

Ezekiel 38-39

Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War

Zechariah 14

Armageddon War

Psalm 83

Obadiah

ESCHATOLOGY

Satan/Gog and Magog War

Palestinian War

Revelation 19-20

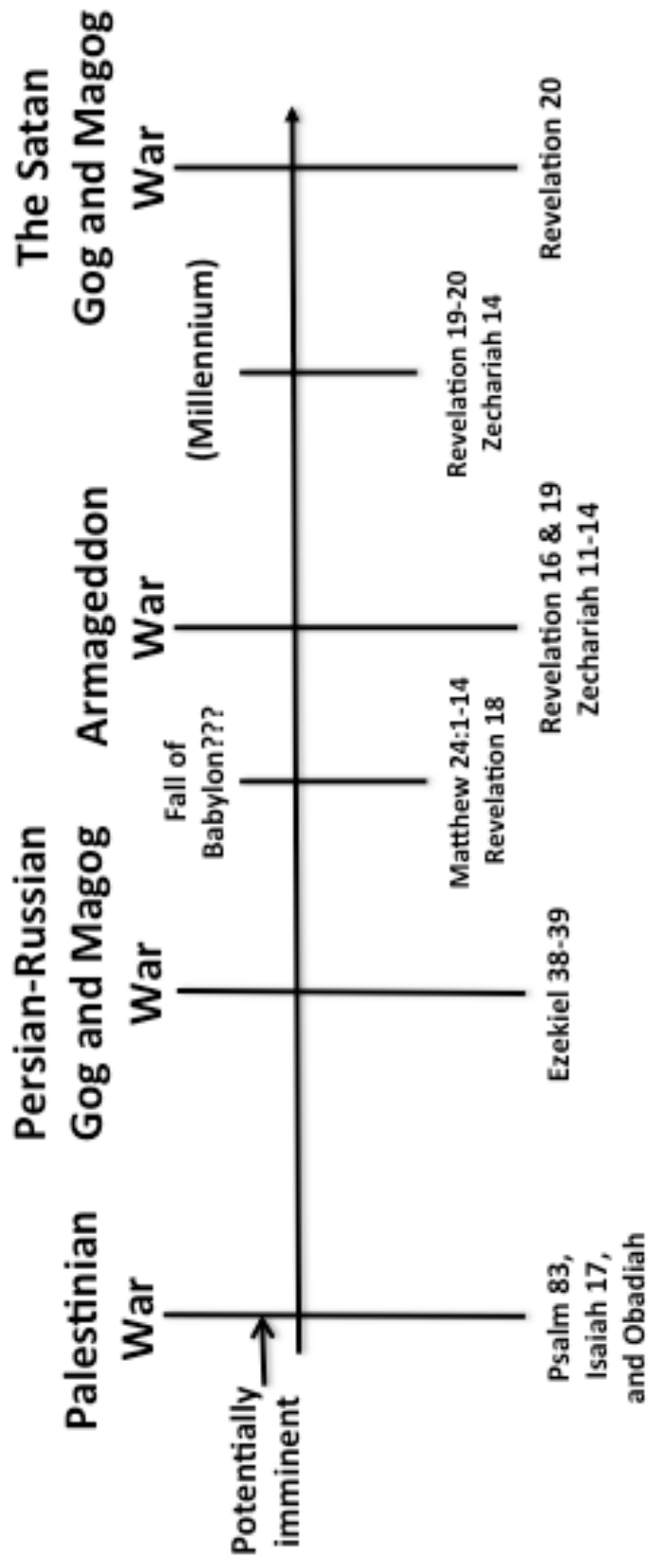
Isaiah 17

Matthew 24:1-14

Revelation 18

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INTRODUCTION

You are going to need an open Bible with you as you study along with me. We will be looking at several books in the Bible each of which give a distinctive piece of a large puzzle. As we go along, the larger picture will begin to take shape. However, it is too big for me to hold in my mind all at one time. So, I have to break it into bite-size pieces. I recommend that you read the Scripture passages that I will list here several times. I read them over and over again everyday for about 4 months. Each reading told me something new that enabled me to hear God better. If I had started this process from my youth, perhaps I would be secure in my knowledge by now, but alas, everything that I do seems to me to be too little too late. Perhaps, it will not be the same for you.

I have been confused over the Gog and Magog passages in Ezekiel and Revelation. In the Ezekiel passage, Gog and Magog are gathered with Persia, Libya, and Ethiopia for the purpose of storming Israel and taking a prey. Dedan and Tarshish are mentioned as inquiring about the purpose of this attack. When this attack occurs, fury flies up into God's face and He Personally wipes out the invading army using nothing but the forces of nature.

Imagine my surprise when I read that after the millennial reign by the Lord Jesus, Satan rallies Gog and Magog to another war as soon as Satan is let out of the bottomless pit. God destroys with fire from heaven Gog and Magog along with all his army in this final war. It became apparent to me that Gog and Magog are pictured as antagonistic to Israel both before and also after the Millennium. Thus they are involved in two wars, not just one. Not only that, but the first war that Gog and Magog are involved in is not that of Armageddon because Antichrist and the false prophet are both cast alive into the lake of fire at the end of the Armageddon war, and Gog and Magog are not even mentioned in that war.

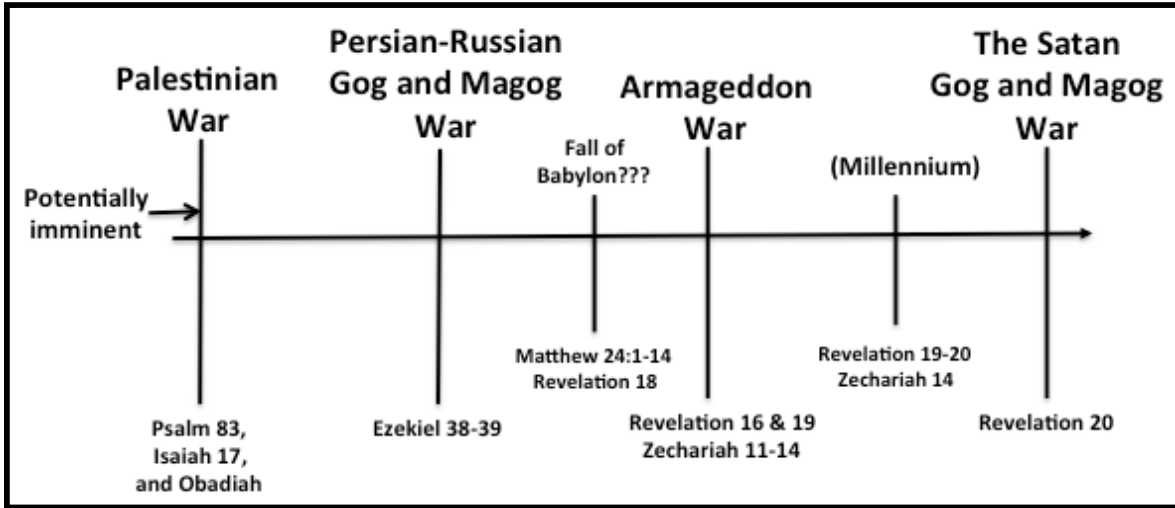
So, the question came to me: if there are future wars besides Armageddon, what are they? As I have been studying the Antichrist and the false prophet for trying to get some foresight as to what the Church may be soon facing, I have been confused and have been getting nowhere. So, I have changed my strategy.

Now, I am studying the passages on **war** without focusing on Antichrist. I have found the following passages to contain the answers and descriptions on four future wars:

1. The Palestinian War (Ps. 83, Is. 17, and Obad.)
2. The Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War (Ezek. 38-39)
3. The Armageddon War (Rev. 16 & 19 and Zech. 11-14)
4. The Satan/Gog and Magog War (Rev. 20)

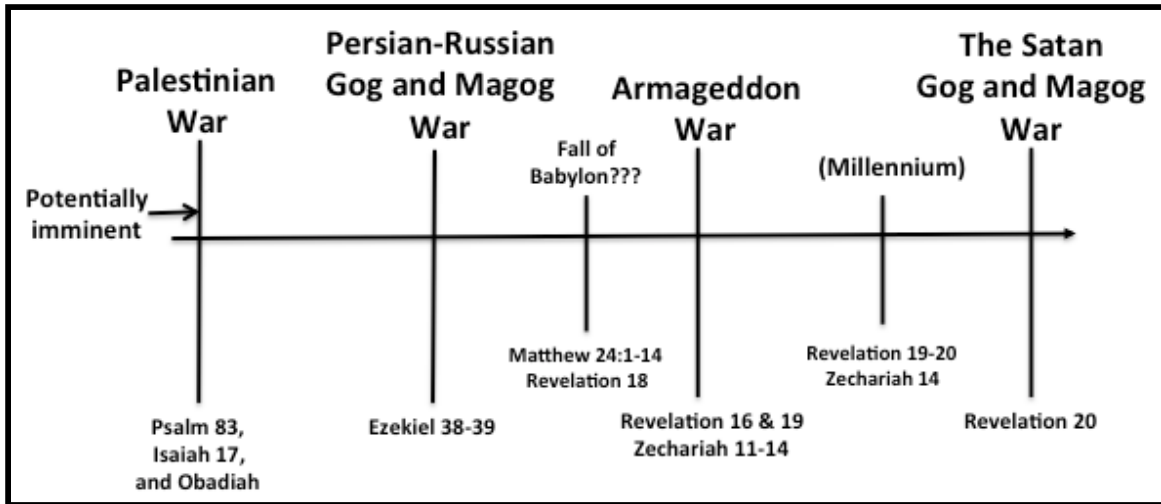
The following Chart presents a time line of where future significant events occur in relation to one another. It does not set dates because God alone knows them. The order that I propose to you is based on my linking the Scripture passages in a meaningful way that accounts for all the specifics contained therein. Those specifics delineated by God will be used in my analysis after which I will present each war one-by-one in the following chapters. The fall of Babylon, however, could fall just about anywhere in the chart. I have placed it after the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War. However, it could

fall before that war or even before the Palestinian War. It is my prayer that Christians across the nation will repent from their Babylonian materialism (Rev. 18:4 is God's command for us to come out of Babylon), throw ourselves into ministry, and begin praying for our country by asking for God's action to be redemptive rather than punitive (Jer. 10:24-25).



THE PALESTINIAN WAR

Psalm 83, Isaiah 17, and Obadiah



This war is very near at hand. It could break out before I have even finished writing this booklet. In this war, Israel will be attacked by all of its nearest neighbors. In fact, the attackers will share both blood heritage and also borders with Israel. Please open your Bibles to Psalm 83 and read to see who the attackers will be

Psalm 83

83:1 <<A Song [or] Psalm of Asaph.>> Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.

83:2 For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head.

83:3 They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones.

83:4 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.

83:5 For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee:

83:6 The tabernacles of **Edom**, and the **Ishmaelites**; of **Moab**, and the **Hagarenes**;

83:7 **Gebal**, and **Ammon**, and **Amalek**; the **Philistines** with the inhabitants of **Tyre**;

83:8 **Assur** also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of **Lot**. Selah.

83:9 Do unto them as [unto] the Midianites; as [to] Sisera, as [to] Jabin, at the brook of Kison:

83:10 [Which] perished at Endor: they became [as] dung for the earth.

83:11 Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb: yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna:

83:12 Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession.

83:13 O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble

The attackers are listed, but they are listed by their ancient names. I have bolded the font on each name in the above passage and looked up each name and found their modern identity, and they are listed here for your examination:

Edom = Esau's descendents.

Ishmaelites = Ishmael's descendents.

Moab = east shore of Dead Sea which is now part of Jordan.

Hagarenes = Hagar's descendents.

Gebal = Lebanon near Tyre.

Ammon = east of Jordan Valley which is now part of Jordan.

Amalek = Esau's grandson which now includes the Palestinians.

<p>before the wind. 83:14 As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire; 83:15 So persecute them with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm. 83:16 Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O LORD. 83:17 Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: 83:18 That [men] may know that thou, whose name alone [is] JEHOVAH, [art] the most high over all the earth.</p>	<p>Philistines = Gaza. Tyre = Western Lebanon. Assur = The tribe of Asher which is now eastern Lebanon which could now <i>possibly</i> be part of Syria. Lot = the Palestinians who are settled in eastern Israel west of the Jordan River.</p>
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Israel will survive this war because God will sustain her in such a way that she will never be annihilated again. Israel will be defeated in the Armageddon War, but a remnant will survive and be refined by God to be His people at the center of His millennial reign. We need to understand that America will fall and cease to exist, but Israel will never cease to exist before God renews the earth. Thus, the Palestinian armies will be defeated once again in this Palestinian War which is the subject of this chapter.

Psalm 83:1-8 describes the attackers as a confederacy of all the Esau, Ishmael, and Hagar descendants which all dwell in the Holy Land and areas immediately surrounding it. It does not include the people in the more distant lands that were not descendants of these three people. The intent of the confederacy is stated in the Bible. Simply put, their intent is to cut off Israel from being a people. We keep hearing these exact same words in the current news of today. The words are coming from the Palestinians, Hamas, and Hezbollah.

This war is not the 6-day war of the 1960’s. I can say that with certainty because Egypt was a major opponent in that war, and Egypt is not listed in the list of combatants above. Thus, this war is coming in the future, and because the hostilities are escalating at present, it seems that it could be in the near future.

The Palestinian hostilities are not only against Israel, but Psalm 83:5 indicates that they are against God Himself. Thus, we can conclude that Allah worshipers hate God and that their opposition to Israel and Israel’s God are somehow connected. The attackers are described as enemies of God, and their plan is to band together in a confederacy to destroy God’s people (Ps. 83:1-5).

Psalm 83 is a prayer for God to deliver Israel from their hateful neighbors. Verses 9-18 petition God to do unto them as He has done to Israel’s enemies in past conflicts. They pray for God to put the attackers to shame so that He will be known as the “Most High Over All the Earth.” Israel has never been an aggressive people who want to expand their rule over more nations of the world. They have always desired to live peacefully in the land that God gave them.

However, the antagonism and hostilities of their neighbors have worn on Israel’s patience. So, at this stage of history, Israel will no longer seek the impossible, peaceful co-existence with their neighbors. Instead, they are asking God to humiliate them and destroy them. Israel is not a conquering nation that must expand its rule over other

nations. Until one can understand this principle, one cannot understand the underlying motivation for this kind of prayer. Israel wants just the right to exist in peace as a sovereign nation within their national boundaries that have been established by God Himself.

The hostilities of this coming war are already in effect now, but their escalation will soon come in the near future in which an invasion into Israel will be launched. When this all-out assault occurs, Israel will be forced to shoot back with everything that it has. The result will be an annihilation of the descendents of Esau, Ishmael, and Hagar.

The question that rises in my mind is: *will Syria be included?* I ask because Syria is not as closely tied in blood and heritage to Israel as the other attackers. However, it does share a border with Israel, and Damascus of Syria is reported by God in Isaiah 17 to be destroyed sometime in the future. Will Damascus be destroyed in the Palestinian War? Please open your Bibles and read Isaiah 17 which describes the destruction of Damascus of Syria.

Isaiah 17

17:1 The burden of Damascus. Behold, **Damascus** is taken away from [being] a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap.

17:2 The cities of Aroer [are] forsaken: they shall be for flocks, which shall lie down, and none shall make [them] afraid.

17:3 The fortress also shall cease from **Ephraim**, and the kingdom from **Damascus**, and the remnant of **Syria**: they shall be as the glory of the children of Israel, saith the LORD of hosts.

17:4 And in that day it shall come to pass, [that] the glory of Jacob shall be made thin, and the fatness of his flesh shall wax lean.

17:5 And it shall be as when the harvestman gathereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm; and it shall be as he that gathereth ears in the valley of Rephaim.

17:6 Yet gleaning grapes shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two [or] three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four [or] five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel.

17:7 **At that day shall a man look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel.**

17:8 And he shall not look to the altars, the work of his hands, neither shall respect [that] which his fingers have made, either the groves, or the images.

17:9 In that day shall his strong cities be as a forsaken bough, and an uppermost branch, which they left because of the children of Israel: and there shall be desolation.

17:10 **Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength,** therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips:

17:11 In the day shalt thou make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish: [but] **the harvest [shall be] a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow.**

17:12 Woe to the multitude of many people, [which] make a noise like the noise of the seas; and to the rushing of nations, [that] make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!

17:13 **The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but [God] shall**

rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.
17:14 And behold at eveningtide trouble; [and] before the morning he [is] not. This [is] the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us.

Damascus is the oldest continuously surviving city on earth. It has never been destroyed. Yet, God says that Damascus is going to be turned into a ruinous heap (Is. 17:1).

I think that Syria will participate in this war. It is a great antagonist to Israel and has always been so, even back to the time of King David's rule before Christ. It is a hugely prideful nation which desires greatly the esteem of Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and Russia. It has been pushing the envelope in antagonizing Israel along with the other surrounding nations. In my studies of King David's wars, it appears that Syria is counted among Esau's descendents (2 Sam. 8:5-14). Thus, I conclude that Damascus of Syria will be destroyed in the Palestinian War which will be utter defeat for Esau.

Syria has been an ongoing antagonist to Israel for years. In the 6-day war of 1967, Israel captured the Golan Heights Fortress from Syria. So, if the fortress of Ephraim (Is. 17:3-4) refers only to the Golan Heights, then this fortress's cessation could mean either of two things. First, it could mean that it ceases to exist in Syria's hands. In this case, this part of the conflict has already happened in the 6-day war of 1967. Secondly, if it means that the Golan Heights Fortress has been destroyed while in Israel's hands, then it is for a time in the future because it is presently Israel's sole fortress in its northern parts to protect against Syria and Lebanon.

Now, if the destruction of Ephraim¹ is much broader than just the fortress of the Golan Height, then it could mean the destruction of a much larger portion of central and northern Israel. This could very easily be the meaning here because the remnants of the Israeli citizens are described as the fruit left over after the harvest. As the fruit available for gleaning, is sparsely scattered here and there and on the upper and outer branches, the Ephraimitic survivors of this war are described in precisely this way (Is. 17:5-6).

Ephraim is the central and northern portion of Israel in which the nation's width narrows to only 9 miles. Right now, Israel's military control extends eastward all the way to the Jordan River, but its internationally recognized boundary is only 9 miles east of the Mediterranean Sea. So the cessation of the fortress of Ephraim could mean that Israel will sacrifice its military presence in the Jordan Valley. Obama has already preemptively requested that Israel turn over its control of the West Bank population in its future negotiations for peace.² If this should occur, then central and northern Israel would become extremely vulnerable. Thus, it could easily be cut off and abandoned to an attacking force. The thoughts of this occurring are terrifying because then the Golan

¹ Sometimes, God uses the name of the leading tribe of the northern kingdom, Ephraim, to differentiate Israel from Judah. Other times, He uses the term Israel to designate the northern kingdom. However, he also uses the terms Israel or Jacob to designate the entire combined nation.

² All negotiations for peace should be eliminated from the thoughts of Israel and America. God has already told us in absolutely clear language that peace will never occur until after Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire. Thus all trades that Israel makes for peace are not trades but give-aways because they will never receive the peace part of the trade from the other side.

Heights would go back under Syrian control. Syria has already demonstrated that it will lob cannon shots and rockets into Israel from that fortification. The loss of the Golan Heights would require a major air assault followed up with a ground assault on it by Israel just to give Israel a chance at survival.

The time in which Damascus will be destroyed is also reported by God to be a time of thinness for Israel (Is. 17:3-4). Hardships will apply to both Israel and Syria. God describes the time as one during which the glory of Jacob will be thin. I take that to mean that Israel will lack the dignity of being recognized by others as God's chosen people and a nation with the right to exist. It will be disrespected, and its self-governance will be intruded upon by other nations of the world. The fatness of Israel's flesh will be made lean because, Israel will have trouble obtaining the goods and munitions in order to be independent. Israel will be in terrible jeopardy of not being able to defend itself and replenish its munitions.

Even though there will be no fear in the cities of Aroer,³ there will be nothing there but the flocks. I understand that this passage means that as a result of the war, Jordan's land near the border with Israel (or this could be Syria's land on the border of Israel) will not be populated. It will just be used as grazing land for animals.

This thinness of Israel (Is. 17:4) is already occurring, my friends, because America, under Obama's leadership, has turned away from helping Israel with military supplies. America is the only nation in the world who has faithfully helped Israel in the past, and we were its staunch ally and could be counted on to protect Israel because of our Christian duty to bless God's elect. That duty has been cast aside and trampled in recent years.

As a Christian nation that was founded by Christians, the unthinkable has already occurred in the Clinton administration in which for the first time in America's history, we bombed Christians to protect Muslims in the Serbian and Bosnian wars. Our Pledge of Allegiance is for one nation under God, not under Allah. Yet, we stuck our noses into the Christian-Muslim wars on the wrong side? Why? We had no stake in the war other than that we did not want the Christians to fight back with the same ferocity that was used by the Muslims. Yet, we began our strange support of Allah over God in those wars.

In our continuation of supporting Allah over God, we have stirred up Arabs over three continents to launch democratic revolutions in order to create Muslim control over nations of secular governments. Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, and Syria are just a few examples. The promotion of a Muslim Caliphate will promote the destruction of Israel. We better prepare now for God's curse on us because it is coming.⁴ If the caliphate succeeds, is there no recognition in America that Israel and America will be doomed to theocratic slavery in which we will be converted and ruled by Allah under Shariah Law through imams, or we will be annihilated? Israel will not be annihilated because it is

³ Aroer is in Jordan on the north bank of the Arnon River east of the Jordan valley. The village changed hands several times during its history. It was held first by Moab (Now Jordan), then Israel, then Moab again, then Syria, and now Jordan.

⁴ It makes me angry that the Church does not know right from wrong. It contains a huge element who vote for people who love death over life, secularism over Christian influence in public, Muslims over Israel, Communists and the redistribution of wealth, and government control over freedom.

under God's protection, but America no longer has that protection because we are under His curse.

The thinness for Syria (Is. 17:3) is also already occurring. Syria's self determination is giving place to Iran's manipulations. The leader of Syria is nothing more than a stooge for Ahmadinejad of Iran. Ahmadinejad plans on using Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians as weapons in his hands to destroy Israel without risking war against his own country which he sees as key to the building of a worldwide Caliphate to implement global Muslim rule. The flesh of Syria will also be waxing thin. I understand this to mean that there will be famine in Syria. Where Israel will be growing good crops, Syria and all of Esau will not. God Who is in charge of all of nature produces good crops for Israel, but Allah who is no living god can do nothing.

After this war, Israel will be suffering great desolation. Its cities will be like a forsaken bough of the olive tree (Ps. 19:9). Even though Israel will win this war, it will suffer great loss and devastation. This great loss is caused by Israel's forgetting of the God of their salvation and His providential power. However, Israel will be brought down so low from this war that they will once again look to God for help. They will turn away from their idols and their dependence on the works of their own hands (Is. 17:8). Why would they turn from their self-reliance? I believe that it will be because they will have exhausted their weaponry in this huge war and will have no way of replenishment in order to protect themselves from the Persian threat that will still be present and growing. Israel will be forced to look to the God of their salvation because they will have nowhere else to look (Is. 17:7). God is always trying to turn His people back to Him, and so this war will not be punishment but rather a redemptive discipline.

Israel's agriculture during the time before and after this war will be producing great crops. But the food harvests, even though protected by God, are described not in terms of food but as heaps of sorrows and grief (Is. 17:11). God's law of the harvest is a constant in life: anyone who sows to the flesh will reap corruption. God's people will always reap sorrows and grief whenever they turn away from God (Gal. 6:7-8).

Israel will look to God in the day of this war. Why? I opine that because America has turned its back on God's elect, Israel will be forced to look to God for help. Where else could Israel look for help? As a tiny little nation set as an island among all the nations of the earth that want to destroy it, Israel will ask God for help (Is. 17:7). Those closest to it, the Palestinian nations called Esau, will continue to escalate their hostilities until an all out war is launched for the purpose of annihilating Israel from off the face of the earth.

This war will come during a time of poor harvests in the Islamic regions. Strangely, Muslims create devastation, death, and slavery wherever they rule. Look how Gaza prospered under Israeli rule. Now look at it after it was given to the Palestinians. It is nothing but a chaotic place that cannot even support itself without massive contributions from the UN and even the US, who is trying to buy the love of Muslims who will never love us infidels. Persian weapons pour into Gaza whose sole purpose today is to annihilate Israel. I believe that hunger and class envy will serve as a catalyst for the Palestinians to attack Israel. However, God will rebuke the many attackers, and Damascus will be destroyed (Is. 17:11-14). The specific statement by God about Damascus is

that there will be trouble in the evening and by morning the city will be nothing but rubble (Is. 17:1 & 14).

Now turn to Obadiah and read about the destruction of Esau in the Palestinian War.

Obadiah

1:1 The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning **Edom**; We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.

1:2 Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.

1:3 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation [is] high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

1:4 Though thou exalt [thyself] as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.

1:5 If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off!) would they not have stolen till they had enough? if the grapegatherers came to thee, would they not leave [some] grapes?

1:6 How are [the things] of **Esau** searched out! [how] are his hidden things sought up!

1:7 All the men of thy **confederacy** have brought thee [even] to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, [and] prevailed against thee; [they that eat] thy bread have laid a wound under thee: [there is] none understanding in him.

1:8 Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise [men] out of **Edom**, and understanding out of the mount of **Esau**?

1:9 And thy mighty [men], O **Teman**, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of **Esau** may be cut off by slaughter.

1:10 For [thy] **violence against thy brother Jacob** shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever.

1:11 In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou [wast] as one of them.

1:12 But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress.

1:13 Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid [hands] on their substance in the day of their calamity;

1:14 Neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway, to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress.

1:15 For the day of the LORD [is] near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.

1:16 For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, [so] shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been.

1:17 But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house

of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

1:18 And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and **the house of Esau for stubble**, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and **there shall not be [any] remaining of the house of Esau**; for the LORD hath spoken [it].

1:19 And [they of] the south shall possess the mount of **Esau**; and [they of] the plain the **Philistines**: and they shall possess the fields of **Ephraim**, and the fields of **Samaria**: and **Benjamin** [shall possess] **Gilead**.

1:20 And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel [shall possess] that of the **Canaanites**, [even] unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which [is] in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south.

1:21 And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S.

Temen was Esau's grandson. His descendants were known for their wisdom (Jer. 49:7 & Obad. 8-9). These attackers are not a location. **Edom** is all of Esau's descendants who will be humbled by God in this war. They are described as being deceived by their pride.

I picture this confederacy of **Esau** as being foolishly prideful. The more powerful nations of Iran and Russia are exploiting that pride by using them as a bunch of stooges. Iran and Russia want to use Esau to stamp out Israel. Next in their plans is to stamp out America.⁵ Remember that America and Israel are the sole holdouts against globalism. Esau's wise men are targeted for destruction by God (Obad. 6-8).

The day of the Lord is mentioned for Esau (Obad. 15). Traditionally, the day of the Lord has always pointed scholars to Armageddon. However, I believe that it means the time in which someone will receive his temporal demise because of his persistent fight against God. Thus, it may occur several times: once for Esau, once for America, once for Persia, and the great day of the Lord for Antichrist. In my mind there is a race between Esau and America for reaching their respective day of the Lord first.

This Palestinian War is going to end disastrously for Esau. Israel is described as a great fire, and Esau is described as the fuel for that fire. Israel will devour Esau as a fire (Obad. 18).

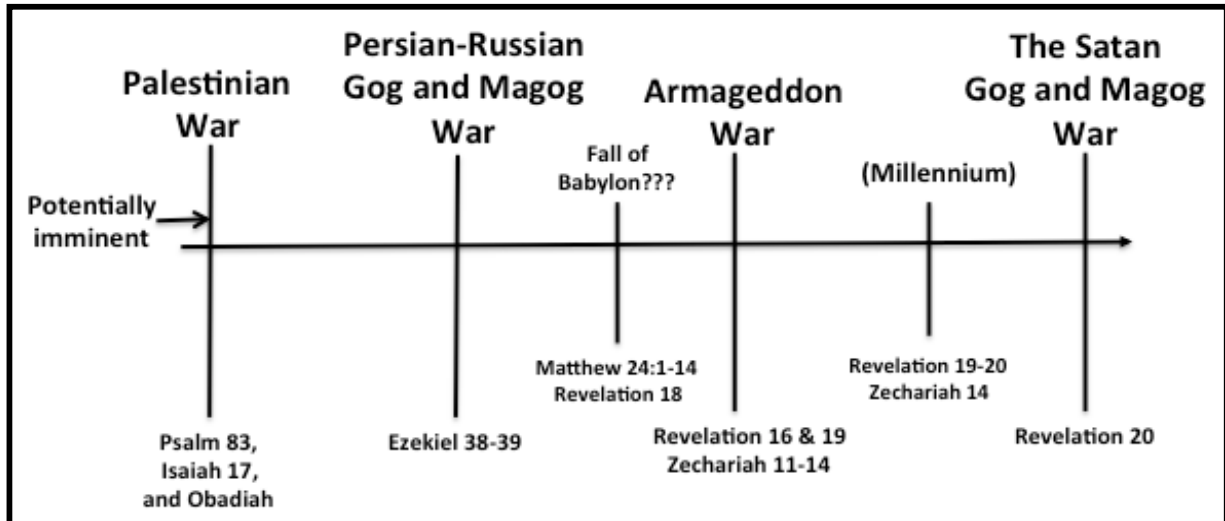
The Palestinian War is going to leave Israel with a weakened military. It will have depleted its munitions. Its army will be exhausted, and its war strategy will be known by the entire world. In this weakened state, Israel could be described as a land of cities without walls. Basically, Israel will be without any defenses. It will be seen then as a ripe plum to be picked. Iran and Russia will see this time as a window of opportunity because America will have already stopped providing Israel with military aid of any kind. This is when God will set the hook in Gog's jaw and draw him forth into the Persian-Russian/Gog and Magog War.

⁵ Israel will not be annihilated ever again. We should never think that Israel could fall before the fall of America. America with its nuclear retaliatory capacity will not be easily conquered by another nation. However, America, the great Babylon, is going to fall by crumbling within. After America's fall, Israel will still be fighting the world with God's help to maintain its existence.

Chapter 2

THE PERSIA-RUSSIA/GOG AND MAGOG WAR

Ezekiel 38-39



Please read Ezekiel 38 and 39 before you continue. Then have your Bible open to Ezekiel 38 as you proceed. You should refer back to your Bible with each reference used in the following study.

In Ezekiel 38:3-4, God declares that He is against Gog. He further says that He is going to put a hook into Gog's jaw and pull him out to battle. The attackers in this war are: **Russia, Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, and Turkey**. **Persia** is Iran, but it could possibly include Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan because they were part of the ancient Persian Empire. **Ethiopia** could possibly include several other African nations, but I doubt it.

Ezekiel 38-39

38:1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
 38:2 Son of man, set thy face against **Gog**, the land of **Magog**, the chief prince of **Meshech** and **Tubal**, and prophesy against him,
 38:3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I [am] against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:
 38:4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts [of armour, even] a great company [with] bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:
 38:5 **Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya** with them; all of them with shield and helmet:
 38:6 **Gomer**, and all his bands; the house of **Togarmah** of the north quarters, and all his bands: [and] many people with thee.
 38:7 Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.
 38:8 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land [that is] brought back from the sword, [and is] gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which

Gog is described as the chief prince of **Meshech** and **Tubal**. The word chief has two meanings. One is chief, and the other is Russia because the word is "rosh." Thus, the word can mean either the chief or Russian prince of Meshech and Tubal.

Magog is a son of Japheth (Gen. 10) who settled in the eastern part of Russia.

Meshech is also a son of Japheth (Gen. 10) who settled in western Russia where Moscow is.

Tubal is also a son of Japheth (Gen. 10) who settled in

have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

38:9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

38:10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, [that] at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:

38:11 And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,

38:12 To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places [that are now] inhabited, and upon the people [that are] gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.

38:13 **Sheba**, and **Dedan**, and the merchants of **Tarshish**, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

38:14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know [it]?

38:15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

38:16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

38:17 Thus saith the Lord GOD; [Art] thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days [many] years that I would bring thee against them?

38:18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, [that] my fury shall come up in my face.

38:19 For in my jealousy [and] in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;

38:20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that [are] upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

38:21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

38:22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that [are] with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

38:23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I [am] the LORD.

southern Russia where Georgia is now. His descendants became known as the Scythians. These countries of Japheth's offspring are called by the label "the isles" (Gen. 10:5).

Persia is the peoples of Iran (I think that it might be possible that Persia includes Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan).

Ethiopia is the nation that is today still under the same name. It is in eastern Africa. However, we cannot assume that just the people of Ethiopia would be confined to that one nation bearing that name. It could be inclusive of several other African nations.

Libya is a country that is still bearing the same name. Like Ethiopia, it could include peoples of several African nations.

Gomer, a son of Japheth and a grandson of Noah, settled Galatia, which is western Turkey.

Togarmah is the son of Gomer who settled in Turkey and Armenia (the area between NE Turkey and SW Russia). This large area is between the Black and Caspian Seas and between Mounts Ararat and Elbrus.

Sheba and Dedan together make up all of Saudi Arabia. Sheba makes up the southern part that includes Yemen. It is interesting to note that Ethiopia claims the Sheba of the Bible, but since Ethiopia is already listed by God and Sheba is listed separately, I believe that Sheba is separate from Ethiopia. Why

39:1 Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I [am] against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

39:2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

39:3 And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

39:4 Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that [is] with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and [to] the beasts of the field to be devoured.

39:5 Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken [it], saith the Lord GOD.

39:6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I [am] the LORD.

39:7 So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not [let them] pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I [am] the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

39:8 Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this [is] the day whereof I have spoken.

39:9 And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years:

39:10 So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down [any] out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD.

39:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the [noses] of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call [it] The valley of Hamongog.

39:12 And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.

39:13 Yea, all the people of the land shall bury [them]; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord GOD.

39:14 And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search.

39:15 And the passengers [that] pass through the land, when [any] seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamongog.

39:16 And also the name of the city [shall be] Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land.

39:17 And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, [even] a great sacrifice upon the mountains

else would God mention it separately if it is not separate?

Dedan is the northern part of Saudi Arabia.

Tarshish, son of Javan and grandson of Japheth, settled to the west of the Holy land. We do not know exactly where in the West. It could have been Greece, Italy, Spain, or just Europe in general. Tarshish should be seen as the general designation of Europe and the West. Jonah, when running from the presence of God, took passage on a ship for Tarshish. God told him to go East to Nineveh, but Jonah ran away to the West (Tarshish).

<p>of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. 39:18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. 39:19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. 39:20 Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD. 39:21 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. 39:22 So the house of Israel shall know that I [am] the LORD their God from that day and forward. 39:23 And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword. 39:24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them. 39:25 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; 39:26 After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made [them] afraid. 39:27 When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; 39:28 Then shall they know that I [am] the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. 39:29 Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.</p>	
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The Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog alliance will come against Israel when they are finally residing safely in their homeland (Ezek. 38:8). Israel will have exhausted its munitions in the Palestinian War, but it will feel safe because its borders will be secure from the Palestinians for the first time since its re-establishment in May 1948. However, the hate for Israel by all the nations of the world, with the possible lone exception of America, will continue. Because of America's past alliances with Israel, the powerful nations who would like to annihilate Israel will restrain themselves in fear of American military power to retaliate. However, America will be severely weakened because of an ongoing economic collapse before this Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog war. Because of the economic weakening of America, the Persia-Russia confederacy will be emboldened to destroy the Jews and take over the Israeli homeland.

The motivation for this war will be manifold. One factor will be for possession of Jerusalem so that the Muslim Caliphate, which is being facilitated by Obama as I write this study, will be able to control the Dome of the Rock worship center of Jerusalem for the Muslims. Another will be the desire to remove all obstacles to globalism which are impeding the rise of

Antichrist. Another could possibly be financial. Geological tests and surveys predict that Israel has the richest oil and gas deposits in the world. If Israel became Europe's oil and gas supplier, Russia would lose a huge portion of its income. Russia is Europe's major oil supplier and is in the process of building a pipeline from Russian oil fields to Europe. Russia would have no market outlet for its richest commodity if Europe should get a closer, cheaper, and friendlier supplier in Israel.

One other factor that could even be the major factor for the Caliphate may be food. God blesses Israel by making their barren lands fruitful. When Palestine was in the hands of the Muslims, the land became barren, and the population dwindled via the rush to escape famine and starvation. Before Israel was re-established in its homeland, Mark Twain remarked that it would be appropriate for Israel's re-establishment by saying that Palestine, a land without a people, would make a good homeland for Israel, a people without a land. Since Israel has re-populated the land, God has made it so fruitful in wonderful crops that Israel is exporting food to other nations.

God is opposed to Gog and Magog. He is going to visit them with an enticement to spoil Israel while they are helpless to defend themselves. After having fought the Palestinian war, Israel will have no more munitions with which to fight. They will be "unwalled," without the means to defend itself from further aggression, especially an aggression from a confederacy of such enormous size. The invading armies are described as descending on Israel like a cloud (Ezek. 38:9-11).

We know that the Persian-Russian alliance purposes to take a spoil and a prey (Ezek. 38:12). They will be after cattle and goods. Thus, my conclusion is that food and fuel will be the primary motivators, but the continuing hate for Israel by all nations will continue to be a huge factor as well.¹

Sheba and Dedan, which make up Saudi Arabia, will be extremely fearful of their being a secondary target of the Persia-Russia confederacy descending upon Israel from the north. After all, if that attacking army did not stop at Israel, Saudi Arabia would be next in its path. Saudi Arabia is America's main source of oil. Tarshish is nervous and fearful as well. Thus, if Tarshish is a general name for the West, then this fear would be coming from America. If America's oil supply were to be cut off, then the country would wither and die. It is going to do that anyway, but a lack of oil would hurry the process. Anyway, America (the west, i.e. Tarshish) will join Saudi Arabia (Sheba and Dedan) in asking the intentions of the attacking hordes from Persia, Russia, Libya, Ethiopia, and Turkey: "Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?" (Ezek. 38:13).

God accuses Gog of knowing that Israel would be dwelling in peace without any defense against another attack (Ezek. 38:14). God says that this attack by the Persia-Russia/Gog alliance will occur in the "Latter" days. Please note that God says "Latter" not "last" days (Ezek. 38:16). The purpose for God's bringing Gog against His people is for the same purpose that he hardened Pharaoh when He rescued Israel from its slavery in Egypt, i.e. just as He was sanctified in

¹ The speckled bird analogy of Jeremiah 12:9 tells us that all nations hate God's nation because of God's association and flavor attached to His nation. America is also one of His nations that was created by His people under His principles. Even though both Israel and America are steeped in apostasy and secularism, they are still different enough to draw attacks from the other birds (nations).

Pharaoh, He will also be sanctified in Gog as another miraculous witness to Israel (Ezek. 38:16). God has never tired from pursuing His beloved people. His patience is beyond understanding.

When God sees Gog's desire to attack His holy people when they were at peace and defenseless, fury is going to fly up into His Face (Ezek. 38:18). The cause of God's fury will be twofold. First, God is jealous of Israel's turning her back on Him. Thus, He intends to give Israel a great shaking throughout the land. Second, the fire of His Wrath will kindle God's fury. God's wrath is for Gog and his allies that are audacious enough to attack God's people while they are in such a helpless position (Ezek. 38:19). The repercussions of God's fiery wrath will be seen by all of creation (Ezek. 38:20).

The attacking army factions will create a great slaughter among themselves (I opine that jealousy and greed will be the motivations). God will also flood them with rainstorms, great hail, pestilence, and lightening. The world will know that God did this mighty work using natural forces to defeat the greatest horde of attackers that the world had ever seen to this point in history (Ezek. 38:21).

God will destroy five of every six warriors of the invading army in the fields of Israel (Ezek. 39:2). He will cause the weaponry of attackers to fail in the face of the storms. There will be a great number of dead for the buzzards to consume (Ezek. 39:3-4). God will not be through with Gog and Magog at this point of total defeat. He will burn Magog, the Russian homeland, with fire so that they too will know that God is in opposition to their atheistic Dialectical Materialism that is foundational to Communism (Ezek. 39:6).

Israel will spoil the spoilers who invaded the holy land in order to take a prey. Israel will use the fuel and burn the weapons of war after restocking their own military munitions. There will be fuel galore for Israel. They will need none of their own fuel for seven years (Ezek. 39:10).

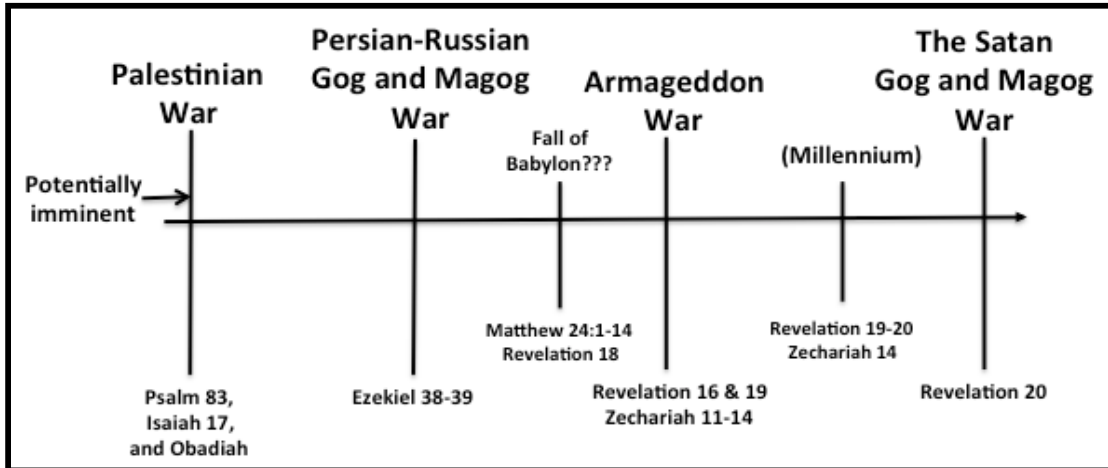
The stench of the dead will be overwhelming. It will take 7 months to bury Gog's armies in the valley of Hamongog located east of the sea. There will be buriers that will be continually employed to do the mass burials. After the seven months of burials, their work will change to searching for other dead warriors that will be scattered all over the land (Ezek. 39:11-14). The buriers will work out a system that divides the cleansing of the land into searchers and buriers. The searchers will set up a sign by the bodies, and the buriers will then retrieve the bodies and bury them in the valley of Hamongog. A city named Hamonah will be built to house the searchers and buriers (Ezek. 39:15-16).

Israel will know that God is God from the day of this miraculous deliverance forward throughout the rest of history (Ezek. 39:22). All the nations of the world will realize that Israel had been delivered into the hands of their attackers all through history because of their turning their backs to the Lord God (Ezek. 39:23-24). God will pour out His Spirit upon His people Israel, and there will be a great revival to sweep the land of Israel (Ezek. 39:25-29). I think that this is the point where the 144 thousand Israeli prophets of Christ Jesus will begin their ministries.

Now, we saw that Tarshish was weak-kneed and impotent in world affairs. So, I must conclude that Tarshish is the general name of the countries of the west. So, what happens to those countries? We now will look at the great fall of Babylon, i.e. the fall of America and the rise of Antichrist.

Chapter 3
**THE FALL OF BABYLON
 AND THE RISE OF ANTICHRIST**

Matthew 24:1-31, Revelation 18



It is my opinion that God is referring to America with the name of Babylon. This opinion is based on the world’s understanding of the American dream to be the desire of prosperity.¹ American Christianity has been taken captive by the desires for riches and the good life. Instead of being slaves of Christ, we have become idolaters, i.e. slaves to Babylon. By way of explanation, I will describe the Babylonian captivity of Israel in ancient history.

Babylon took Israel captive in 586 B.C. During the transition of Babylon to the Persian Empire, Cyrus ascended to the throne of Babylon and released the captives to go home to re-establish the Temple of God, the laws of God, and walls of separation and defense. However, most of the Jews refused to leave Babylon. They had found the “good life” there for themselves, and did not want to leave it to serve the Lord their God. Since I see this same parallel in the lives of Christians in America, I think that the name of Babylon symbolizes America. At the same time, I think that the whore with “Mystery Babylon” written on her forehead (Rev. 17:5) is the Christian Church which has been primarily dedicated to attaining riches and power throughout history. The Babylonian syndrome is the problem of self-indulgence’s priority over self-denying, cross-bearing, following of Jesus as His slave.

¹ There is nothing wrong with the American Dream as long as it does not divert one’s primary devotion away from God. Like money, it is not an evil within itself. The love of money and the love of the American Dream is what is evil. Once one’s love for prosperity diverts one from the *kenosis*, then the American Dream becomes evil. This dream has sidelined the holiness of Christians from their being set aside for God’s exclusive use.

Not only does God vent His wrath against Gog and Magog, but He has a pent up wrath that is especially designed for America's history of tempting the saints away from sanctification by enticing them to devote themselves to building a luxurious life, i.e. to pursue the "American Dream" (Rev. 16:19). So, I am taking the descriptions about Babylon to be about America.

It is my opinion that America will have demonstrated its declining power in its impotence to stop the Persia-Russia alliance from attacking Israel. America is already declining now. In fact, it is in free fall due to *gross* economic mismanagement. When the voters who do not work but live on the government dole outnumber those who do work, then the stability of a country's economy will tip toward a huge crash. This tipping has already occurred in America.

During the seven years of Israel's recovery in which she burns the captured fuel and weapons from Gog, America's vulnerability to collapse from the idiotic political decisions that have promoted immorality, political correctness, fiscal irresponsibility, and apostasy will accelerate. The Bible portrays this collapse as the collapse of Babylon; and I believe that this collapse will occur between the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War and the Armageddon War. This period between these two wars will be at least seven years which is the time that it will take for Israel to burn all of Gog's weapons and fuel.

AMERICA'S COLLAPSE

Matthew 24:1-14

24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to [him] for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

24:2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

24:8 All these [are] the beginning of sorrows.

24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Many false preachers will be preaching in the churches. These false prophets will not be claiming to be Christ because that is not very deceptive. Instead, they will say that Jesus is Christ and then preach their falsehoods in His Name (Mt. 24:5).

False preaching is already happening in churches across America. People are being enticed to join the churches because the pastors want nickels and noses. They want to build their own churches. The terrible effect is that God is being robbed of His resources that He has bought and paid for with His Son's Life. The use of the Christians is being preempted by the pastors and churches that use them for their own welfare. As long as the people give their nickels and noses to the churches, they will be praised and rocked to sleep unaware of their own spiritual gifts, callings, and responsibilities to Jesus for their lives of sanctification.²

False prophets will not be preaching the *kenosis* and true discipleship. The *kenosis* is clearly taught by God in Philippians 2:5-11 where He commands Christians to have the mind of Christ. That mind is described as a sacrificial life in which Jesus descended from heaven's glory down to manhood, servant hood, obedience to God as a slave, death, and a terrible death on a cross. After His death, Jesus was resurrected and exalted to a place of worship and Lordship. Thus, we are to travel this same kind of path of self-denying, cross bearing, following of Jesus by having the same kind of mind, i.e. the sacrificial mind of Christ.

God delineates how we get to the *kenotic* life. We can only live the *kenosis* if we can forget about rewards prior to death. In order to do this, we must become true disciples of Jesus only through God's sanctification, which requires denying ourselves, taking up our crosses, and following Him (Mt. 16:24). These are our steps toward the *kenosis*. There are no shortcuts or easy paths to discipleship. Discipleship is the most difficult thing in any Christian's life. Babylonian Christianity, however, has become a path towards a life of possessions, power, and self-indulgence while carrying the blessings of salvation in one's pocket like a talisman.

Wars and rumors of wars will become commonplace (Mt. 24:6). Today, these wars are so numerous that we cannot keep up with them anymore. Our president calls them the "Arab Spring" as if they were good things. When did revolutions for extending Muslim control over countries become a good thing? The countries going through Muslim revolutions, with the exception of Syria, are those that are at peace with Israel.³ How could our government think that it would be good for Muslim terrorists that are hostile toward Israel and America to gain control over a country? Currently, Egypt and Libya are two such countries that were leaving Israel alone. Now America is even promoting the Islamic takeover of both countries. In the midst of my writing this chapter, Egypt has now discarded its peace treaty with Israel. Egypt has opened its borders with Gaza so that the flow of weaponry from Iran and other hate-mongering countries to the Hamas terrorists in Gaza will no longer be impeded.

² The doctrine of sanctification has been reduced to nothing but a sliver of morality that goes a little like this jingle: "We don't drink, smoke, or chew or go with the girls or boys that do."

³ We are duplicating the Iranian debacle in which we toppled the Shah of Iran, who was at peace with Israel, so that a "democratic" vote could install Muslim control. Now, in exchange for our help with that installation of the evil, enslaving government of Ahmadinijad, we are faced with Islamic hate and terrorism. We are repeating the Iranian scenario over and over again with other countries. Is it because we are stupid? Or is it because our government is also evil? I think that it is the latter.

If the people who are called by God's Name control the destiny of America (2 Chron. 7:14), then how can we keep electing antichristian leaders? I never cease to be amazed at Christians who cannot discern good from evil, right from wrong, and for whom to vote. Satan's people have no problem with their discernments. Lukewarm Christians who fill the pews of the churches and who have no discernment because they have reduced sanctification to just a sliver of morality are those who have lost the ability to discern good and evil. The false preaching that leads to the substitution of the institutional church in place of God and leads to Christian Babylonianism is the cause. For example, we saw firsthand the false preaching of Jeremiah Wright whose preaching was soaked up by President Obama for over 20 years. Now that Obama has been elected president, we are seeing this country destroyed because of that false preaching.

My friend, we must be more discriminating in our church attendance. That means YOU! If you are a born-again Christian, then get on God's path of ministry that He has designed just for you. Become a holy resource that is completely spendable by the Lord Jesus. Deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow Him in the *kenotic* life.

Our present time is called the "beginning of sorrows" (Mt. 24:8). The sorrows are going to multiply and intensify. Natural disasters of floods, droughts, earthquakes famines, and pestilences will increase (Mt. 24:7). Antichrist is going to arise as the man of lawlessness. The laws are already giving way to tyrannical regulations by powerful men. Even in America, the Constitution that was developed by Christian men via the providence of God Himself is being subverted in every way possible. Regulations from our government intrude on our freedoms. What we can eat, drive, and use in our work are being regulated. This government forced the destruction of every curb at every intersection of every road in America so that it could be rebuilt with a slope. It has forced every construction company to put up a foot high plastic barrier around every construction site. It has stopped the use of DDT to combat insects. It has made it illegal to use incandescent light bulbs. It has forced a new gasoline mixture to be used by everyone. It has forced Christians to pay for abortions. It has forced us to open our borders to any immigrant that wanted to come in illegally. It forces us to charge less tuition in colleges for illegal immigrants than legal citizens. It forces us to buy medical insurance. Space limits my rehearsing of all the abuses of our legal system.

Our sorrows will progress until the legal abuses described above will seem like a wonderful time of justice and freedom. Our government will progress past oppressing Christianity to killing Christians. Family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers will betray us into the hands of the government to be executed (Mt. 24:9). Christians will be hated by the entire world just like the Jews are hated. False prophets will find a people, Christians included, who will be hungry for religion that is politically correct. All messages that play to itching ears will be readily devoured (Mt. 24:11). Apostasy will increase at an alarming rate. Good will be thought to be bad, and vice versa. Love for Jesus will grow cold (Mt. 24:12). However, anyone who maintains his love for Jesus during this time of apostasy all the way to the end, i.e. the second coming of the Lord, will be saved. (Mt. 24:8-14). All of these sorrowful things are already in progress.

The 144 thousand Jewish Christian prophets will preach like crazy during this time. The miracles of God's deliverance of Israel out of the hands of a hugely powerful Persia-Russia confederacy will have turned the hearts of the Jews back to God. The

Gospel will be preached around the world to every nation (Mt. 24:14). Antichrist, who will arise during this seven-year period of rest for the Jews after the Persia-Russia war, will begin to put together his global system. Even with all his power, he will be powerless to stop the two good churches (Smyrna and Philadelphia) or the 144 thousand Jewish preachers, but his constant persecution will wear out all other saints (Rev. 11 & 14). Eventually, he will also stamp out the Smyrna and Philadelphia churches.

Antichrist's purging of all Christians in the world will progress until there will be just a rare few who are running and hiding. These Christian outlaws will have to survive by their self-provisions plus any largess that they can hopefully receive from sympathetic people wearing the mark of the Beast. For the most part, though, the world's citizens will be desirous of receiving attaboys from Antichrist for betraying the outlaws into his hands.

I think that the collapse of America will occur sometime after the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War. At least, I hope that we last this long. Our collapse could easily be soon after the Palestinian War. If this be the case, then Tarshish would not be the West in general (America being its center), but Europe in particular. So, the best-case scenario would be that America will still exist as a threat to Russia, but without the backbone to stop their invasion of Israel. However, we must be open to America's collapsing prior to even the Palestinian War into the dark ages and no longer being a threat to Russia, or anyone else for that matter.

I believe that our collapse combined with the demise of the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog confederation, will shift the center of world power to Europe. The world will be divided into 10 kingdoms. Among these 10 a little king will appear and will uproot 3 of the original 10 kings. That little king, the Antichrist, will rise in power to lead Europe and a world confederacy to attack Israel. In the meantime, let's follow the Bible's description of America's collapse in Revelation 18.

Revelation 18

18:1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

18:6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

18:7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

18:8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong [is] the Lord God who judgeth her.

18:9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

18:11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

18:12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

18:13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

18:14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

18:15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

18:16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

18:17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

18:18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What [city is] like unto this great city!

18:19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

18:20 Rejoice over her, [thou] heaven, and [ye] holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

18:21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast [it] into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

18:22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft [he be], shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

The Book of Revelation announced the fall of the greatest nation on earth two thousand years in advance. The fall of America is so much the more terrible because America was a nation that was chosen as God's Christian nation to stand side by side with His chosen Jewish nation Israel. As God established Israel when He rescued His people from Egypt, He established America when he rescued His people out of Europe. In both cases, the primary issue was freedom of worship.

God grants free will to everyone. That freedom was lost in the fall of man to sin. Since we are born in sin, salvation is needed for our free choices to be reinstated. We are reborn with the restored ability to make choices between good and evil. We can choose

to obey God or to rebel. God wants no one or nothing to be inserted between Him and His saint that would disrupt that freedom of worship. Any insertion deprives God of His using His Own resource for His Own purposes. Worship must be freely made by each individual because God's judgment will be for each individual. We should despise the idea of being judged for our failures when they were caused by our being directed by someone other than God.

The true Christians in England and on the continent of Europe desperately desired to worship the Lord freely rather than in the way that was dictated by the state-established churches. Worshiping outside of the state-prescribed churches was a capital offense. Those who dared to worship the Lord in personal freedom were slaughtered. So, the Free-Church Protestants sought freedom by forsaking all and fleeing to a new land, i.e. to America, to live and worship Christ in freedom without state interference.

America enjoyed God's blessings because it was His choice of a land in which Christianity would flourish. As long as America held to its Judeo-Christian heritage, it grew and prospered as the greatest nation on earth. However, in the 20th century, the fall from grace accelerated when America's constitutional law began to be circumvented and immorality began to grow. The angel announcing the fall declares that America has become the habitation of devils and every foul spirit (Rev. 18:1-3).

Babylon was a country that enslaved first by the power of conquest. It then enslaved via the enticement of wealth, success, and a happy life. When it conquered Israel and took them as slaves to Babylon in the 6th century before Christ, it eventually released them all 70 years later to go home.

In order to re-establish His people in their holiness as His own personal possessions, God changed the King Cyrus' heart so that he would allow the people to return to the holy land to resume worship and service to God. A strange thing happened then. Only a handful of God's people were willing to leave the good life that they had found for themselves while in Babylon. Prosperity had gained a strong grip on the people. They loved their new lives more than obeying God.

The Christians have repeated that Babylonian scenario in America. Though the call by God has not been for physical relocation from America to another land, it has been a call to holiness and discipleship (Rev. 18:4). However, American Christians, just like their counterparts the Jews in Babylon, have refused to turn their hearts away from their love of the good life to a life of sacrifice to God.

The fall of America comes when God remembers the sins and oppression of His second chosen people. Already, American Christians are despised and oppressed by the antichristian laws, courts, and government of America. All influences of Christianity are being scrubbed out of American culture. A great wall of separation of Christianity away from all public life was the first resistance erected by Satan's minions. Now, separation is proceeding toward elimination. As America progresses toward the habitation of devils and every foul spirit, Christians will be hunted down and destroyed. When the remembrance of America's treatment of Christians comes to God, He is going to double the pain and suffering to America that she has caused for Christians (Rev. 18:5-6).

America is described as a country that has basked in the world’s luxury all her life. She has the attitude that nothing will bring her down, but she fails to consider a reckoning with God. God is going to bring a sudden devastating collapse to America. She will be hit with famine and fire. Her mourning will be double what Christians have felt (Rev. 18:7-8).

The church of America, the people who are called by God’s Name, were supposed to guide America on the basis of the governing principles that were established by the Christian founding fathers. However, the church was enticed by the good life (Babylon) so much so that she has the name “Mystery Babylon” written on her forehead (Rev. 17:5). So, everything that we are told by God that will happen to Babylon will happen to the church too. Just like America, God’s Church is no longer a pilgrim in this world but sits in the midst of luxury like a queen. She thinks that she too is invincible. But she will reap suffering and sorrow that is coming on Babylon because she refuses to come out of her narcissistic love for the American Dream. She refuses to come out of Babylon (Rev. 18:4).

The merchants of the world will lament the fall of America because they have enjoyed great prosperity from their dealings with her and the Church. They are fearful of being dragged down with her. So they stand away and lament the losses they could see themselves losing (Rev. 18:9-11).

God is going to remove all good products from America’s possession. Everything (God means EVERYTHING!) that is good and luxurious will be removed or destroyed in America. God, in His Scriptures, lists examples of those things to be removed (Rev. 18:12-19). The angel that has announced Babylon’s fall then announces the reason for it. America has oppressed God’s people and is reaping the harvest for her cruelty and injustice (Rev. 18:20).

The fall of America will be sudden and violent. It is described as a millstone tossed into the sea. The devastation will be total. There will be no factories, no commerce, no continuing culture, not even marriage. Life in America will become animalistic. Roving gangs will be stalking other survivors to kill the men, ravage the women, plunder any salvageable food, and take captive any children as potential gang members. People will not even burn a candle at night for fear of the light drawing a gang’s attack (Rev. 18:21-24).

THE RISE OF ANTICHRIST

Matthew 24:15-31



During this time after the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War, if not before, America will collapse, and the center of world power will shift to Europe. This is when Antichrist will rise up to control what remains of the whole world. In the midst of the world tragedies of economic collapse, devastating wars, and loss of Christian salt and light, there will be no impediment to many antichrists vying for prominence. Thus one of them will win global control.⁴

Europe, the rebirth of the Roman Empire, will be the strongest kingdom in the world of eight remaining kingdoms. Antichrist will be the king of the new Rome and thus will be the most powerful man in the world. He will rule over all the kingdoms with an iron hand. There will be no codified laws. All laws will be what he declares by fiat. Thus he will be the man of lawlessness (2 Thes. 2:3-9).

Mathew 24:15-31

24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

24:16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

24:17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

24:18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

24:19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

24:20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here [is] Christ, or there; believe [it] not.

24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

24:25 Behold, I have told you before.

24:26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, [he is] in the secret chambers; believe [it] not.

24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

24:28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Sometime during the reign of Antichrist, he will pull the mask off and declare his own deity. He will enter the holy place in the Jewish Temple and declare himself to be God. This event marks the beginning of the ***great*** tribulation (Mt. 24:15).

⁴ I will devote a separate study of Antichrist in the future. Now that I have the wars delineated, I can see more clearly the context for Antichrist, and my past studies are beginning to fall into place.

Israel is to flee into the mountains as soon as Antichrist declares his deity (Mt. 24:15-16). This warning from God to flee applies to Israel alone and not to Christians because Christians will be few in number outside of Israel. They will have been hunted and killed for several years prior to the time of Israel's flight from persecution. I base this conclusion about Christians on the promise from God that judgment will begin with the house of God (1 Pet. 4:17).

The urgency of this flight from Antichrist will be such that the people are not to return to their homes to pack. They are to pray that their flight will not be in the winter or during the Sabbath. A special woe is given for mothers of sucklings because their tribulations will be more severe by having to care for their loved ones while running from Antichrist. The severity of this tribulation for the Jews and remaining Christians will exceed any that have ever been or will ever be (Mt. 24:16-21).

Folks, that extreme terribleness of tribulation is a fearful thing to consider. God will decide to step in to turn the tide of the Armageddon War in order to save some of the elect to reach the end as natural Jews and Christians in the flesh (Mt. 24:22).

During this time of severe tribulation, the Christian Jews will be looking for the return of Jesus. There will be many efforts by the Global Church to show their false prophets to be messiahs. They will say that the messiah is at some location or another, but the Christian Jews and Gentiles are not to believe it because God says that when Jesus comes again, everyone will see him (Mt. 24:22-27). The false messiahs will be working miracles in a supernatural way, but the miracles will be empowered by Satan in order to deceive God's elect.

Toward the end of the great tribulation and just before the War of Armageddon, The sun will darken, and the stars will fall as an announcement that Jesus is about to step out of heaven back to earth (Mt. 24:29). This darkening and falling could be a re-telling of the events in the book of Revelation. However, I believe that in Revelation there was the double entendre of meaning in which the first meaning was that the sun was the light from Jesus and the stars were angels. However, I believe that the second meaning is the visible physical signs that are signifying God's announcement, via events in nature, that the return of Jesus is imminent. Seeing by the peoples of earth of the spectacular signs of Jesus in the heavens will cause great desperation and great mourning by the people who will begin to doubt the wisdom of their choices in life (Mt. 24:30).

While this spectacular event is being seen in the heavens, all remaining saved people will be called to meet Lord Jesus in the sky. An angel will sound the last trumpet (1 Cor. 15:51-52), and all saved people will be raptured out of the earth to be gathered together with the other saints in the sky (Mt. 24:31). This last trumpet is portrayed in the book of revelation as the 7th and last trumpet (Rev. 11:15). From this point forward, the saints' works will be judged by the Lord at the judgment seat of Christ (Ro. 14:10), and the conditions on earth will worsen as bowls of God's wrath will be poured out on the unsaved people left behind (Rev. 16:1).

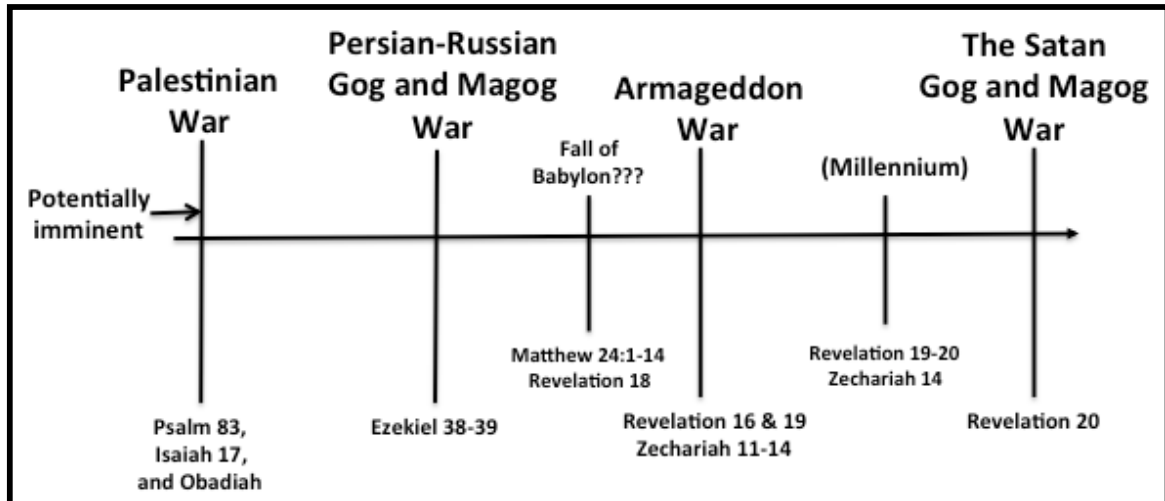
Plagues, famines, pestilences, wars, and natural disasters will bring about terrible suffering for all who are left upon the earth. All who get saved during this time will suffer just like everyone else. Those Christians will not only suffer under the bowls of God's wrath, but they will also suffer persecution and execution by Antichrist. Only

Jerusalem will be prospering during this time, and that will cause Antichrist to not only desire to plunder it but also to wipe out its non-worship of him as god. We will turn now to look at the war that Antichrist wages against Israel.

Chapter 4

THE WAR OF ARMAGEDDON

Revelation 16 and 19, and Zechariah 11-14



You will need your Bible opened to Revelation 16 before you go any further. Please read the chapter so that you will be able to recognize the following explanations. As you read my explanations, please be sure to look up the references and read them again in your own Bible.

Revelation 16

16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

16:2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and [upon] them which worshipped his image.

16:3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead [man]: and every living soul died in the sea.

16:4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

16:7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous [are] thy judgments.

16:8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

16:10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [come] out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, [which] go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

16:17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

16:18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, [and] so great.

16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, [every stone] about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

The Environment of Antichrist's Kingdom

The events in the book of Revelation are all signs. This means that they “represent” the events. However, in the 4Disciples study course on the book of Revelation, we discussed the double entendre at length. In that discussion, it was decided that both the signification and also the literal events were sometimes being described. We concluded that both kinds will occur. Sometimes both will occur, and sometimes just one will occur. Early as the sign begins when both occur, I see the description being only a signification, but later as the end approaches, the sign becomes literal. Thus the darkening light of the sun began as the light of God’s Truth was being progressively rejected, and that is in process right now. However, as we get closer to the end, the darkening of the sun will be literal. Likewise the increasing heat of the sun begins before the Armageddon War as a “sign” of the painful penalty for rejecting God’s Truth. However, as we get closer to the end, the event will shade over into a “literal” heat and a “literal” darkening. I accept this scenario for some of the signs, but not all. Prior to the great purge of Christians by Antichrist, all the seals and trumpets will be signs for Christians who have spiritual discernment. Some of the signs will become literal processes as they mature in their development, especially toward the times in which there will be very few Christians still alive.

The vials will be mostly literal when involving the secular arena and mostly signs when involving the religious arena. The first vial will be a plague of sores that will cover Antichrist and all those who will have taken his mark (Rev. 16:1-2). The second vial will turn all remaining religions on earth (including the global church) to nothing more than religious gatherings of spiritually dead people (Rev. 16:3). Those remaining in the politically correct church who will not have taken the mark will become nearly incapable

of receiving the Lord because they will be close to devoid of discernment at this point. The messages in the churches will become, after the pouring out of the 3rd vial, completely politically-correct messages of hope in Antichrist that are devoid of any life-giving content (Rev. 16:4). Pollution of the waters will become the problem as this vial continues in its development. However, it will continue to signify that only those who steadfastly remain outside of the institutional church and who will not have taken the mark of the beast will remain capable of hearing and believing the Gospel and being saved.

The 4th vial causes the sun to scorch men with heat. The signification of this truth has already been discussed in the 4Disciples course on Revelation. Now we are looking at the physical manifestation for the spiritually blind.

Prior to this time, men brazenly will have thought themselves capable of controlling the temperature on the earth via man-made measures to curb global warming. At this point in the future, God is going to shove the truth down their throats that He alone is in control of every single part of nature. He is going to cause the sun to heat up so great that people will be scorched with its heat. They will be forced to stay under any cover that they can find. Amazingly, the people will not even consider their folly and thus will not repent and acknowledge that God alone is sovereign over nature. Instead they will amplify their folly by cursing God (Rev. 16:8-9).

The 5th vial will fill Antichrist's kingdom with darkness. Imagine how upsetting this event of blazing sun heat without its light will be. These phenomena will hammer the earth with their literal versions of their double entendres. The spiritual version of the double entendre has already been explained in the 4Disciples book-course *Destiny for Disciples*. Since people without any spiritual discernment must have the ability to see God's phenomena in order to recognize them, God will present these events like blows from a sledgehammer. I am so thankful that we Christians can see with the eyes of faith those things of God that are invisible to the spiritually dead. However, the unsaved people will be filled with the pain from the heat without light, but they will refuse to repent. They will blaspheme God by continuing with their foolish belief that they can control nature's thermostat (Rev. 16:10-11).

The 6th vial will dry up the Euphrates River so that all the armies from all points of the compass will be able to approach Israel over dry land (the literal interpretation). The spiritual interpretation from the 4Disciples course *Destiny for Disciples* is that strictures of Islam and any other Middle Eastern and Asian religions¹ will be set-aside so

¹ When the interpretation of the drying of the Euphrates River is symbolic, then it points to the change in the Islamic rigidity which would seem to pertain more to the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War. In fact, it gives me doubts about my interpretations of the descriptions of these wars as being separate and individual wars. For all of my life, I took all the descriptions of the wars as descriptions of a single war, i.e. the Armageddon War with the rapture occurring 7 years before that war. It could be simply that the various descriptions of multiple wars are merely descriptions from various points of view of just one war. I must admit that my flesh wants that idea to be true because it would indicate that suffering for the Church will be either non-existent or greatly reduced. However, if the literal drying up of the Euphrates River applies here, then it could apply equally either to the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War or to the Armageddon War or to both combined with the Palestinian War into one war. I guess that all of us have to realize that when it comes to eschatology, God always presents His Word in such a way that faith is required before sight. We are stuck with passages that can go either way. Thus, you will have to decide for yourself just as

that they may join together with other Progressives² for the common purpose of destroying Israel (Rev. 16:12).

Three strong demons will be in the words of the evil trinity to unite the world against Israel. These demons will be like frogs, i.e. they will operate like amphibians. As amphibians, they will be effective messages to both the religious and the secular peoples alike. They will gather the kings of the earth regardless of religion and align them totally with Antichrist. These demons will cause the assemblage of the greatest army ever assembled for Antichrist's agenda. He will lead the army to march upon Israel from all over the world for the purpose of ending all vestiges of worship of God.³ These are the final preparations for the great and fearful War of Armageddon (Rev. 16:13-14).

Details of the War of Armageddon

The 7th vial of God's wrath will be the War of Armageddon in which Jesus will fight against Antichrist in order to save Israel from annihilation. The whole world will be in this fight against God. Israel will be their target. The world's armies will advance in their last efforts to expand the worship of Antichrist as the world's only god by exterminating Israel once and for all. In this war, the Lord Jesus will fight His last battle before the Millennium for His people (Rev. 16:17).

The results of this war mark the transition of the world's rule from Antichrist to Christ Jesus. The glorious and unfathomable thing to remember is that Jesus is going to share that rule with us. Thus it behooves us to remember the key that our glory will be proportional to our works prior to glorification. The awards of glory will be handed out at the Judgment Seat of Christ prior to this war.

Now open your Bible to the book of Zechariah and read chapters 11 through 14. Keep your Bible open at this location so that you can check the references as we study further.

Zechariah 11-14

11:15 And the LORD said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd.

11:16 For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, [which] shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces.

11:17 Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword [shall be] upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.

* * *

I have to do. Are the descriptions of just one war from various points of view? Or are they of separate wars?

² The 4D course on Philosophy deals extensively with the birth and journey toward dominance by the various kinds of Progressives. There are both religious and secular versions of Progressives, and they all have a common purpose. Utopia is that purpose. All of them believe that Global control of a small population by a small group of Progressive elites will provide a utopian paradise. The amazing outcome of the arrogance of Antichrist and his Progressives will be the global disasters that we are studying right now.

³ This is the fulfillment of the "Speckled Bird" warning of Jer. 12:8-9.

12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

12:2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah [and] against Jerusalem.

12:3 And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

12:4 In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness.

12:5 And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem [shall be] my strength in the LORD of hosts their God.

12:6 In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, [even] in Jerusalem.

12:7 The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify [themselves] against Judah.

12:8 In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David [shall be] as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.

12:9 And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for [his] only [son], and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for [his] firstborn.

12:11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

12:12 And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart;

12:13 The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart;

12:14 All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.

* * *

13:1 In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

13:2 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, [that] I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.

13:3 And it shall come to pass, [that] when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the LORD: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth.

13:4 And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive:

13:5 But he shall say, I [am] no prophet, I [am] an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth.

13:6 And [one] shall say unto him, What [are] these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, [Those] with which I was wounded [in] the house of my friends.

13:7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man [that is] my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

13:8 And it shall come to pass, [that] in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off [and] die; but the third shall be left therein.

13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It [is] my people: and they shall say, The LORD [is] my God.

* * *

14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

14:2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

14:3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

14:4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which [is] before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, [and there shall be] a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

14:5 And ye shall flee [to] the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, [and] all the saints with thee.

Antichrist is described as someone who will not care for his people. He will execute his will in plundering and abusing them. This man will be wounded by a sword which indicates to me that he was wounded in a war. One of his arms and also his right eye will have been both severely injured. So, I am faced with the question: Is Antichrist someone who will be involved in either the Palestinian War or the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War? I suppose that he could be one of the combatants in the latter war. However, all that we know for certain is that his wounds will be to an arm and his right eye (Zech. 11: 17). We do not even know that it was in a war that his wounds occurred. They could be from an assassination attempt.

Antichrist will not be content with his world rule. There will be yet one thing that will be lacking for his maniacal ego. World worship will not have been accrued to him. Those pesky Jews will still be worshiping God. He will already have brought the world under his physical control. His decrees will be enforced in Israel, but their hearts will still be turned away from him. In their helplessness, however, Israel will put the security of their nation into the hands of Antichrist. He will use their trust against them. He will set about mounting an attack of all his resources against the tiny nation of God's elect (Zech. 12:1-3).

Jerusalem will still be, as it is now, the center of attention for the entire world (Zech. 12:2). All people will both hate it and want it. It will be prospering above all

other places because it will be the only holy place left in the world. Antichrist will desire to destroy the Jews who will not worship him. In his jealousy, he will desire to destroy every Jew (Rev. 12:3) so that not one person will remain on earth to worship the one true living God. The Christian church and the apostate church will have already been destroyed at this point, and all that will be left to do is to destroy the Jews and any remaining fugitive Christians.

Antichrist will gather his confederate army from all the nations of the world to attack Israel with the purpose of ending all holdouts against worshiping him as god and ruler of the world. However, God is going to smite the horses with blindness and the riders with madness. He is also including Israel's horses in His smiting with blindness (Zech. 12:4). I suspect that God will cause all the military vehicles to fail to either run or steer.

The inhabitants of Jerusalem will be all Jews and Christian Jews. Their strength will be evident from the power of the 144 thousand witnesses who had ministered demonstrably in the power of the Lord. Also, the two witnesses, i.e. the churches of Smyrna and Philadelphia, before they are killed by Antichrist's purge, will have exercised power over rain and drought that Satan and all his minions could not alter. This period of revival will originate as a result of the Lord's defeating the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog confederacy by using nothing but nature. Israel will acknowledge that only God could have worked the miracles that saved their lives and their nation, and they will turn to Him in droves.

Israel's governors will have no help from any other nation. Thus their only hope will be in the Jerusalemites' faith in God (Zech. 12:5). This portends the idea that Israel's government will be secular, but the population will be religious. Will Israel's religion be Christianity or Judaism? With the 144 thousand preaching all over the place under God's protection, I suspect that it will be Christianity.

Israel will be in their homeland as defined originally by God (Zech. 12:6). There will be no more intrusions by Esau because Esau will have been totally defeated in the Palestinian War. Israel, though dwelling safely, will have no allies in the world. They will be alone facing a world led by Antichrist. God warns that He will preserve Judah and Jerusalem for His uses and will seek to destroy all nations that attack them (Zech. 12:7-9).

There will be terrible mourning in all of Israel for their having wasted the opportunity for receiving Jesus as their savior. They will mourn the fact that they had rejected and killed the Messiah (Zech. 12:10). After the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog war, they will realize that God had acted in their defense and poured out His Spirit upon them. Now in their desperate loneliness, they will enter a state of mourning. Every family will weep in this day of mourning.⁴ The mourning will be personal, not national. Some person of every family in Israel will realize personal sorrow for their part in rejecting Christ in their perversion of Judaism (Rev. 12:10-14).

⁴ The mourning will include the realization that family members who had held on to their rigid Judaism through the centuries were now in hell.

As a result of the great revival after the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog war, the Gospel message will flow throughout Jerusalem and all Israel as a sweeping tide of salvation, and the sins of many will be washed away (Zech. 13:1). All their idols will be destroyed, and the false prophets and demons will be chased out of the land (Zech. 13:2). Parents will kill any Jewish prophet who ceases not from his prophecy. The “prophets” will cease claiming to be prophets and become only keepers of animals (Zech. 13:3-5).

In this war with Antichrist two thirds of the people of Israel are going to die. The third that survives will be refined through the fires of tribulations and war. All the dross of secularism, Judaism, and Babylonian materialism will be burned away, and all that will remain will be a people who will be pure in their devotion to Jesus, their Messiah Who will come to their rescue in the midst of the war. They will call on God for rescue, and He will claim them as His people when He answers their pleas (Zech. 13:8-9).

Antichrist will bring an army from all the nations of the world against Israel. Israel will be easily overrun by the hordes. The tiny nation will be divided up as spoils for the victor. Jerusalem will be taken and the women ravished. The city will be ransacked, and half of its population will be led away captive (Zech. 14:1-2). Only a residue of survivors will be left in the city.

At this point in which all hope is lost for Israel that has been nearly completely destroyed in its helplessness before Antichrist, Jesus is going to return to earth and fight for His people. He will stand on the Mount of Olives which will split toward the north and toward the south creating a huge valley running east and west (Zech. 14:3-4). The survivors in Jerusalem are to flee into the valley and away from the coming great battle that the Lord is going to launch against Antichrist and all his armies (Zech. 14:5).

Now you will need to open your Bible and read Revelation 19. Keep it open here so that you can check the references. You may think that I am a stickler for having you read and check your Bible so much. I am trying to get you grooved into a familiarity with these passages that I have read over and over and still cannot get them into my mind all at the same time. It seems to me that it will take at least 20 readings for the complexities of understanding these wars to begin to sink in. Even now, I am not secure that I understand them. God’s stuff is just too big for my puny little mind. Also I want to prevent my leading you astray. If I have something wrong in my understanding, I want you armed with God’s Word to find it. By your reading the Scriptures for yourselves, you will be more likely to spot any errors that I may have made. Please understand that all commentaries by even the greatest scholars are merely “opinions.”

Revelation 19

19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him [was] called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

19:12 His eyes [were] as a flame of fire, and on his head [were] many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

19:13 And he [was] clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

19:14 And the armies [which were] in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

19:16 And he hath on [his] vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

19:18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all [men, both] free and bond, both small and great.

19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which [sword] proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

For this war, the Lord and all His saints will come from heaven all riding white horses. The saints will be wearing clean white linen clothes (Rev. 19:11-14). I wonder if this means that no saint will lose his clothes as God warned us against in Revelation 16:15. Or could it mean that only the ones with clothes are riding with the Lord and that the naked saints will be left behind in heaven?

I also wonder about the white horses. Is it to demonstrate that the Lord and His army were pictured to John in the book of Revelation as a holy cavalry rushing to the rescue. Certainly, we will not need horses to get to earth or for transportation, but we will be coming as a small army to do battle against a huge army that will be composed of the militaries of every nation on earth. I am tentatively going literal again here in interpreting the white clothes and horses, but they could just as easily be symbols for works and speedy mobility.

Jesus purposes to smite the nations, rule the world with a rod of iron, and to work His righteous wrath against the Beast and the False Prophet (Rev. 19:15). All the birds of the earth are called together to eat the flesh of the armies that were gathered there to conquer Israel (Rev. 19:16-19). The Beast and False Prophet are captured and cast alive into the Lake of Fire. The rest of Antichrist's army are killed and fed to the birds (Rev. 19:20-21).

God's War against the lands of Antichrist

Now open your Bible back to Revelation 16 which you have already read. You will need to check the references of the following comments.

God pours out his wrath on Antichrist and his armies at the War of Armageddon. However, He does not forget to pour out a portion of that wrath onto the lands of Antichrist. The destruction for Antichrist's lands will begin with huge thunders, lightnings, and the largest earthquake of the world's history that will divide his lands into three parts. All the cities of Antichrist's kingdom will be destroyed (Rev. 16:18-19). The islands and

mountains will disappear (Rev. 16:20). I take these descriptions of destruction to be double entendres. The signification aspect has already been discussed in the 4Disciples course/book *Destiny for Disciples*. Now I am adding the literal, physical aspect here because unsaved, natural man cannot understand spiritual things of God. They must see the plain and simple physical things to grasp God's involvement, and even then, they are likely not to grasp it. Whether or not they grasp God's involvement, they will be without excuse because they will have *seen* the physical evidence. Thus, their punishment will heap upon their heads.

Babylon is mentioned at this point in Revelation 16. However, the chronology within Revelation 16 seems to be broken. In the middle of Revelation 16:19 there seems to be an anachronism that is introduced as a parenthetical about Babylon. God is speaking of taking vengeance against Antichrist and the lands of his kingdom, and then Babylon comes into God's remembrance. With the next verse, God returns to describing His vengeance against the lands of Antichrist. Thus, we cannot locate with certainty the point in which God crushes Babylon. It could be before or after or even during Armageddon.

However, I believe that the rapture will occur before Christ comes again to fight the War of Armageddon. It is specifically at the last trumpet. Thus, we know that it is the last trumpet of God, the 7th trumpet in the book of Revelation (Rev. 11:15), and also the trumpet at the end of the fall of Babylon (Mt. 24:15-31; 1 Cor. 15:51-52). I base that belief on the idea of all the saints coming with Jesus to set up the Millennium. If the chronology of the rapture's coming is after the fall of Babylon as depicted in Matthew 24, then I believe that the sequence will be the fall of Babylon, the rapture, then the War of Armageddon.⁵

I have theorized that America's (Babylon's) collapse occurs after the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War but before the War of Armageddon. The good of that hope is that the young Christians of today would have "a chance" to live longer lives. The bad is that their lives will be lived in destitution and on the run from Antichrist's worldwide purge of everything and everyone that is Christian. The poor Christian outlaws during Antichrist's reign either must live as refugees at the mercy of a society of people who will be bearing the mark of the beast, or they must be totally isolated and self sufficient. This scenario reminds me of the statement in Hebrews 11:36-38 about wearing animal skins, wandering in the deserts and mountains, and living in caves while being sought out, persecuted, and killed.

After the War of Armageddon, God will continue His vengeance against the lands of Antichrist. A terrible hailstorm will drop huge hailstones that weigh between 50 and 130 pounds, depending upon which country's definition of a talent of weight is being

⁵ I have theorized that there are 4 eschatological wars. We have all heard all of our lives that the final war before the Millennium is called the Battle of Armageddon. When the term "battle" is used, a shortness of time comes to mind. When the term "war" is used, a more lengthy amount of time in between wars is implied. Thus another way to interpret these scriptures is to consider them all to be separate battles within one war. Thus, the first 3 wars could be three consecutive battles within one war, i.e. the Armageddon War. The last war, which occurs after the Millennium, has to stand alone because Antichrist and the False Prophet (the hostile leaders who are captured at Armageddon) will have been already cast into the Lake of Fire and been there for 1000 years.

used.⁶ These hail stones are going to destroy everything. Instead of repenting, the people are going to blaspheme God because of this plague (Rev. 16:21).

At the end of this war, the beast and false prophet will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20), and Satan will be cast into the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1-3). Without the influence of the evil trinity, Jesus and His saints will set up a theocratic world system of justice for a thousand years, i.e. the Millennium.

The details of this war are not stated in Revelation. I was under the assumption that the Lord would kill the entire army and capture Antichrist and the false prophet. That assumption was wrong because I have found mention of survivors of this war in God's description of the Millennium, which we will turn to in the next chapter.

A question that arises in my mind is how are the bodies of the multitude of attackers disposed? Are they totally consumed by the fowls that have gathered for the great feast (Rev. 19:18 & 21)? With the Lord physically present, He could easily remove all remains of the slaughter with just the spoken Word. Other than the consumption of the bodies by the fowls we just do not know how the bones and weapons are disposed of unless we apply the disposal delineated in the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War to apply here in the 3-battles-in-1-war scenario.

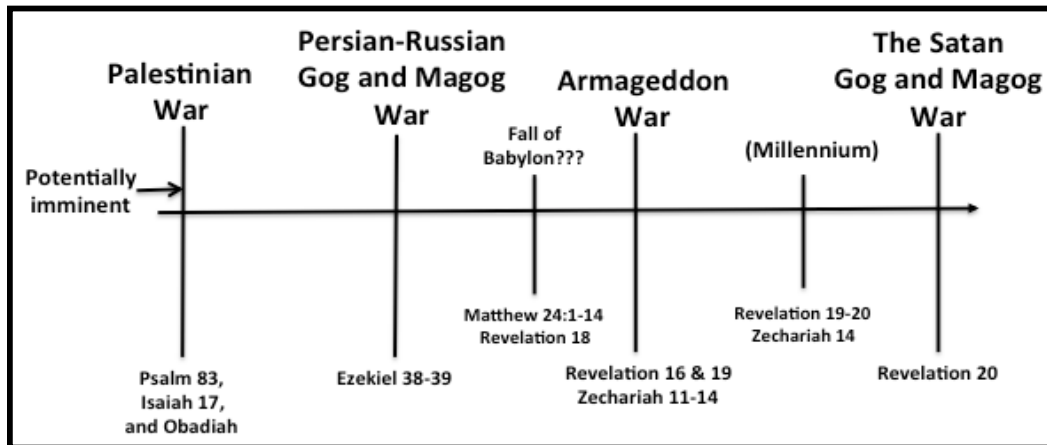
It is at this point that I think that the buriers that I have located at the end of the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War could possibly apply here. I have placed the buriers and cleansing of the land as well as the burning of the weapons at the end of the Persia-Russia/Gog and Magog War because of my own presupposed thinking that the Millennium will be so paradisiacal that burying the bodies and dealing with the stench seemed out of place. However, I acknowledge now that the Millennium will be far more practical and earthy than I had previously thought. So, we will now turn our attention to the thousand-year reign of Jesus and His saints before the final war with Satan.

⁶ The Greek talent weighed 57 pounds, the Roman talent weighed 71 pounds, the Babylonian talent weighed 67 pounds, and the talent of the New Testament weighed 130 pounds.

Chapter 5

THE MILLENNIUM

Revelation 19-20 and Zechariah 14



The Millennium will not begin until after the War of Armageddon. However, there will be some preparatory things to occur before the beginning of the millennial reign by Jesus and His saints. One such thing will be the marriage supper of the Lamb.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Let's look at Revelation 19 now for a description of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Please open your Bible and read Revelation 19 now.

Revelation 19

19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

19:2 For true and righteous [are] his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

19:3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

19:5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed [are] they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See [thou do it] not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Celebration begins to break out in heaven because the Lord has judged the apostate church (the whore) and found her guilty of the blood, of His saints (Rev. 19:1-6). She was a whore because she fornicated with whoever would give her riches and power for her loyalty. Instead of serving God as her reason for existing, she spent her entire existence on serving first herself, and then God, if she served Him at all. She will be completely destroyed during the great tribulation. Satan will be used by God to destroy the whore after her service to the dragon becomes no longer useful to him. That point will be reached when Antichrist declares himself to be god and that all the people of the world are to worship him (Rev. 13:12).

The true church will have made herself ready by this time, that is, she will have gotten as ready as she is going to get (Rev. 19:7-9). After her betrothal to Jesus, she will have been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb, earned her clothes by her works, and learned about Him and what He is doing in the world. She has matured and prepared for this marriage supper by participating in His preparations for the marriage. She is ready to be united in intimate fellowship with Jesus.

Another thing that must be done is the suspending of Satan's activities on the earth. This locking away of Satan is described in Revelation 20. Open your Bibles to that chapter.

Locking Satan Away

Revelation 20

20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection.

20:6 Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Satan will be locked away from earth by being sealed in a bottomless pit for a thousand years. Those thousand years on earth will be without supernatural deception. During this time, the peoples on earth will no longer be battling demonic ideas that are being thrown into their minds as fiery darts. They will be looking at their own choices as totally self-determined. They will either obey the Lord or they will not. All ideas about getting away with disobedience will be self-generated rather than taught to them by supernatural beings that are evil and desire to bring others into evil (Rev. 20:1-3).

The martyrs who died under Antichrist's reign will be part of the Lord Jesus' reign. Jesus will implement His rules through His saints of varying authority. The mar-

tyrs who were beheaded for rejecting the mark of Antichrist, and refusing to worship him will have the highest authorities because they are described as being seated on thrones. These martyrs will judge the world. They will not be looking on the hearts of men, but they will simply evaluate whether or not obedience of Jesus was achieved (Rev. 20:4).

Please notice that the martyrs are described as “souls” sitting on thrones to live and reign with Jesus. Does this mean that they will be without bodies? I think that they will have some kind of body in order to be seen. However, we can see angels when they make themselves visible. Yet, angels do not have bodies, as we know of bodies. This whole phenomenon is still a mystery to me.

Also notice that there are two separate resurrections. One resurrection will be at the beginning of the Millennium, but the “rest of the dead” will not be raised until after the Millennium (Rev. 20:5). Special blessings are bestowed on those of this first resurrection prior to the Millennium. They will be priests and kings of both God and Christ, they will live and reign with Christ for a thousand years, and they will be excluded from the possibility of experiencing the second death (Rev. 20:5-6).

So what will the Millennium be like? Let’s look at Zechariah 14 to see some of the details.

The Millennium

Zechariah 14

14:6 And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] the light shall not be clear, [nor] dark:

14:7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, [that] at evening time it shall be light.

14:8 And it shall be in that day, [that] living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

14:9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

14:10 All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and [from] the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses.

14:11 And [men] shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

14:12 And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.

14:13 And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour.

14:14 And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance.

14:15 And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague.

14:16 And it shall come to pass, [that] every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

14:17 And it shall be, [that] whoso will not come up of [all] the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

14:18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that [have] no [rain]; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

14:19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

14:20 In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

14:21 Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and see the therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

The millennial kingdom age will be the reign of Jesus and His martyred saints over all the earth. This reign begins immediately after the War of Armageddon. In that day, a day that no one knows but God Himself, the light of day will become very strange. It will become dim during the daylight hours but light during the nighttime hours (Zech. 14:6-7). The river of living waters¹ will flow out of Jerusalem forward to the sea and backwards to the “hinder” sea, and Jesus will be the King of all the World, and the Name of the Lord will be One Name, Lord Jesus (Zech. 14:8-9).

The mountainous areas around and south of Jerusalem are going to be changed into a smooth and welcoming plain. The city of Jerusalem will be on an elevation in the midst of this expansive plain, and it will be extended to its ancient borders (Zech. 14:10). The city will be populated with citizens, and their safety will be certain because God declares that there will be no more utter destruction of Jerusalem (Zech. 14:11).

My presupposition of a paradisiacal earth during the Millennium is dispelled with God's announcement of a plague. A plague shall be loosed on all those who fought against Israel and survived. Their flesh will consume away while they are on their feet, their eyes will dissolve within their eye sockets, and their tongues will dissolve within their mouths (Zech. 14:12). So, I conclude that not all of the attackers will have been killed in the Armageddon War. There will be survivors, but their fate is death by dissolving flesh.

The Millennium will not be completely peaceful. Jealousies, lust, and selfishness will erupt in bickering and fighting. It seems that a great rebellion will erupt into more fighting. Neighbor will rise against neighbor and against Judah and Jerusalem. Those who attack Judah will die of the plague and be plundered, and all their treasures will be accumulated in Jerusalem. The animals of the antagonists against Israel will participate in the same plagues as their owners (Zech. 14:13-15).

All survivors of the plague in those nations that fought against Israel will be required along with the rest of the world to make an annual pilgrimage to Israel to worship King Jesus, the Lord, by observing the Feast of Tabernacles. Failure to go to

¹ Since this message is meant once again for His people, I suspect that this river is a “sign” of the restored message of the source of life. Jesus is Life. This is the life that bubbles up in the souls in today's Christians. We are supposed to be in that flowing river taking the message of life out to the world as faithful witnesses (the whole book of Hebrews). Of course the double entendre could apply here as well which would mean that there will be a physical river.

Jerusalem to observe the annual Feast of Tabernacles² will bring a year of drought to that nation. God will cut off the rain from those lands (Zech. 14:17).

If a country refuses to observe the Feast of Tabernacles the next year after suffering a year of drought, the people of that country will be subjected to the plague of dissolving flesh that is described above in Zechariah 14:12 for the attackers of Israel at Armageddon.³ Egypt is set out at this point as an example. I cannot determine whether this will actually happen to Egypt, but I am inclined to think that it is more than a what-if-example. Egypt is described as suffering under the drought for not observing the Feast of Tabernacles and then refusing to do so again the next year. Thus the people of Egypt will then suffer the terrible plague of dissolving flesh (Zech. 14:18-19).

Every pot in Jerusalem will be holy. Everything in Jerusalem will be holy. All sacrifices will be done in the Lord's House in Jerusalem as a holy act to a holy Lord. What form these sacrifices will take is beyond me. We are also told here that the sacrificers will eat of the sacrifices. It sounds like all the pilgrims will be supported while on this pilgrimage by the sacrifices that they are making at the Feast of Tabernacles. There will be no Canaanites to enter the Lord's House again. Only holy people will be allowed to enter (Zech. 14:20-21). This means to me that only saved people will be allowed to enter the Lord's House because Justification is required for holiness.

I must confess that I have always pictured the Millennium much differently than what Zechariah describes. I figured that life would go on, and Jesus would enforce Law and Justice through His saints. The saints would have differing levels of authority. Those of the highest authority would be the saints who were martyred. The martyrs would rule from their thrones. Others would be team supervisors of teams of worker-bee saints who would convey instructions to the nations and monitor their obedience. I just assumed that peace would reign in a paradisiacal world, and the greatest issues would occur at the levels of specific compliance. However, these Scriptures point out additional conflicts and wars as continuing throughout the Millennium.

After the thousand years are past, all hell will break loose. The world will encounter yet another global war, but this war will be the final war. After this war with Satan himself, a new earth will be ushered in. I think that the description of heaven may begin in the first part of Isaiah 11. I will leave the discussion of heaven for another time.

Now let's turn to the final war.

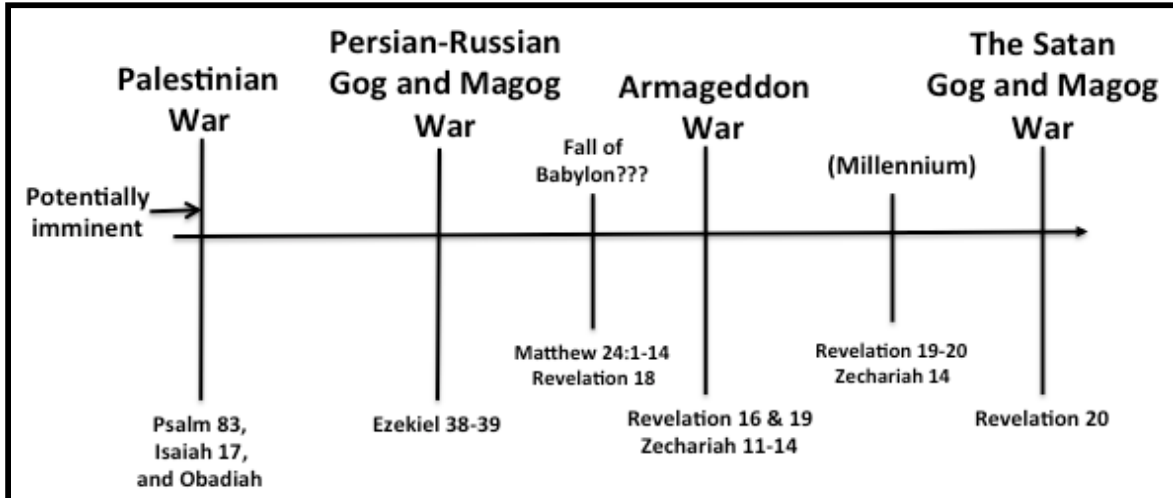
² This Feast teaches us that we are mere pilgrims in the world. As citizens of the Lord's Kingdom, we are temporarily here in the world to be tested over which citizenship we will love most. At present, the Church loves being a citizen of the world most, and that is why she has Mystery Babylon written on her forehead. This same test will be continued during the Millennium.

³ Drought and the plague of dissolving flesh could possibly be signs or physical events or perhaps a double entendre. If they are signs, then I would take the drought to be a lack of hearing the Word of God and experiencing the bubbling up of life in one's soul. The plague of dissolving flesh could also be a sign. Dissolving eyes could mean that one's perceptions of God's Truths could diminish in a spiraling down in the triangle of piety. Please remember that in piety, doing the Truth that you know increases your abilities to understand and perceive additional Truths. When this occurs, one is spiraling up. The reverse is also true. When one does not implement the Truth that he knows, then his ability to understand and perceive lessens. Thus, he spirals down.

Chapter 6

THE WAR WITH SATAN/GOG AND MAGOG

Revelation 20



The final war will come after the Millennium. This time Satan himself is going to suffer the same fate as the other two personages of the evil trinity.

Revelation

20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,
20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea.

20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [are], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

After the Millennium, Satan will be loosed to tempt all the people of the world once again. Even after a thousand years of residing in a world ruled by the most gracious person the world has ever seen, the people are going to do what they have always done throughout history. They will believe a lie and join Satan's rebellion. Gog and Magog come in again at this point (Rev. 20:7-8).

This will be an easy win for Christendom because God Himself is going to defeat Satan's army. Satan and his army (it will be as numerable as the sands of the sea) will surround Jesus and all the saints in Jerusalem. I think that it will be a time in which all the saints are called to Jerusalem for a special conference in which Satan will suppose the gathering to be a perfect time for attack. It will in fact be the perfect time because he and his army will be gathered for a perfect time of destruction. As they surround the city, God is going to send fire down from heaven to "devour them" (Rev. 20:9).

Satan is going to be cast into the lake of fire where Antichrist and the False Prophet are, and they will be tormented there forever (Rev. 20:10).

Next will come the Great White Throne Judgment. In this judgment, the works of the wicked dead who are being retained in hell will be judged. The works will determine the amount of suffering the unsaved people will experience forever in the lake of fire. As each person is judged, his place in the lake of fire will be assigned. This judgment is described in detail in the 4Disciples courses *Doctrine for Disciples* and *Destiny for Disciples*.

CONCLUSION

I have made it clear that there could be one, two, or four wars. I have chosen the four-war theory and written this commentary on the basis of four separate wars with each one bearing its own descriptions of the enemies and outcomes. Please feel free to believe any of the one-, two-, or four-war theories.

In the one-war scenario, there would be four separate battles which would each be composed of different enemies and outcomes. Each of the wars in the 4-war theory would just be a battle within the one-war theory.

In the two-war theory, a war would occur both before and also after the Millennium. The war before the Millennium would be Armageddon, and it would contain the compressed descriptions of all three of the wars that I have ascribed to the premillennial era. The second war with Satan/Gog and Magog would occur after the Millennium.

Regardless of one's choice of one-, two-, or four-war theories, the urgency of our doing our assignments cannot be overstated. We are quickly moving toward the end of our opportunity. Whatever we are going to do, we must get after it now.

NOW IS THE TIME

Ephesians 5:14-17

5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord [is].

Wake up! The church is asleep; it is dead! We are that whore in Revelation 17 that is wearing the mark of Babylon. We are pursuing our flesh. Holiness has been reduced in our lives to refraining from immoral behavior, at best. At worst, holiness for the whore is just in her person via justification. My friend, holiness means that you are a

morally clean person (justification) that has been set aside for God's purposes (sanctification). He wants to use you in His Own mission, the *Missio Dei*, of seeking and saving those who are lost (Lk. 19:10). If you will wake up to His plan by committing to it, then He will give you His Light (Eph. 5:14).

We are commanded to walk circumspectly. By this, please know that we must examine every part of our lives to see how to make them line up with the *Missio Dei*. Our worship, ministry, vocation, ordinary tasks of life, play, and rest must be part of the *Missio Dei*, or they are vain. For example, going to the store for groceries is also a missionary journey, or it is vain. We must be Christ-centered in every minute of our lives, or else we are other-centered in those minutes. Those other-centered minutes, even when they are good, are vain and wasted. Thus circumspection is commanded by God for every part of our lives (Eph. 5:15).

If we do not wake up and rearrange our lives around the *Missio Dei*, then we are just plain fools. To waste our minutes here results in a much greater waste in heaven. For you, the waster, every minute lost here will amount to unfathomably more than a trillion trillions of millennia in heaven. Folks, we have wasted enough of our time, talents, spiritual gifts, and effort. Let's quit being fools and use our time, talents, gifts, and efforts on the special paths that God has designed for us (Eph. 5:15)!

Redeem the time, my dear Brethren! I am talking to myself too. I must make my minutes count for God, not for me. Every wasted minute is evil (Eph. 5:16). I am His bought-and-paid-for slave. No greater honor can I imagine. When I consider the price that He paid for me, I swoon over the idea that He did not get much of a deal. So, He must have paid that high of a price not for my value, but for His awesome love for a wretch like me. I testify that I am awake now and am moving forward in the *Missio Dei* in the light that I have been given. But my wisdom and circumspection are vulnerable, and I am losing minutes everyday. I am susceptible to these breakdowns because of my brainwashing from Babylon. I too wear that damned label on my forehead some of the time, if not most of the time. I renounce that label and want to be a visible and holy ensign for my Lord Jesus.

We are commanded to know what the Lord's will is. This does not mean that we are to just kick back and wait for God to open our heads and pour it into us. No! By this command, I am to pursue it as a great treasure! I am to operate as a wise man! As such, I must expend some effort in finding my talents, gifts, vocation, etc. in order to correlate them to my part in the *Missio Dei*. Getting to the judgment of my works and saying that I did not bring any profit to His Kingdom because I did not know what I was supposed to do is going to be met with divine indignation. We stand to suffer GREAT LOSS! So, if there is just a teeny bit of wisdom in us, we will pursue an understanding of God's will as the great treasure that it is. We will not allow ourselves to be denied its acquisition (Eph. 5:17).

Will you pray and tell another person that you have prayed this prayer?

"Lord Jesus, I can see that time is growing short and that my opportunity for being used by You must be activated by me. I want You to please use me. I am committing to Your use. Please mark it down in Your Book that I am committed to Your use. I am now awake. Please give me Your

promised light. Do whatever You need to do in order to guide my efforts. I want You to use 'Thy Rod and Thy staff to comfort me.' I want with all my heart to experience Your 'anointing my head with oil and preparing a feast before me in the presence of mine enemies so that my cup runneth over.' Lord, I want to be a blessing to You. So, Lord, please do whatever it takes to whip me into shape and pursuing my part in Your great mission. I pray this prayer in the Name of Jesus. Amen."