

The image features a blurred background of the United States flag, with its stars and stripes visible. Overlaid in the center is a blue Star of David (Magen David). The text "When Christ Comes" is written in a white, gothic-style font across the middle of the image.

When Christ Comes

Mountain Grove Study Days September 10, 2010



Israel



When Christ Comes...

then story

Section One:

THE CHALLENGE OF "PROPHECY"

WHEN CHRIST COMES

***When Christ Comes
He brings His reward
with Him
(Revelation 22: 12)
and lays out His
work before Him .***

***His work is
enormously
complex. But He is
ready and equipped
for the task!***



WHEN CHRIST COMES...

Our fervent hope is for it to be very soon.

If we really give attention to events of the day, we realize that mankind has come to a fork in the road of civilization as we know it. He can no longer contain the forces of evil and filth that have always attempted to subvert men and women – the satanic principles of fleshly lust, human pride and the desires of the flesh ... men striving to dominate other men, and to enforce their will upon all others.

The prophets present events of the Endtime in graphic accounts.

*In the last chapter of Isaiah beginning with verse 18, we may read a fair summary of the events of the Endtime which we have witnessed and are about to witness ... **Chapter 66.***

*“18 ... I will gather all nations and tongues; and **they shall come and see My glory.***

*19. And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations – to Tarshish, Pul and Lud, that draw the bow to Tubal and Javan, to the isles afar off **that have not heard My fame,** neither have seen My glory; and **they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles.***

“20. And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the Lord out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules,



Jews from Yemen

and upon swift beasts, to My holy mountain Jerusalem saith the Lord, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the Lord.

21. And I will also take of them for priests, and for Levites, saith the Lord.

22. For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before Me, saith the Lord, *so shall your seed and your name remain.*

23. And it shall come to pass that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, *shall ALL FLESH come to worship before Me, saith the Lord.*

24. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against Me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring to all flesh.”

Perhaps you think this is a rather unusual way to begin a series of optimistic expositions of the development of the Kingdom of God on the earth!

*However, please realize that not only is the element of condemnation there for realism, but SO ALSO are **the elements of eternal blessing.***

- Israel shall return out of all nations to their Land.*

- They shall be honored as priests and Levites.*

- The new heavens and the new earth shall remain forever.*

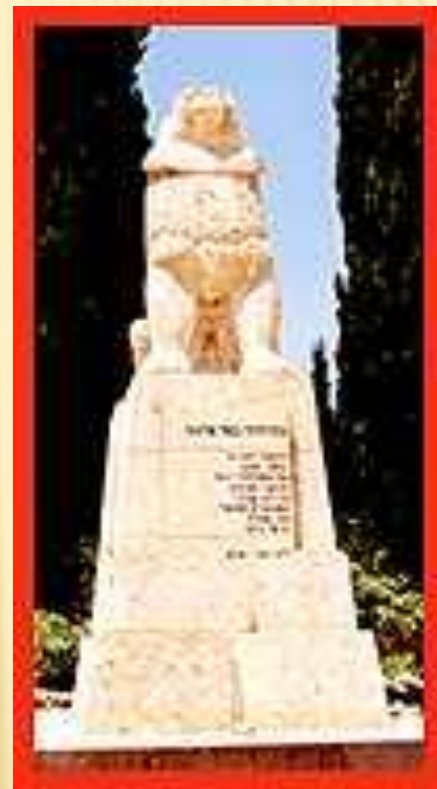
- All flesh shall come up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord.*

Today, Israel, although re-gathering in their land in the latter days, goes humanly on its fleshly course without much attention to God's word – especially among its shepherds – its leaders – who DALLY with God's will in their willingness to make peace with the "Palestinians" and to cede lands and properties to this adamant enemy!

It is **decidedly not God's will**, just as it was not during their first entry into the Land in the time of Joshua.

As a consequence, the fate of the aggressive enemies of God is sealed, and merely awaits its time of execution by the hand of THE Strong Man Who shall deliver His people from those opponents of His will. In reality, we must admit that the time – the set time – to ‘favor’ Zion has certainly begun, but not yet fully matured; and that His people’s inability to fulfill His will stems not only from their faithlessness, but is governed far too much by ‘world opinion.’

*Their confidence is not yet such that they have the courage to carry out His will for them, even if they are aware of it, as some of the pioneers actually seemed to be: men like David Ben Gurion, Theodor Herzl, **Joseph Trumpledor**, Ze'ev Jabotinsky, and the young Menachem Begin.*



***Josef Trumpledor
Lion Monument at
Tel Hai***

Therefore, their path will continue to be treacherous, their tenure on the Land fragile (in human estimation), the faith of many almost absent.

But their Father was not unaware that this was how their Return was to be – that it was to be in UNBELIEF!

But this is about to change...

*Now I want to set the stage for our discussions with this short summary from Graham Bacon's booklet, [Armageddon: Which of the Last Six Battles?](#) GPL 2009. We shall frame our remarks in this format. I share his opinion in this matter ... that of there being **three major phases** of the Endtime wars of Israel – a vital truth to be understood, in my opinion.*

Phase ONE Proximal Arabs – those “round about”

- The CONTEXT - Arab disputation of Israel's sovereignty in the Holy Land. Terrorism, resisted by the Israel Defense Forces. Walls, gates, and strife in the Land.
- The PURPOSE - to establish Israel, by much adversity, in its ancient lands, and eliminate their nearby enemies..
- The ENEMY - Edom/Esau represented today by the Palestinians; also the nations round about. (Psalm 83)
- The ENDING – Expansion to **Greater Israel** and a hard-won victory by Israeli forces and Christ; finished off by the divine trampling underfoot of those who challenge Israel.
- The LOCATION – five areas in the Holy Land. Also the countries of all those enemies taken into Greater Israel.

Phase TWO The Gogian Host

- **The CONTEXT-** Israel has no need of defenses, walls, barbed wire, road blocks [Ezekiel 38:11]. Earlier enemies have been completely eliminated. They dwell in PEACE ... and now comes Gog of the Land of Magog...
- **The PURPOSE-** the battle will simply be one of plunder of the riches of Israel and, by its outcome, will destroy those arrayed against Israel and the Kingdom.
- **The ENEMY-** Russia and her outlying Islamic allies, today already clients of Russia, all named in Ezekiel 38, 39.
- **The ENDING -** confused self destruction upon Gog, accompanied by divinely directed deadly forces of nature.
- **The LOCATION -** east of Galilee, 90 km south of Damascus.

Phase THREE **The Harlot, the Beast and the False Prophet ... Armageddon!**

- **The CONTEXT** – *Resistance to Christ by a wealthy, exclusive **Europe**, influenced by a deceptive religious force*
- **The PURPOSE** – *to deceive the ruling governments into supporting a war against Jesus Christ's Kingdom. The leaders are infuriated by being tricked into a war they cannot win. Europe shall be freed, and converted.*
- **The ENEMY** - *the religious influence based in Rome and all who contribute to the **religious and trading empire**.*
- **The ENDING** - *the European leaders rebel, and burn everything associated with the fraudulent influence; the rival challenge to Christ's Kingdom is destroyed.*
- **The LOCATION** – *Europe and particularly the Roman Church's presence wherever located.*

The Challenge of 'Prophecy'

In the study of Bible prophecy one is challenged by several primary considerations. One of the most important challenges is the accurate identification of various countries and powers that are referred to by the prophets, and accurately to identify the movers and shakers of any revelation so **the current players** of that prophecy may be determined. For example, has it been fulfilled? When was it fulfilled? If so, how did its fulfillment move forward the Plan of God, if that can be determined? What nations of today are involved (Who lives there today)? Does the prophecy remain to be fulfilled in the future? How did it relate to the ancient people to whom it referred?

Other needs are to determine **the time** when the prophecy was given, **to whom** it was given, **the impact** of the prophecy on the then-current politico-ecclesiastical situation, the indicated possible **time of its fulfillment**, upon **whom** the prophecy would be operative, and other relevant factors.

*I believe one of the areas of prophetic study that is most challenging is the **accurate identification of the participants** – the nations named – in any prophecy. Especially is this principle important **in prophecy which remains yet to be fulfilled** either in the near or in the distant future. (Most often, **after** fulfillment of a prophecy, the chief characters may easily be determined from the record simply by critical inspection; not so prior to fulfillment.)*

For example, when 'Persia' is named in a prophecy we immediately know the prophet is speaking of present day Iran – the ultimate successor to Persia of old, which occupies roughly the same territory as did ancient Persia; her name was changed in 1932.

*But other place-designations may not be as easy as 'Persia.' I immediately think of **Togarmah**, for example; or **Sheba and Dedan**; or **Tarshish, Magog and Gomer**; **Moab, Edom and Ammon**; **Elam**; **Assur**; **Assyria**; **Babylon**. These are decidedly not modern place-names, yet we must determine what countries or entities are indicated by these ancient names.*

John Thomas wrote in detail about these entities as well as several others. In speaking of this aspect of prophetic study – the current identity of ancient peoples – he recorded a succinct observation which I want to bring to your attention. The quotation is found in Elpis Israel, [Charles Jones, Birmingham, 1924] pages 487-488.

The reference is not short, but I will quote much of it in order to set the context of his remarks:

“But the Lion-Power (by which he indicates Great Britain) has not yet attained [in the mid-1800s] the limit marked out for it by the finger of God. The conquest of Persia by the Autocrat [of Russia] will doubtless cause England to conquer Afghanistan and to seize upon Dedan [the southern Saudi Arabian peninsula!] that she may command the entrance to the Persian Gulf, and so prevent him [he refers here to the Autocrat of Russia] from obtaining access to India either by land or sea. Possessing Persia and Mesopotamia, the apprehension of his pushing still further southward, and perhaps establishing himself on the northeastern coast of the Red Sea and so

***“taking them in the rear and gaining access to India by the straits of Babelmandeh, will also be a powerful motive for the Merchants of Tarshish and its Young Lions to take possession of all the coast from the Gulf of Persia to the Straits, and thence to Suez, by which the Lion-power [i.e., Britain] will not only become the Sheba and Dedan, but also the Edom, Moab, and Ammon of the ‘latter days (sic);’ for in speaking of the events of these days, the prophets refer not to [original – Ed] races of men, but to powers [now] on territories designated by the names of the people who anciently inhabited them.*”**

“Hence, for instance, the Lion-power **planted hereafter** in the ancient territory of Moab becomes the Moab of the latter days (sic); so that when the countries before-named are possessed and settled by the British (sic), they will be men of Dedan in Muscat, men of Sheba in Aden and Mocha, and Moabites, Edomites, and Ammonites in their several territories (sic). Thus, the prophecies concerning those countries in their latter-day developments have regard to the power to which they then belong, and which, I have no doubt, will be British; which, together with the Autocrat’s, though henceforth always rival dominions, will endure until both powers are broken up by the Ancient of Days.”
[emphasis mine – Ed.]

I must conclude that this is a fundamental, utterly sensible, and legitimate statement about the current locations and definitions of nations and powers in prophecy: that is, whoever presently occupies the land of an anciently named place or people IS the working identity of that place or people today, and are the subjects of any prophecies involving that place.

It is a principle which absolutely denies the opposite approach to the problem – the challenge of tracking nations and peoples in prophecy from where they lived in earlier times to the present day. For example, where today are the peoples or nations located who anciently occupied specific places but migrated away from them? It is not, he states, the newly attained locations of these peoples which are nominated in prophecies, but their ORIGINAL PLACE of habitation – or where they were established when the prophet or prophets wrote of them.

Think about this: in order to verify and determine the places to which ancient peoples have since migrated is rather 'iffy' to say the least. Often we cannot know whether the subject nation or people still exist – or do so under another identity. To determine their locations accurately **we would have to depend upon fallible historians throughout the ages and the accuracy of any commentary they should have made about the movements and migrations of peoples and nations from their ancient settlements to where they are thought to be located today. Are their records complete? Have they been modified by later “editors?”**

That is always complex as well as questionable. Take, for instance, the ancient Scythians. Their original location was in southern Russia and the power was called Magog by the Greeks. Josephus gives their settlement as being Asian, located in the vicinity of the River Don (the Tanias, in the trans-Caucasus). Their area of settlement later broadly spread from their original habitat. But are those movements accurately traceable throughout all subsequent ages; and are they relevant?



Uralic tribes

Turkic tribes

Scythia

Sarmatia

Balto-Slavs
Magna
Germania

Dacia

Roman Empire

Chorasmia
Margiana

Sogdiana

Yuezhi

Bactria

Parthia

Indo-Scythians

Arabia

Middle Kingdoms
of India

***Bro. Thomas traces the Scythae as follows:
“It only therefore remains for us to ascertain, which were the nations that the Greeks, in the time of Josephus (now we have advanced to the era of Jesus Christ) called Scythae and which they then called Galatae; and to observe whether the geographical affinities of these nations are such an answer to those which are plainly required (sic) by the prophecy for Magogue and Gomer.***

“Herodotus, the most ancient Greek writer accessible, acquaints us, ‘that the name Scythae was a name given by the Greeks to an ancient and widely extended people of Europe, who had spread themselves from the River Tanais, or Don, westward, along the banks of the Ister, or Danube.’ ‘The Greeks,’ observes Major Rennel, ‘appear to have first used the term Scythia, in its application to their neighbors, the Scythians of the Euxine (the region of the Black Sea), who were also called Getae, or Gothi; and were afterward those who subdued the Roman Empire....”

‘And again, the Scythians of Herodotus appear to have extended themselves in length from Hungary, Transylvania and Wallachia, on the westward, to the River Don on the eastward.’” [Actually these people spread from East toward the West, and not the way stated above, for they proceeded from the first migratory stop of the Magogae which is now in the Trans-Caucasus of southern Russia - Ed.] Thus the testimony of Herodotus and Josephus is in perfect agreement concerning the progress of Magogue and Gomer.”

As you possibly already know, Bro. Thomas as well as published historians additionally trace the Scythians and Goths *further north in Europe*. These Gothi were those who invaded Europe's south, established themselves *in what is now France, as Gauls*. From there they fought their way to the British Isles *and became the Celts of Ireland and Scotland*.

But they were not finished with their peregrinations: Millions of these Celtic folk have *migrated to South Africa, to the New World - to the United States, to Canada - to Australia* and other remote parts of the earth.

It is estimated that there are at least four times as many Irish Celts in the U. S. than there are left in Ireland! Others migrated to many other nations. If there were a prophecy involving the Celtic peoples, which of those locations might we utilize to locate them in the latter days – any of them...or ALL of them? You can see the source of confusion in this approach! Such a prophetic interpretation could have little rational use to us as an aid to understanding such a prophecy.

“ ... for in speaking of the events of these days, the prophets refer not to [original] races of men, but to powers [currently located on territories] designated by the names of the people who anciently inhabited them.... Thus, the prophecies concerning those countries in their latter-day developments have regard to the power to which they then belong, and which, I have no doubt, will be British; which, together with the Autocrat’s, though henceforth always rival dominions, will endure until both powers are broken up by the Ancient of Days.”

In order to determine the outworking of prophecies relating to MAGOG - SCYTHIA, one needs to look at the original location of Magog – that is, their early Trans-Caucasus location – and determine who controls this same area in the Endtime – in the Latter Days – to determine a scriptural understanding, in the time when the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 and 39 about them is about to be fulfilled.



Uralic tribes

Turkic tribes

Scythia

Sarmatia

MAGOG

Balto-Slavs
Magna Germania

Dacia

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Arabia

Parthia

Middle Kingdoms
of India

Ancient Magog is now occupied by roughly five CIS republics: Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan (UTTKK). Territories to the east are Russian, Ukrainian, etc.

KAZAKHSTAN

0  300 km
0  180 miles



They are 98% Moslem in character. They are rabidly anti-Semitic. The capital of Kazakhstan is a city until recently known as Alma-Ata. Any great leader of Russia emanating from these CIS republics is automatically Gog of the Land of Magog! – Whether he fulfills the role forecasted for this great despot or not.

***Therefore, I have attempted to
tabulate some***

***Basic Rules for Prophetical
Interpretation.***

***These will be discussed in detail
further on, but briefly they are:***

First, do not spiritualize the text and extrapolate additional implications beyond its original meaning before you understand its objective meaning in the prophet's context.

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Second, apply the words primarily to those to whom it is written. Those folks must be able to sense its relevance to them and their then-current affairs; it must MEAN something to them that they can appreciate, although they may not understand all aspects of it early in the game.

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Third, it must integrate and agree with all other scriptural references which may apply to the events prophesied.

Fourth, any interpretation must not violate any other basic, scriptural tenet.

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Fifth, it must integrate sensibly with existing time lines of history.

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Sixth, if secondary or tertiary meanings seem to be applicable to the prophecy, they must agree in principle with its original intent.

Seventh, apply the prophecy to the peoples who NOW live on the territories referred to at the time of the fulfillment of the prophecy; that is, don't apply the prophetic intent to the areas to which the original people later may be thought to have migrated as this is tenuous, inaccurate, depends upon historical records and their accuracy, and would often be impossible to determine with certainty.

Next, I want to discuss one of the Endtime players in prophecy – The King of the North. Indeed, I believe, THE LAST KING OF THE NORTH has already met his end.

There is a Christadelphian mantra which goes like this: Armageddon will involve “the Latter Day Assyrian, Gog of the Land of Magog, the King of the North” attacking Israel!

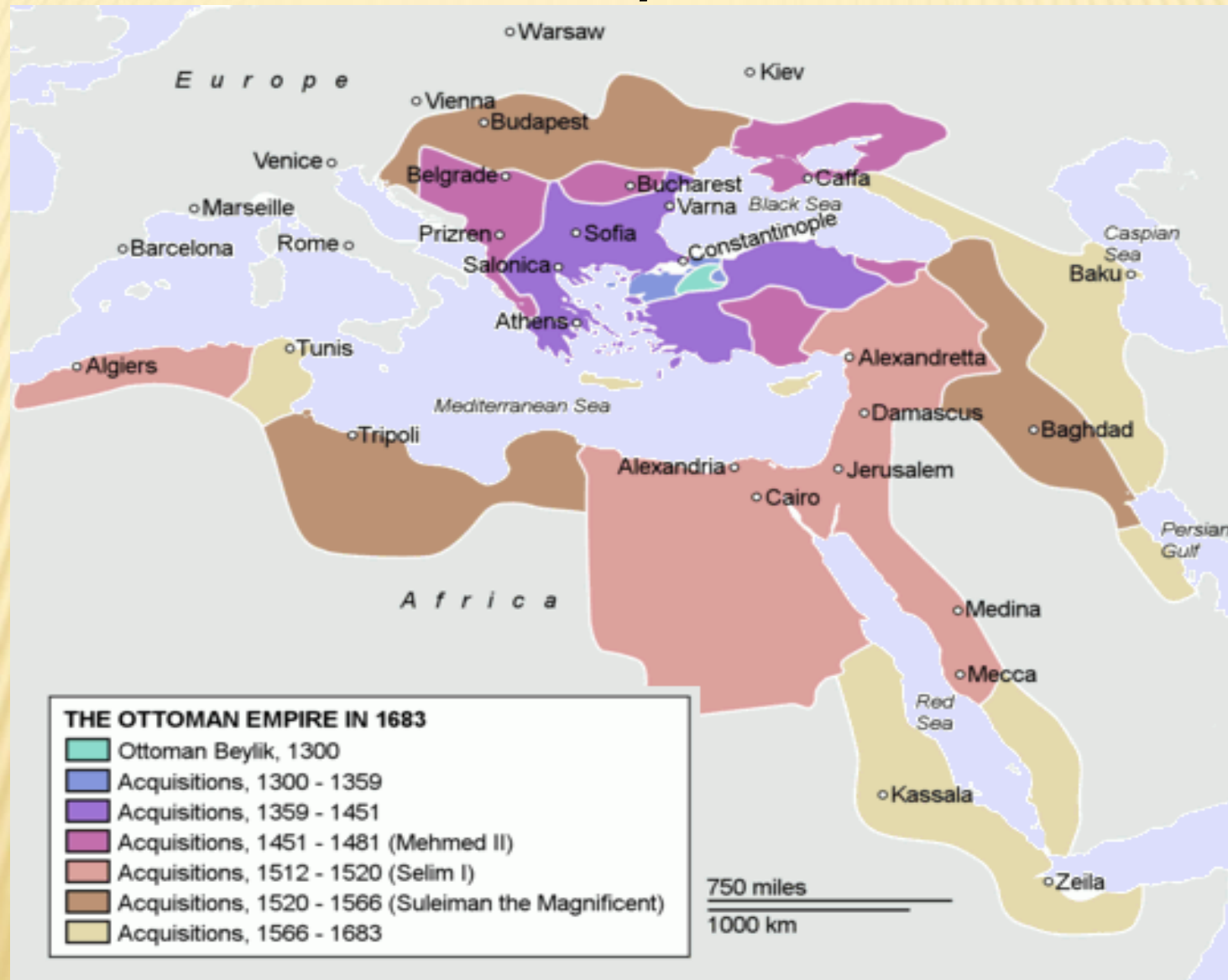
May I tell you that I believe these entities are not all the same, but are ALL DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER? I will discuss now the details of the Last King of the North as I see them – scripturally – with which I hope you will agree at the end!

It is vital for us to be aware that the King of the North is no longer any threat to Israel, or to God's people BECAUSE HE NO LONGER EXISTS. It is amazing that so many of God's diligent people don't accept the facts of this case, which, decades ago, played out right before our eyes. And the reason that they don't is because they have been led so strongly to believe that these Endtime events would happen in a greatly different way, so they will not consider OR DISCUSS other answers!!

Not a wise approach to the subject!

So, the issue becomes doubly important to consider, because so many brethren do not accept that the King of the North is no longer in the prophetic picture. He will never again threaten God's Land. He met his last end in 1917, when the forces of Britain captured Jerusalem and all Palestine from the Ottomans, which resulted in the drying up of the river Euphrates (Revelation 16:12), and made way for "the kings of the east."

The Ottoman Empire in 1683

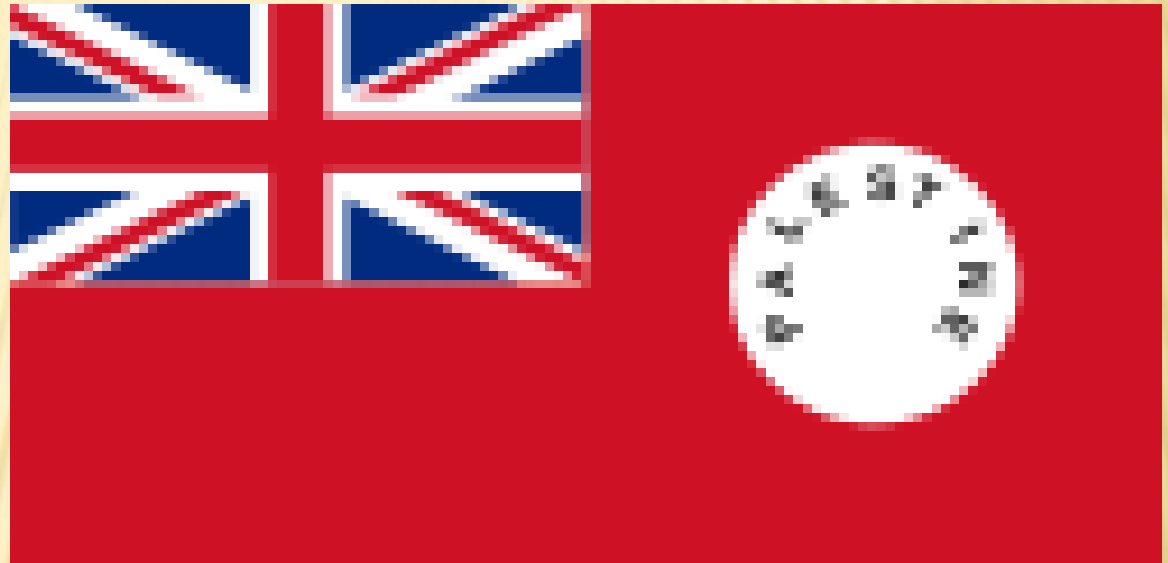


*At that point, Israel had been promised an Homeland in Palestine by the Balfour Declaration - and that promise was soon to be confirmed by the League of Nations at San Remo. Jewish fortunes abruptly changed for the better. The Almighty began to show His Servants that **He was now fulfilling His plan with accelerated vigor**; we were traveling no longer altogether by faith, but partially by SIGHT.*

When General Edmund Allenby captured Jerusalem in December, 1917, he did it not for Britain, but to hold for future Jewish return and colonization. Indeed, in 1922, the League of Nations gave Britain just such a mandate - to form a homeland for the Jews according to the terms of the Balfour Declaration of 1917. Their government over Palestine was termed the British Mandatory Government, or the British Mandate. Here is what it looked like....



*The Mandate had its own
ensign...*



The Jews began to return in fair numbers, until 1922, when their immigration was stifled by a British White Paper limiting their influx to 1,500 per month! This came about because of extreme Arabic pressure on Britain to keep the Jews out of Palestine.

Now, we are perfectly aware that earlier expositors have looked at these conflicts – these events – as part of a unified, greatly complex, conflagration to take place at the EndTime - a massive battle against God’s regathered People, Israel, by The King of the North, by Gog of the Land of Magog, and the “latter day Assyrian.”

*Problem is, it didn't turn out that way at all. And cannot do so, for **two of the key players have now been extinguished** - the King of the North and the King of the South.*

Please allow me to explain...

*Daniel 11 details the long, serial narrative of the several Kings of the North and South in their contest to win and hold the Promised Lands **during the time of Israel's dispersion.***

The centuries saw several kings and countries gain and hold the titles, King of the North, and King of the South. The criteria for those designations were only two: (1) to be located either north or south of the Promised Land and its holy city, Jerusalem; and (2) to come against it and gain control of it for their own imperial interests before the re-gathering began.

*The situation at the time when John Thomas wrote **Elpis Israel** was that Egypt had already come to her end as the last King of the South; Ottoman Turkey was then King of the North.*

The interplay between these specific powers begins in Daniel 11: 40, and continues through the end of the chapter, verse 45. This is the crucial reference to these final episodes of these primary powers. The time period covered is 400 years: from 1517 to 1917 AD. Let's examine them in some detail:

Daniel 11:40 - *“At the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.”*

What does this verse mean? The southern king threatens the northern one, and is

It takes place at “the time of the end.” That time period is defined in the writings of Daniel by its uses, one of which is in the verse quoted above. Also, in Daniel 12: 9, the words of the book are “closed up and sealed till the time of the end,” as also in verse 4.

These words were un-sealed well before 1517 AD, the time of this fulfillment. John is told in Revelation 22: 10, “**seal not** the sayings of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand” (96AD). The Revelation, it will surely be agreed, fleshes out and explains the writings of Daniel to a large extent.

Perhaps, then, on this basis, the unsealing of all the prophecies was dictated near the end of the first century. It may appear to be an early date for “the time of the end” to begin, but the phrase, **“the time is at hand”** lends credence to the idea that the time had come when these things could begin to be fulfilled and to be understood.

Some students believe that “the time of the end” began with this utterance, and stretches to our present day. I am of that personal persuasion. But **ALL the components of understanding were in place by 657** at the era of construction of the Dome of the Rock.

*Now, what happened at that early time? Military action by the King of the South (Egypt) against **the Ottomans who were about to become the King of the North** is indicated, which leads to a disaster for the former.*

Historically the date of this action is 1517 AD. Egypt, King of the South at that time, being in control of Palestine and Jerusalem, indeed “pushed (northward) at” the Ottoman power, which then had control of Damascus and Syria.

*As Egypt battled the Ottomans, disaster overtook the Egyptians; their Sultan was killed in fighting near Damascus. Without any effective leader, the Egyptians fled in disarray southward, through Palestine, toward Egypt. The Ottomans pursued the Egyptians with fervor and with huge numbers of troops. Its navy threatened Egypt proper. No fighting of significance occurred in Palestine on their way southward. The Ottomans, when they had overrun Jerusalem, in 1517, **became the last King of the North** almost by default. In other words, Jerusalem and Palestine was not their real goal, but in “passing over” that land, they had come into possession of it. They administered the Land for 400 years - until 1917 – for their own Imperial interest but little bounty!*

With the Egyptians leading the rout, the Ottomans chased them all the way to Cairo, where six months later, the Ottomans were victorious, conquering Egypt completely. The phrase “King of the South” is never again used in this or other prophecies. That entity had been eradicated from Jerusalem and Palestine, and from history.

The Ottoman troops had plainly “overflowed and passed over” Palestine, where historians tell us there was practically no fighting - merely pursuit of the Egyptians in wild, scattered commotion on their way to Egypt proper. Due to the Ottomans’ positive and overshadowing presence in Egypt, the Libyans and the Ethiopians (Hebrew Kuwsh, the Sudan) also came under the Ottomans’ control. Verse 41 confirms this...

Daniel 11: 41 - *“He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.”*

This is what happened : the King of the North entered into the glorious land, and overflowed it and passed over it with little attention to it.

Palestine was to him on that occasion a mere passageway to Egypt, but unimportant in its own right. It was almost uninhabited – a desolate, poor wasteland, useless and unproductive.

But many countries were overthrown. Egypt's possessions in the north, Syria and Palestine, as well as Egypt itself were all overthrown and placed under tribute, which we shall soon see. Libya, and Sudan were intimidated so that they, too, fell into line with the Ottomans and became her subjects.

The most interesting portion of this verse tells of the "escape" of Edom, Moab, and most of the children of Ammon. Historians tell us that these three areas, south, east and northeast of the Dead Sea, were sparsely inhabited by Bedouins who were naturally anarchic and practically uncontrollable.

The Ottoman never did exercise his hegemony over these specific areas during their occupation between 1517 and 1917, because it was not worth the effort. Beyond these areas lay the trackless wastes of the Saudi Arabian peninsula, which was also worth little to them as well.

Daniel 11:42 - “He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries; and the land of Egypt shall not escape.”

“Stretching forth his hand” upon the countries mentioned above means he exercised hegemony over them by force of his threat to their existence if they did not pay tribute and comply with his wishes. The land of Egypt, indeed, did not escape, for it was conquered and also placed under tribute to the Porte of Constantinople.

Daniel 11:43 - “But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.”

His “power over the treasures of Gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt” is the prophet’s way of saying that the Ottomans would now begin to extract from Egypt its precious treasures and its liquid capital.



That is what happens when a nation is placed under tribute; the threat is, if they don’t pay the tribute, then their overlords will return and obliterate them! Turkey of that day was strong and aggressive.

It's a pretty strong reason, in the face of weakness, for continuing to pay any tribute which is demanded!

Notice the almost benign language applied to Libya and Ethiopia, who were to “be at his steps,” that is, at the feet of the king of the north, or in subjugation to him, although not even occupied by his forces! These were also severely threatened by the Ottomans if they did not toe the mark and pay their tribute.

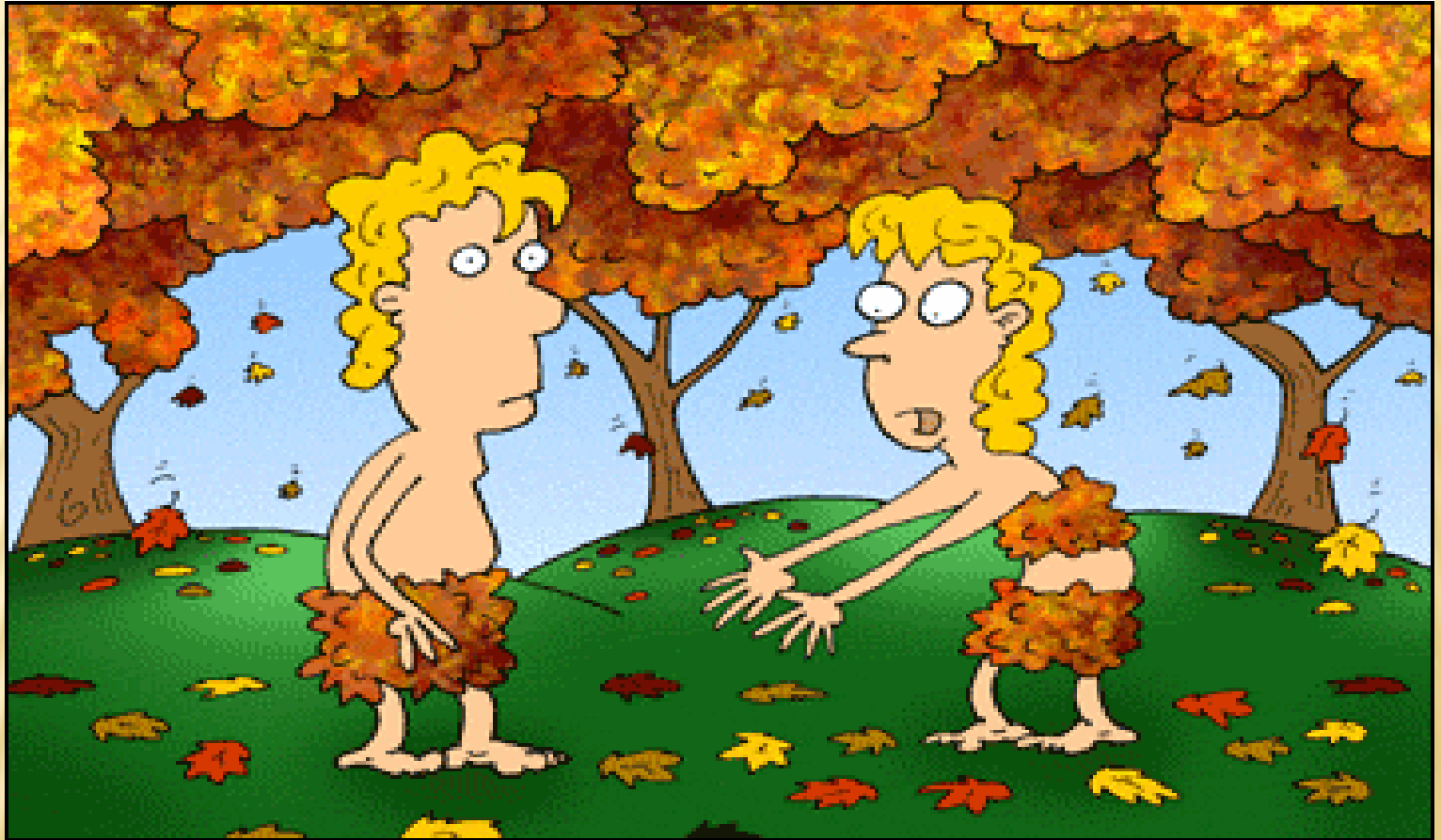
Daniel 11: 44 - *“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.”*

For about 396 years the Ottomans’ control over Egypt and their neighbors went smoothly. Nothing much happened of importance. In one year the Ottomans nearly doubled the tribute on Egypt to £720,000 and the levy was willingly paid by Egypt! Even after Britain arrived in Egypt (1882) to protect its interest in the Suez Canal, Egypt continued to pay this tribute - until the year 1917!

END Session One

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10-06-2006

WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?

Those 396 years are ignored in the prophecy, which now jumps directly to the next relevant events.

Now we consider ... Section Two:

BRITAIN'S ROLE IN JEWISH STATEHOOD

*In the beginning years of World War I, Turkey's Ottoman government joined with the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Yugoslavia, etc., in their war against the Allies. **It was an extremely bad choice.** For nearly a century, the weakness of the Ottomans, who controlled the countries mentioned, as well as the valley of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers down to the Persian Gulf, was reflected in the appellation, "the Sick Man of Europe."*

Britain's forces in Africa were now headquartered in Cairo. A new commander had just been assigned to head that force - General Edmund Allenby. He was soon commanded to push northward into Palestine and Syria in parallel with British forces which had entered the Euphrates valley at the Sha'at al-Arab, the estuary of the Tigris/Euphrates river systems on the Persian Gulf, and had taken the Ottoman stronghold at Basra, near the Gulf.

These tidings out of the east (east, relative to Jerusalem, not to Constantinople, as in the entirety of Daniel 11) were alarming to the Porte, who now recognized an extreme threat from that force.

In addition, T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) was busily organizing the Bedouin of the Saudi peninsula into an Arab irregular cavalry force mounted on camels, armed with rifles, with which to harass the eastern fringes of the sparse Ottoman operations in Palestine from Aqaba to Amman in the territory of the “escaped” regions of Edom, Moab and most of Ammon (now Jordan)!



Lawrence
owned a much-
 favored camel
 who was
 named “Jedha.”
 He claimed she
 was beautiful
 and was
 comfortable to
 ride long
 distances.



These tidings out of the east were troublesome enough, but were not all the Porte's problems. The Germans and other allies of the Ottomans in the north were being slaughtered in Europe and could not send reinforcements to assist him in his southeastern regions of Palestine, Syria and old Assyria (Iraq). Together, these were the troubling tidings out of the east and north. Therefore, the Porte did what he could, with vigor!

Anticipating trouble from Allenby and Lawrence's Arabs, he vigorously moved his 7th and 8th armies into Palestine and established a strong military presence there for the first time (before that, only Administrative Police inhabited the region). Remember that Jordan (Edom, Moab and most of Ammon) were never under tight control.

*He determined to try to prevent any movement of British forces into Palestine. The language of the latter portion of this verse indicates an entirely different complexion on his 1915 presence from his 1517 presence in Palestine. In **contrast** to his earlier “passing over” the land, this latter stance is **warlike, fierce and aggressive**, which is in character with the last phrases of this verse 44.*

Daniel 11:45 - *“And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”*

We must point out here a serious discrepancy in the AV wording of this verse. As it reads in the AV, we can think of no other location for “the tabernacles of his palace” than Jerusalem, which is precisely “between the seas (the Med and the Dead) in “the glorious holy mountain” of Zion.

But the Turks devoted little attention to Jerusalem beyond rebuilding its walls. They stationed no troops there to speak of and their military headquarters was elsewhere. So what is the answer?

The **RSV** is a translation truer to the original, and changes the picture entirely.

Its rendering is “**He shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain...**” The phrase ‘palatial tents’ refers to his military headquarters. **Moffatt’s** translation is even more definitive in this area: this phrase is “**...pitching his royal pavilions between the Mediterranean and the sacred hill so fair!**”

This is a decisive change. Does it fit what the Ottomans did at the time?

Yes! It does!

The Porte's forces established field headquarters for their armies at an accessible location on the coastal plain of Palestine, not at Jerusalem in the mountainous and remote central highlands.



They established headquarters at Ramle,  in the southwestern suburbs of what is now Tel Aviv-Yafo! Precisely between the Mediterranean and the sacred Hill of Zion!

The verse could have no more perfect a fulfillment! You see, the AV misleads us into thinking it means some kind of structure relating to the King of the North's ***residence***, or base of authority, AT JERUSALEM.

No! He HAD NO RESIDENCE there! It really refers to his *military headquarters***; that was established at Ramle.**

That takes care of the first half of the verse. The greatest concentration of Turks, and their military headquarters, was on the coastal plain near Tel Aviv!!

What did Allenby do?

In a brilliant feint to the east, he brought people into the Jordan valley near Jericho and set up dummy airfields, complete with dummy planes, a huge army encampment with tents, trucks and equipment – all just mock-ups of the real thing; but good enough to deceive the few Turkish observation planes which viewed it all!



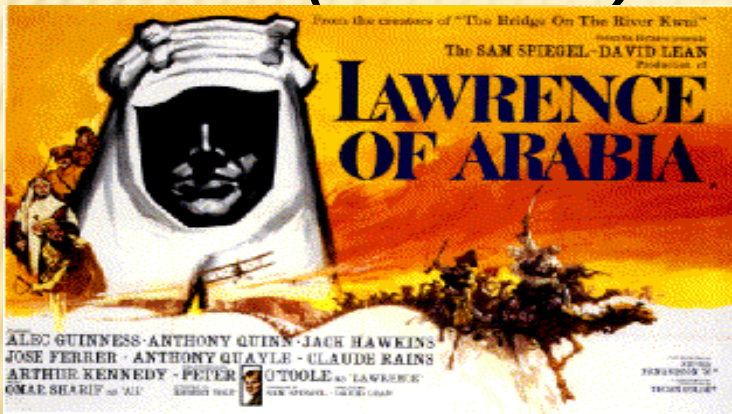
**General
Edmund
Allenby**

The mock encampment was in the Jordan Valley at

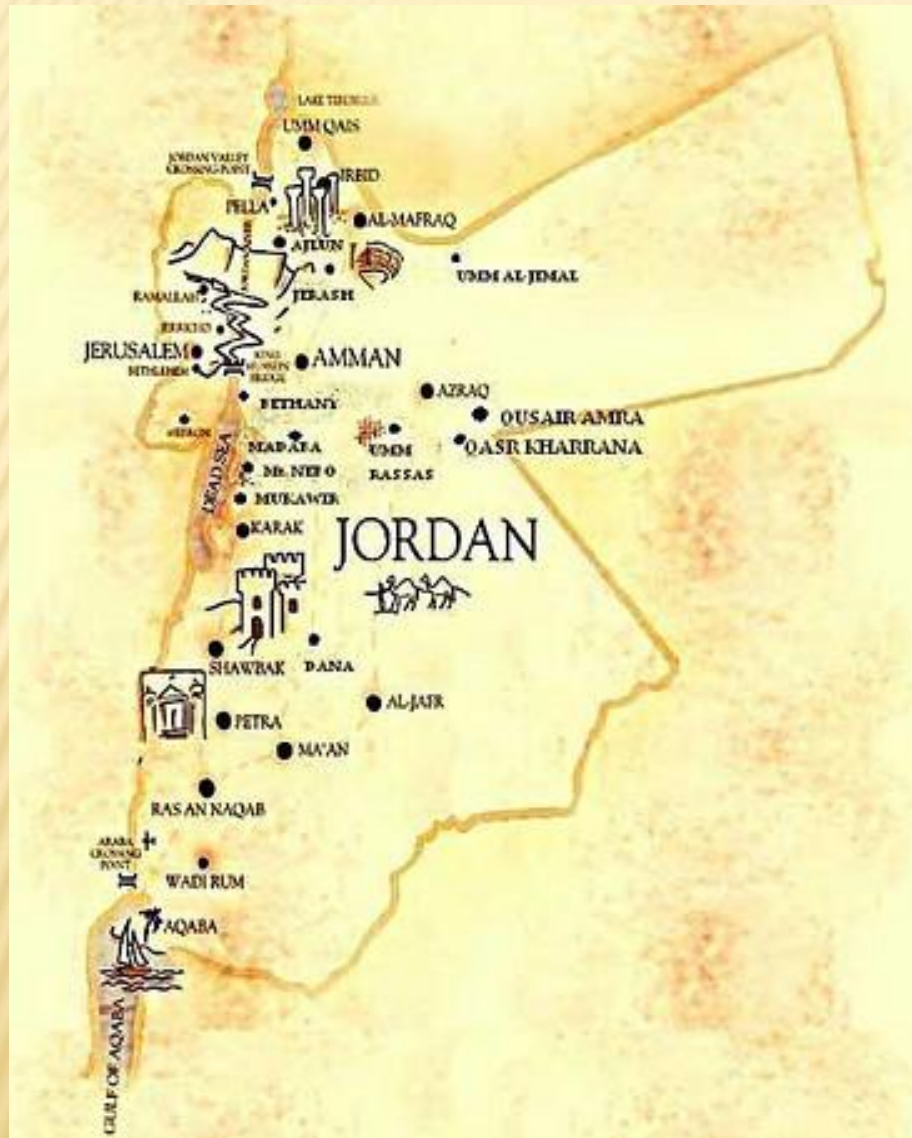
★ Meanwhile he moved his armies across Suez and approached Tel Aviv along the coast from Gaza. While the Turks had diverted much of their force toward the east - to counter the simulated British forces north of Jericho - he captured Jerusalem, and drove them out of Ramle ⊕ and northward, toward Megiddo. △



*At about the same time, Lawrence, with his camel-mounted Arab irregulars had taken **Aqaba** and now drove north through the “escaped” territories of Edom, Moab and Ammon (Amman) and cut the eastern branch*



of the Turkish railway which ran from Afula (near Mt. Tabor, in the Galilee) to De'ra. The Turkish escape via rail was cut off.



Jordan was Lawrence's battlefield in the east. This 1917 map shows the uncontrolled territories of Ammon, Moab and Edom where the Turks maintained little control over the Bedouin.

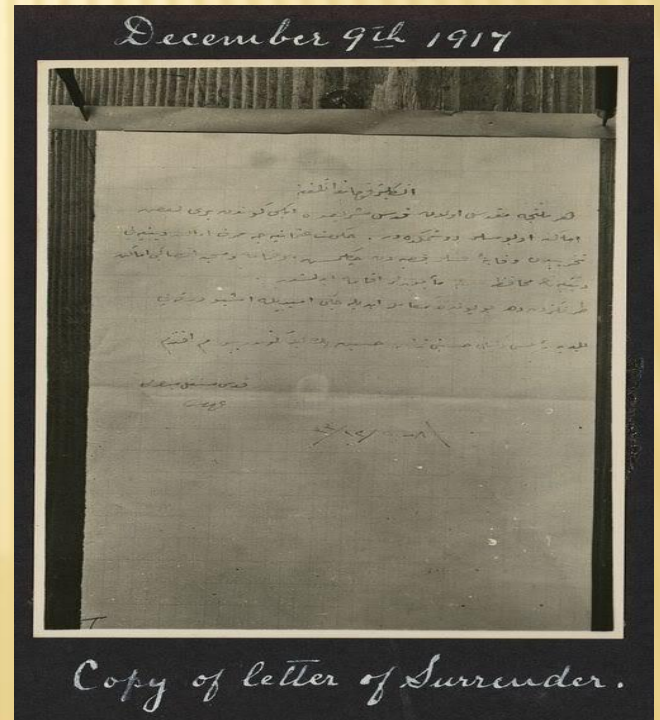
The Turks faced Allenby at Megiddo in yet one more massive battle on that great, superb, level battlefield known in Greek as the Jezreel, and lost royally to the British forces.

The Turks were routed northward along the Lebanese coast into Syria and eventually back to the Anatolian peninsula from whence they had come. Lawrence and his Arab force arrived at Damascus before Allenby. The victory had been decisive!

On December 9, 1917, Allenby had come to Jerusalem. Without firing a shot, because the Turks had fled the city toward the north. They had heard that “Allah-bey” (soldier of allah) was approaching! He entered the city walking, his campaign hat over his heart, and was said to have uttered the phrase, “This day I have fulfilled prophecy,” as he entered it!



He entered the Old City through the Jaffa Gate at the Tower of David, where he accepted the surrender of the Turkish garrison.



Copy of letter of Surrender.



*Moslems Surrender
Jerusalem - 1917*

As a result of these British actions, the power which had controlled the Euphrates valley for these hundreds of years, had been forced back inside its lair. The Ottomans had returned to Turkey, never again to overflow their neighbors again. Their power had been “dried up” by the British victories in their eastern provinces, and the way had been opened for “the fig tree and all the trees” of Jesus’ Olivet prophecy to spring up as in Luke 21: 29.



**KING ABDULLAH II
OF JORDAN**

These, in another figure, were “the kings of the east” of Revelation 12 – the new nations which soon filled that Ottoman territory left vacant by Britain’s victory! A “king” headed nearly every new Arab principality, which sprung up after the Ottomans were removed. Those which were not, were headed by Sheiks and emirs which are essentially the same thing – leaders with absolute and despotic control over their subjects.



**PRESIDENT BASHAR
ASSAD OF SYRIA**

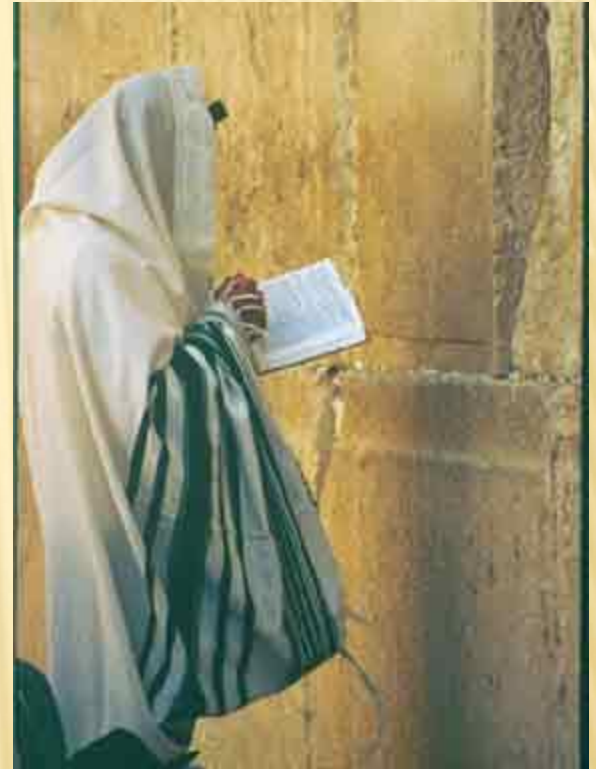
However, the British conquerors of what was then called Palestine *could not be called the King of the South. Why? Because Britain did not take this action because it wanted the land of Palestine for its own possession, but was in a real sense conquering it for a Homeland for the Jewish people of the world!* It was a fact proven by the previously issued Balfour Declaration – *a legal document* designating the purpose for which Britain was to take Palestine by *physical* conquest.

*Even though that may not have been in the mind of every British officer who fought for Palestine, that was **God's destined purpose for the land**, and this was **the first tangible step** toward the resumption of the fulfillment of His eternal purpose.*

*Therefore, Britain is not called the King of the South. After the last King of the North manifests himself and defeats the (Egyptian) King of the South, there is **no more reference** to the latter.*

Instead, the Dispersion of Israel was about to start drawing to its conclusion. The Diaspora would now diminish, and the population within The Land would steadily gain!

*Only five weeks before this date, **The Balfour Declaration** had proclaimed Britain's favor toward Palestine as an homeland for the Jewish people.*



**Prayer at the
Western Wall**

**The actual
Balfour
Declaration
of
November
2, 1917**



Foreign Office.

November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country".

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Y. L. ...
Arthur Balfour

Later, Britain reneged, but that did not change either the symbolism of their original act or the purpose of the Almighty!



And thus ended the momentous prophecy of the “Times of the Gentiles” – a name given the period by the Lord Jesus Himself in Luke 21: 24, as he stood mourning Jerusalem on Olivet’s western slope that evening in 32 AD only hours prior to His personal Sacrifice on the tree at Golgotha. *The scene before Him* was dominated by the incomparable *Herod’s Temple*, yet standing starkly upon its spacious platform, yet to be The center of Jewish ritual for another forty years, then to be destroyed.



Model of Temple Mount

*Jerusalem
Today ...
From the
Mount of
Olives*



As you know, the period had its beginning in 604 BC, when Israel was overcome by Babylon [later the First Temple was overthrown and destroyed in 587BC.]. It ran through seven periods of 360 years each - seven years of years - until 1917 AD, when the 2520 years expired and the Captivity of Israel began to be reversed.

The period had experienced an abrupt beginning in 604 BC, after years of preparation. Its end came likewise in one day, beginning several years of the transition to Jewish sovereignty over Jerusalem through a period of much tribulation with their neighbors.

*Its purpose was betrayed by Britain's Mandatory government, which quickly decided **it would not be in Britain's best interests to establish a Jewish state there!** The conversion of its naval forces from coal to oil made Arab petroleum an absolute necessity for Britain.*



God's plan was immutably destined to be otherwise, however, and He brought it to a successful conclusion, NEVER TO BE REVERSED by any man or nation.

Now - a word to the prudent and wise. With this perfect fulfillment of the last end of the King of the North, put him out of your prophetic conscience, except as a reminiscence, or as concrete proof that our Almighty Father conspicuously fulfills prophecy before our eyes, with absolute perfection, expecting us to recognize it and acknowledge it. Otherwise your expectations will be muddy and unclearly focused.

Do not confuse the King of the North with another king FROM the “uttermost parts of the north” who is also destined to come upon “the mountains of Israel” – the host of Gog of the land of Magog, chief prince of Meschech and Tubal, as foretold in Ezekiel 38-39.

As we have seen, all the parameters of this still future event are unique to it alone.

We aren't there yet in historic time. But the termination of the King of the North has rolled over from the prophetic literature into that of history, and we should fully and readily recognize it.

Now, while we are on this subject of identifying God's and Israel's vile enemies we need to take some time to **summarize the MANY differences between the King of the North (the Ottomans) and Gog**, often confused with each other.

With the foregoing facts in our minds, it is an easy, definitive difference and conclusive.

So, just *WHAT differences are seen in the accounts of the Gogian invasion and that of the King of the North (K of N)?* We now list several striking, acute differences (and others may be found with further study). The two accounts are found in **Daniel 11: 40 - 45** (King of the North), and in **Ezekiel 38 and 39** (Gog).

1. The states named as combatants are **consistently different for the two conflicts**. Neither conflict's account has any state listed in common with the other (except the State of Israel, whom they all attack).
2. **Gog is destroyed** as soon as he approaches Israel (Ezekiel 38:18). The King of the North **is not "destroyed,"** but merely "comes to his end, with none to help" (Daniel 11:45). That latter-named aggressor was largely driven from the Land, not slain on the mountains of Israel.
3. Gog is **not said to "overflow and pass over"** the Land (as the K of N is, in Daniel 11:40), but he is destroyed by the supernatural devastation wrought by the Almighty, then is devoured by wild beasts and birds in the Land of Bashan (39:18). ***The King of the North DID overflow the***

Land and pass over it; but Daniel DOES NOT suggest that he is destroyed in Bashan, or “east of the sea,” or even destroyed at all. Many of the Ottomans (K of N) were killed, but the remainder was driven back into Anatolia where their Empire ceased, and totally disappeared, having been replaced by the modern government of Turkey.

4. Gog cannot “take the treasures of Egypt” for not only does he never reach Egypt, there are no treasures there anymore! The King of the North, the Euphratean power (Revelation 16:12) of the Ottomans (Turkey) did take them away, and collected tribute of Egypt for 400 years.

5. Gog in Ezekiel 38/39, is not described as taking control of modern Israel, nor even of causing any perceptible harm to it! Ezekiel assures us Gog is destroyed as soon as he “comes against the land of Israel.” The Ottoman Turk, as the King of the North, on the other hand, overran ALL of Palestine (its provincial name at the time) and held it under its thumb for 400 years!

6. Gog cannot “take” Jerusalem because Ezekiel **DOES NOT describe him as even entering modern Israel** as we know it today; he only gets as far as the area east of the Sea of Galilee or the Dead Sea and the Jordan valley. The King of the North, however, not only **overran the entire Holy Land in pursuit of the Egyptians in 1517, but he established a minor military garrison there** to guard his interests. (His major military headquarters, established only when the threat from the British forces in Egypt became a problem, was established at Ramallah (Ramle), near Lod, in the Sharon, just before 1917.)

7. Gog does NOT DESTROY two thirds of the returned Jews, as many claim. No such hint is found in Ezekiel 38/39! The reference in **Zechariah 13:8, 9**, which many erroneously link with this account in Ezekiel, refers to the first century overthrow of Jerusalem (70 AD). Indeed, it is the practically undisturbed **JEWS of Ezekiel 39:9, 12 – the House of Israel – who come forth out of the cities of Israel to bury Gog**, who has been slain in one day for his aggression against the kingdom of Christ! (As a matter of interest, **there were but few Jews in the Land when the Ottoman Turk “overflowed and passed over”** the Land on his way to Egypt in 1517 AD. An additional fact of great importance is that the **Egyptians** were his enemies when he entered the Land and passed over it – **not the Jews!** And still another important fact: no purges of the Jews that we know of were instituted at any time during Ottoman occupancy of the Land.

8. Gog never “takes” Egypt, either, nor Libya nor Ethiopia (Hebrew, Kuwsh = Sudan), because, in his drive south **he gets no further than Bashan**, where he is totally destroyed. The King of the North, however, **took complete control over Palestine and Egypt**, and exercised pervasive hegemony over Libya and Ethiopia, taking tribute each year from all the last three. Libya and Ethiopia are the only countries named in both campaigns, but it is patently apparent that the involvement of these two are **entirely opposite in the two accounts**, showing clearly that they are both participants in one invasion (that of Gog) and that they were merely victims of the King of the North, in Daniel 11.

9. Gog will not attempt to attack Israel until Israel “dwells safely” and has great wealth, which, as we see it, will not apply until Christ returns. The Ottoman King of the North overran “the glorious land” but did not take the Land for its wealth; it had none; it was not significantly cultivated nor built up; it had almost no known natural resources except the minerals in the Dead Sea, riches at that time unrealized.

At the time of the Ottoman invasion of the Land, in 1517, THERE WAS NO “ISRAEL.” It cannot be described at that time as having been Jewish in composition, although some Jews lived there; it had NO WEALTH at all; the Land was sparsely settled and was defined only by the name “Palestine,” the southernmost Province of the region known as Syria, which was then under the control of Egypt, the King of the South of that day. The Ottoman, however, harvested the vast wealth of Egypt for 400 years, all of which he hauled away to Constantinople!

10. Gog is described in Ezekiel 38:5-7, as being a **“guard” to many nations**. No such description is given by Daniel of the King of the North. The Ottoman North-king supplied little to anyone, but **took everything** he could get from everyone.

11. Gog is nowhere described in Ezekiel 38/39 as **“planting a tabernacle”** in **“the glorious Holy Mountain.”** Rather, God rains on him and his associated people rain, hail, fire and brimstone as soon as he comes against Israel. **He has no time to “plant” much of anything anywhere before he is destroyed.** The King of the North, meanwhile, is described by Daniel (in the AV) as **“planting the tabernacle of his palace between the seas”** in the glorious Holy Mountain. But there are better translations which indicate a facility located in a more westerly location, viz., at Ramle (Ramallah), and that **the “tabernacle” is actually his military pavilion, or headquarters, which the Ottoman Turk DID establish there.**

12. The Gogian host comes against “Israel, My people” **to take a spoil and to take a prey** (Ezekiel 38:12). The King of the North had **NO objective in Palestine at all**, and certainly **NONE** in “Israel,” for it would not even exist for 430 years into the future! Instead, he was interested in “the treasures of Egypt!” Two entirely different countries, two entirely different objectives!

13. The Gogian host is said to **invade a land containing a remnant of God’s people** brought “back from the sword, and...gathered out of many people, against the mountains of (a nation called) ISRAEL” and **a people “dwelling safely”** – a condition that, even now, cannot be said to exist (even today, armed to the teeth as they are, they dwell not in safety, and **NEVER HAVE** since the State was founded) – nor was this condition **EVEN REMOTELY TRUE** in 1517, when the Ottoman King of the North overran Palestine, and when there was **NOT YET** a nation named ISRAEL, and only a few Jews dwelt in that arid, malaria-ridden, forgotten backwater that was the Syrian province of Palestine.

The foregoing notes compared the activities and intentions of the King of the North with the Gogian (Phase Two) battle of the End-time.

*So, we must admit that **much difference exists between the final conflict of the Phase One Campaign and the Phase Two (Gogian) Campaign** – two yet future invasions of the Land and People of ISRAEL – as are demonstrated between the two just compared.*

So the prophecy of the demise of the Gogian host shall likewise roll over into history – into perfect fulfillment of God’s holy oracles – but not yet. We obviously have first to deal with closer, more proximal enemies of Israel and her new nation.

At the end of the transitional period which began in 1917, in almost precisely 30 years (see Daniel 12:11), the United Nations Organization, in 1947, **voted to partition Palestine**, giving a portion of it to the Jews and a portion of it to the Arabs. The State was formed 30 years after the Balfour Declaration.

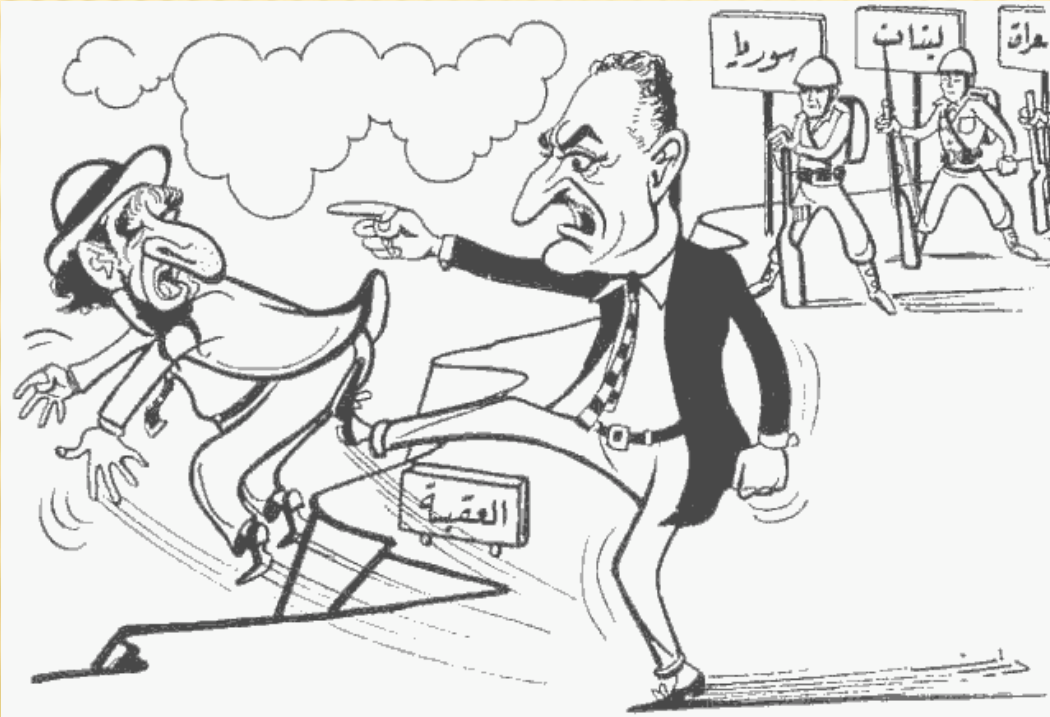
That event occurred on May 14, 1948, when *The Palestine Post* ran this banner headline.



Believers have been expecting the appearance of Christ for decades especially since 1948, when the State of Israel was founded.

From that milestone, Israel's journey has not been easy. We have evidently mistaken a well-known passage in **Micah 7: 15..."According to the days of thy coming out of Egypt will I shew unto him marvelous things." The emphasis was not to be on those "days" as we supposed, a period of forty YEARS, matching their wilderness journey, but a series of **miraculous events** during the subsequent years of the State in which God's glorious hand of delivery was clearly discernable! The emphasis was on the "marvelous things" of their journey, not its length!**

We beheld these in great abundance. The major miracles being the survival of the State in the first place, when 660,000 Jews had to fight forty MILLION Arabs, and did so... victoriously!



We observed similar military prowess during the next three wars in 1956, 1967 and 1973, and in subsequent actions in which Israel was forced to defend itself or perish.

At the Western Wall June 7, 1967



The Israellis had warned Jordan to remain neutral during this conflict but it was drawn in by Nasser's blatant lies about Egyptian victories.

*After 19 years under Jordanian control, the Old City and East Jerusalem was taken by Israel. The action was completed on June 7, 1967, and ended the **Prophecy of the Sanctuary Cycle** precisely on time, 2,300 years after it had initiated in the year 334 BC when Alexander the Great had beaten the forces of the Persian army in the battle of the River Granicus in Asia Minor.*

Now their tribulation of the Endtime is nearing its end...but the end is not quite yet, perhaps for the sole reason that “the fullness of the Gentiles” has not “come in” – that the predetermined number of Gentiles have not yet been taught the principles of the Gospel? (Romans 11: 25)

Since that time, the Islamic states on the borders and near Israel have fought her very existence. They remain enraged that a prosperous Israel exists in a sea of Islamic poverty and ruin.

They say as one man, in the only unity they can manage:

“Let us take unto ourselves the houses of God in possession” (Ps. 83: 12).



Israel's – as well as their enemies' – certain assurance is found in Psalm 83:14 - 18: “As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire; so persecute them with Thy tempest, and make them afraid with Thy storm. Fill their faces with shame....Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: that men may know that Thou, Whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the Most High over all the earth.”



These fierce enemies are now building their accounts of guilt before God for their murderous treatment of His people. Their defeat shall be exhaustively complete and final!

Ezekiel 35, in addition to Obadiah, is a clear, summary account of the utter destruction of Edom (Mt. Seir) and the reasons for it. After that victory, says the prophet, shall Israel know Me. A landmark development, indeed!!! We shall strive to remark on six or seven examples of the TIME of Israel's recognition of Him later, if we have time...

When Shall Israel Know That “I am the LORD?”

This commentary is based upon the statement to this effect in [Ezekiel 39: 22](#). “So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward.”

Some maintain that this is the time of Messiah’s appearance to Israel and the time when Israel recognizes Him as Messiah.

But there are many other references to this realization by Israel of His Kingship – and they occur PRIOR to the invasion of Gog.

As far as we can determine, there is no description of Messiah's *actual second coming* (of placing His feet on the earth) in the Old Testament prophets. But there are several passages which, in their narrative, indicate that He has come and that He is among their enemies, defeating them, ending their terror and their despicable treatment of His people Israel, all *PRIOR* to the Gogian conflict.

*I intend in this section to show that these actions are entirely necessary in the clearly prophesied context of the Endtime, **and introduce the precise conditions for the coming of the Gogian host**. It is important that the brethren of Christ understand this sequence as, though now quite clear to many, it is not the “accepted” view (the historical view).*

*Some have claimed that here in Ezekiel 38 where the prophet makes this statement about their knowing the Lord’s identity “from that day forward” indicates that this is proof positive that Christ does not appear until He destroys the Gogian Host, thus proving to Israel that He is Messiah. **But this is NOT the case!***

1. Psalm 83 is a prime case in point. In this prayer of Asaph, the final conflict of Israel with ten various entities is given in much detail, and indicates total oblivion of these enemies in a summary account. Note, please the specific names of the enemies of God and Israel in this prophecy, a limited number of designated city-states and designated places which are clearly enumerated in verses 6 – 8, and ARE NOT PART OF THE GOGIAN HOST.

The psalm concludes with, ***“Let them (the Proximal Arabs – those specifically named in verses 6 - 8) be confounded and troubled forever, yea, let them be put to shame and perish: that men (the ‘men’ – or people – of Israel, for NO OTHERS shall recognize His identity at this early stage) – may KNOW THAT THOU, WHOSE NAME ALONE IS JEHOVAH, ART THE MOST HIGH OVER ALL THE EARTH.”*** Our conclusion has to be that the actions spoken of here will be the concrete proof needed by the people of Israel to convince them of His true identity.

*The doomed enemies of Psalm 83 are not Gogian enemies, but are an entirely different spectrum of aggressors named in that psalm. All this occurs **prior to the Gogian affair**. If their destruction were prophesied to be at the same time as the Gogian attack then at least one of these nations should be named in Ezekiel 38 and 39; but they are not – suggesting that these no longer exist when the Gogian attack is mounted. If they were still in existence, Gog would need to pass through at least three of them and would certainly have their cooperation. We may note several other differences in the two episodes as well.*

Psalm 83 is the *only* reference where this unique group is *completely listed*; and the present time is *the only time in history when they have ALL been enemies of Israel at the same time*. In addition to this, it can only be a prophecy of the Endtime because “Israel” has been “Israel” only since 1948! But many other passages list one or more of these entities, which in context indicate their destruction as being part of the Endtime wars of Israel against their enemies. That is to say, when ‘Edom’ or ‘Moab’ are recorded in separate references as being destroyed, the 83RD Psalm and they necessarily refer to the same event as *no enemy can be destroyed twice*. Examples follow...

2. Obadiah, vv. 19, 20 enumerate FIVE areas of Edomites which shall be wiped out by Israel and taken for its own territory, and the immediate result is (vs. 21), “Saviors (Christ and the Saints) shall come up on Mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau, and the kingdom shall be the Lord’s.”
This presence in Zion shall occur as the Edomites (obviously the “Palestinians,” for **the specific regions named are today nearly 100% inhabited by members of the PLO and associated groups**, are all defeated by Christ and the Saints, and assisted by Israel’s army.

Whether the defeat of Edom is accomplished by Israel alone (as some scholars feel it seems to be here in Obadiah) prior to the wider conflicts with the remainder of the group is not clear. I have the conviction because of verse 21, that Christ and the Saints shall be there and lead the conflict – perhaps the only O. T. reference to Messiah's appearance (?).

In either case it is quite discernable that it is under these specific conditions that Israel shall “know the Lord,” prior to the Gogian conflict, and that He shall be sitting as their King at the later arrival of the Gogian coalition. We need to **think of the vast changes which He shall make during the interim time period – before the arrival of Gog. Otherwise there must be some other explanation for this account...?**

3. Ezekiel 35: 11. Speaking of Israel, God says, “I will make Myself known among them (Israel, consistent with ‘them’ mentioned earlier) when I have judged thee (Mount Seir, or Edom – vs. 2). Note the precise time (verse 5): “...when their (Israel’s) iniquity had an end,” or when they behold the severe judgment and total destruction of their enemies. This judgment upon Edom is the same scenario as that recorded in Obadiah. At that time, Israel will realize Who their Savior really is – the Returned Christ! Again, this is obviously prior to Gog’s attack.

4. Isaiah 34: 1 – 9. Here is another definitive record of this landmark event, when the world in general (verse 1) shall behold the slaughter of Edom (verse 5 – the same scenario as Obadiah). **“The indignation of the Lord is upon all nations...He hath utterly destroyed them.”** This is not indicative of all the nations of the earth; he is speaking ONLY of the proximal foes, including Edom/Bozrah/Idumea. Verse 5: “My sword is bathed in heaven” = the Idumean ‘heaven’ or hierarchy. It is inane to claim that these, called “all nations,” are all the nations of the earth; **the term has a limited application.**

It is the same battle as that of Isaiah 63 – “Who is This that comes from Edom...” – and is the personal presence of the Christ defeating these enemies...not a part of the Gogian conflict. Indeed, it is “the day of the Lord’s vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion.” We’ve beheld the preliminary struggle for 62 years to date.

5. Isaiah 63 quite clearly and graphically depicts the personal, and final settlement by Christ of His score with Edom, and is a vividly detailed picture. *“The year of My redeemed (Israel) is come”* – vs. 4. It is in this episode that He *“brings down their (Edom’s) strength to the earth”* – vs. 6. This is the unmistakable, conclusive defeat of Israel’s “Palestinian” enemies, again, **and Israel shall know the Lord as a result of this conflict, when “the King of Glory shall come in”** to them with visible power and strength, and with salvation from their enemies. *Indeed, this victory, along with the total defeat of Proximal Islam, is what triggers their inquiry as to the Lord’s identity in Zechariah 12, and their acceptance and repentance in Zechariah 13* (references further down)!

6. Joel 3: 16, 17. Here the Lord *“shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem...the Lord will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel. SO SHALL YE KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD DWELLING IN ZION...”*

The closing verses expose a time of **tranquility and peace (for the Gogian affair)**, when *Judah shall dwell forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation* (vs. 20). This entire third chapter occurs specifically *“...when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem.”* THEN, note verse 2: *“I will also **gather ALL NATIONS**, and will bring them down into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them (will judge them – footnote) there for My people Israel.”*

May I suggest that ALL these are the SAME nations which first gathered against Jerusalem in 1948, when half the city was taken by Jordan? Since then the SAME Islamic enemies, defeated at that time, have persistently aggressed Israel, and have tried again and again to conquer Israel but have failed.

After their attempted **military** conquests, Israel was practically forced to offer to them a series of “peace treaties” but they would not accept the generous benefits that Israel (senselessly) offered.

So NOW these enemies are fiercely involved in their third approach: involved in the DE-LEGITIMIZATION of Israel before the nations. They are seemingly having more success than with earlier methods – witness the recent “Goldstone Report” in which a United Nations commission accused Israel of war crimes in its invasion of Gaza (Operation Cast Lead). This will doubtless bring the confrontation forward to the time in which *Israel stands alone as Christ describes them in Isaiah 63*, proclaiming that, “of the people there was none with Me, and I have trodden the winepress alone.”

7. Ezekiel 28: 22 – 26. Here is a definitive picture of Christ's defeat of Zidon, here representative of the "thorns and briars" (vs. 24) which have pricked at Israel interminably, of "all that are round about them, that despised them, and they shall know that I am the Lord God.... Then shall they dwell in their land, that I have given to my servant Jacob, and they SHALL DWELL SAFELY THEREIN...shall dwell WITH CONFIDENCE when I have executed judgment upon all those who despised them round about them, and they SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD THEIR GOD" (vs. 26).

Note that the result for Israel here is that “they shall dwell safely therein” – a condition completely unlike the situation today! This action obviously sets the stage for the later Gogian conflict, when Gog observes what they mistake to be ‘easy pickings’ in an Israel that they believe is utterly naïve and foolish, dwelling without bars and gates, dwelling confidently in their land under a new “king” whom the Gogians do not recognize.

8. Ezekiel 34: 23 – 30. This records that God shall “set up one Shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even My servant David, a prince among them...and He shall be their Shepherd” (v. 23). “They shall be safe in their land (setting up conditions for the Gogian invasion, so this prophecy is clearly BEFORE that event), AND SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD, when I have broken the bands of their (enemies’) yoke, and DELIVERED THEM OUT OF THE HANDS of those (the “Palestinians”) that served themselves of them.” These have now been accomplished!

Note that they shall not recognize the Lord's identity BEFORE that time. Surely, these oppressors are the wild beasts (Arab aggressors) who make Israel "a prey" by suicide bombs, rockets, shells, the running of legal blockades (Gaza), propaganda, hatred, and despicable acts against God and His people, as is happening today, and has been happening for scores of years.

These things may seem unimportant to your way of thinking – and that the nearby Arabs are no REAL threat to Israel. Sadly, some readers of the Word outrightly deny these facts and hold to their entrenched conviction that the Gogian invasion brings the return of Christ – but this is not God’s revelation of the sequence of events!

He has decreed that the Arab aggressors “round about” must pay for their wicked aggression upon His people, for their blasphemy of His name and His people. HE comes personally to mete out their retribution!!

He shall therefore send Christ and the Saints to settle the score with these brute beasts. That Christ is present with them is proven by the quotations above, and here by Ezekiel 34: 29: “I will raise up for them a PLANT OF RENOWN, and they shall no more...bear the shame of the heathen (the nations) any more.” Verse 30 says it all: “THUS SHALL THEY KNOW THAT I THE LORD THEIR GOD am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are My people, saith the Lord God.”

Thus begins the Careers of the immortalized Saints of God! Unaccustomed to warfare and violence, they now follow faithfully their Master and Commander, that One who rides on a white horse, “He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. And His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns ... and He was clothed in a vesture dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.” Revelation 19: 11 – 13.

END SESSION TWO

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ANOTHER ESKIMO BAPTISM GONE BAD