

Gog

Ezekiel 38-39 are the sixth of six speeches delivered by Ezekiel, beginning in 33:23-33 (1/8/585). The next section beginning with chapter 40 is dated 12 years later.

The context for 38-39 are the six speeches that precede it, each starting with 'The word of YHWH came to me saying':

1. (33:23-33) The reason for the exile
2. (34) The pseudo-shepherds will be removed and replaced by Messiah
3. (35:1 – 36:15) Edom will be removed as a threat; YHWH will restore the land
4. (36:16 – 37:14) Israel will be regathered
5. (37:15-28) Judan & Ephraim are reunited and led by Messiah
6. (38-39) Gog & his hordes will be destroyed.

Unless these prophecies are chronologically random, the context for the judgment of Gog is after many years of messianic rule. The only other passage describing this conflict is Revelation 20 which takes place after the millennial reign of Christ.

Ezekiel 38-39:24	Revelation 20:7-10	Comments
1 And the word of the LORD came to me saying, 2 "Son of man, set your face toward Gog ¹ of the land of Magog ² , the prince of Rosh ³ , Meshech ⁴ and Tubal ⁵ , and prophesy against him 3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, <i>prince of Rosh</i> , Meshech and Tubal. 4 "I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company <i>with</i> buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords; 5 Persia ⁶ , Ethiopia ⁷ and Put ⁸ with them, all of them <i>with</i> shield and helmet; 6 Gomer ⁹ with all its troops; Beth-togarmah ¹⁰ <i>from</i> the remote parts of the north with all its troops - many peoples with you. 7 "Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are	⁷ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.	The only place in the Bible where Gog is mentioned outside of Ezekiel – Revelation - places the battle at the end of the millennium. Turkey, northern Iraq & Iran appear to correspond with Meshech, Tubal, Gomer & Togarmah. Iran & North Africa appear to correspond with Persian, Ethiopia & Put. "Remotest...north" can mean north,

¹ Gog is probably a title like 'prince', 'king' or 'Caesar'

² Josephus, in "The Antiquities of the Jews" claims that the people of Magog are the people whom the Greeks called Scythians. From Herodotus we learn the Sythians were nomadic tribes living in what is now modern Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and possibly Mongolia. Some describe the Sythians as coming from Iranian stock and migrating north of the Black & Caspian Seas. 38:15; 39:2 seem to strengthen this conclusion.

³ Unknown identity; it cannot be tied to Rus (aka Russia) since that name was given to the Russians in the Middle Ages by Vikings according to Yamauchi in *Russian Attacks?* BA (1983). The term means 'head' and may not be the name of a place but an adjective modifying the noun 'prince', so that this should read *the Chief Prince of Meshech & Tubal*; So, if true, this appears to refer to a coalition including Turkey, Iraq, Iran and maybe some former Soviet satellite states.

⁴ Gomer's brother was named Meshech (Genesis 10). This has been incorrectly identified as the city of Moscow by Middle Eastern linguistic scholar Wilhelm Gesenius (1786–1842) using some dubious etymological approaches. The sons of Japheth settled along the northern shore of the Mediterranean (c.f. Ez.27:12ff) Yamauchi indicates that Meshech is in central Anatolia (i.e. western 2/3 of modern Turkey). *The Scythians: Invading hordes from the Russian Steppes* BA (1983).

⁵ Gomer's brother was named Tubal (Genesis 10). Misidentified as the city of Tobolsk by Gesenius *op.cit.*; Yamauchi indicates that Tubal corresponds to eastern Anatolia. *op.cit.*

⁶ Modern Iran

⁷ This term is often translated Cush and corresponds to modern, northern Sudan.

⁸ Corresponds with modern Lybia & Algeria

⁹ Some say it corresponds with Germany but the connection depends on the sound of the anglo *Germani* with *Gomer*. Yamauchi claims this refers to the Cimmerians who were, according to Herodotus, driven over the Caucasus mountains by Scythians (c.f. Yamauch, *Scythians...!*).

¹⁰ This region is thought to correspond geographically to Turkey or Armenia. Ancient Armenian literature refers to itself as "the house of Togarmah, grandson of Japheth." Bauman indicates that Togarmah composes the Turkoman tribes of Central Asia.

<p>Meshech and Tubal; 2 and I will turn you around, drive you on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the mountains of Israel. 3 "I will strike your bow from your left hand and dash down your arrows from your right hand. 4 "You will fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field. 5 "You will fall on the open field; for it is I who have spoken," declares the Lord GOD. 6 "And I will send fire upon Magog and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety; and they will know that I am the LORD. 7 "My holy name I will make known in the midst of My people Israel; and I will not let My holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. 8 "Behold, it is coming and it shall be done," declares the Lord GOD. "That is the day of which I have spoken. 9 "Then those who inhabit the cities of Israel will go out and make fires with the weapons and burn <i>them</i>, both shields and bucklers, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears, and for seven years they will make fires of them. 10 "They will not take wood from the field or gather firewood from the forests, for they will make fires with the weapons; and they will take the spoil of those who despoiled them and seize the plunder of those who plundered them," declares the Lord GOD. 11 "On that day I will give Gog a burial ground there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea, and it will block off those who would pass by. So they will bury Gog there with all his horde, and they will call <i>it</i> the valley of Hamon-gog. 12 "For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land. 13 "Even all the people of the land will bury <i>them</i>; and it will be to their renown on the day that I glorify Myself," declares the Lord GOD. 14 "They will set apart men who will constantly pass through the land, burying those who were passing through, even those left on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search. 15 "As those who pass through the land pass through and anyone sees a man's bone, then he will set up a marker by it until the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamon-gog. 16 "And even <i>the</i> name of <i>the</i> city will be Hamonah. So they will cleanse the land." ' 17 "As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field, "Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. 18 "You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, as <i>though they were</i> rams, lambs, goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. 19 "So you will eat fat until you are glutted, and drink blood until you are drunk, from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. 20 "You will be glutted at My table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war," declares the Lord GOD. 21 "And I will set My glory among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed and My hand which I have laid on them. 22 "And the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God from that day onward. 23 "The nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile for their iniquity because they acted treacherously against Me, and I hid My face from them; so I gave them into the hand of their</p>		<p>v.3 primitive warfare? analogy?</p> <p>v.4 (c.f. 39:17f) animal feast</p> <p>v. 6 fire upon Gog's homeland – Turkey?</p> <p>v.9 the weapons must be more primitive or they couldn't be called wooden and used for fires.</p> <p>vv.17-20 (c.f. 39:4) the great animal feast.</p>
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¹⁴ Ps.48:2 in regard to Jerusalem; Isa.14:13 referring to Babylon's elevated status; Jeremiah 25:32 used of Babylon.

adversaries, and all of them fell by the sword. 24 "According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I dealt with them, and I hid My face from them." ' ' "		
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