyptians? The Saudi Arabians? (Sheba and Dedan only appear as protesters rather than as participants)

Contrast the attackers of Ezekiel 38 with the participants described in Psalm 83, which details immediate neighboring combatants (Arabs attacking is Psalm 83 account but not part of the confederacy of Ezekiel 38-39). Furthermore, they also have a distinctively different agenda than the parties in the Ezekiel account:

Psalm 83

*Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, **Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.** For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee:*

Psalm 83:1-5

This appears to be a significant difference from the motivation of Magog and his allies, which is to take spoil. These combatants are the immediate neighbors, which continue to harass and torment Israel today and are committed *to wiping Israel off the map!*

Furthermore, the specific players highlighted here are nearby – and not the ones included in the Ezekiel account:

*The tabernacles of **Edom**, and the **Ishmaelites**; of **Moab**, and the **Hagarenes**; **Gebal**, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: they have **holpen** the children of **Lot**. Selah.*

Psalm 83:6-8

1. The “Tents of Edom” includes the “Palestinians” of today. This is a topic which requires tracing the origin of the [olam *ebah*]*—*the “Everlasting Hatred”*—*from the womb of Esau and Jacob, and Esau’s contempt of the covenant birthright, to Esau’s spiteful intermarriage with the Ishmaelites, continuing the “everlasting hatred” to this very day.

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2. As the Babylonians took Judah into captivity, the Edomites (“Idumeans” in Greek), under pressure from the Nabateans in the east, moved west and established their own “Idumea” encompassing Hebron and environs.
3. They meet Muslim/“Arab” resistance (Jer 49:16; Zeph 2:8; Ezek 25:12; 32:5; 36:2; Obad 1:10).
4. Israel establishes an army for defense (Ezek 36:6,7; 38:8).
5. Adjacent Muslim nations Confederates (Ps 83:1-8).
6. The Confederacy is committed to the destruction of Israel (Ps 83:1-5, 12).
7. War starts between the Confederacy and Israel (Jer 49:2, 8, 19).
8. Title regained: “My people Israel” (Hos 1:8-10; Rom 9:25,26; Ezek 36:8-12).
9. Israel decisively defeats the Confederacy (Obad 1:9, 18; Ezek 25:13,14; Jer 49:10,20,21, 23-26; Isa 11:12-14;17:1; 19:16,17).
10. Israel has become “an exceedingly great army” (Ezek 37:10; Jer 49:21).
11. Israel takes prisoners of war (Jer 48:46,47; 49:3,6,11; Zeph 2:10,11).
12. The Region is reshaped (Isa 17:1; Jer 49:2, 10; Zeph 2:4).
13. Israel expands its borders (Obad 1:19; Jer 49:2; Isa 19:18,19).
14. Israel “dwells securely” in the Land (Ezek 38:10-12).

This, then, would seem to set the stage for the subsequent events of Ezekiel 38 and 39.