**SIGNS OF HIS SOON RETURN** May 17, 2020

**THE BATTLE OF GOG**

* the least familiar event to many Christians, but much-discussed today in Israel
* not to be confused with the battle Armageddon, this event seems perfect to set up the Tribulation

**Ezekiel 38: 1-2**

1. **Watch for the Players Involved (v. 3-8)**
2. the Land of Israel (v.8)

* the nation now restored and resurrected from the ash heap of history (Ch. 34)
* now attacked on the northern mountains (Golan, by Syria)

1. the Leader of Invasion (v. 3)

* Gog, Magog, Meshach, Tubal, chief = ‘Rosh’
* Jewish scholars see as modern Russia, bounded by Caucasus and Ural Mountains
* descendants of Japheth, the Scythian and Slavic peoples and Moscovites

1. the League of Invasion (v. 5-6)

* Persia (modern Iran), Ethiopia (and modern Sudan), Libya – all Islamic extremist rulers
* Gomer and Togarmah (modern Turkey) – turning hardline Islamic under Erdogan

1. the Lord of Israel (v. 4)

* the God of ALL history and all the earth brings Gog to fulfill His plans

1. **Wait for the Plot Unfolded (v. 9-22)**

* the plot is in 3 acts. . .

a. Diabolic intention (v. 9-13)

- moved by an “evil thought designed”, Gog comes down to Israel

- motives: strategic location in Middle East, enormous wealth of Dead Sea minerals,

anti-Semitism

* NO opposition from United Nations, no resistance from the United States…only questions from the West

b. Destructive invasion (v. 14-17)

- massive conventional armies descend, including other unnamed nations

- possible high-tech weaponry, robotics involved

- overwhelming, unstoppable force come to destroy Israel – it looks hopeless

c. Divine intervention (v. 18-22)

- hopeless until the LORD STEPS IN

- massive earthquake, confusion and panic, plagues and blood, hailstones and rain, fire

and brimstone

* so unbelievable that everyone will have to say, “GOD did that!”

1. **Wonder at the Purpose Included (v. 23, 16; 39: 6-7)**

* this event could perfectly set up the Tribulation to come…

a. Revelation of God (v.23)

- He is ALWAYS revealing Himself to those who want to find Him, in mercy or in judgment

- this will pre-evangelize some who are unbelieving, agnostic, or formerly indifferent

b. Reduction of Islam

- with the majority of radical Islam’s armies destroyed, little jihad is left

- if this is after the rapture, Christians are removed, so the world can unite in one religion

c. Rise of the antichrist

- in the resulting vacuum of leadership, a man will emerge offering world peace and

socialism

d. Revival for Israel (39: 22, 25, 29)

- many secular and agnostic Jews will be blown away by their nation’s miraculous survival

- this is step 1 – turning to the God of Abraham, which can lead many to step 2 –

accepting Jesus Messiah

for US today – be certain you are ready for His coming

pray for and witness to Muslims and Jewish people – the Lord loves them!