**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!