

# The Coming Middle East War Pt 2

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Take your Bibles and turn to Psalm 83. We are speaking this morning on the coming Middle East war, part two. Now we had part one last Sunday morning. If you missed it, you can go to our website. It is on our website and you can listen to it there and just click on to it and you can listen to it, download it, whatever you want to do with it. And you can get the first part of this message.

Psalms 83.

And in Psalm 83 beginning with verse one:

Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. 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. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah.

Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: Which perished at Endor: they became as dung for the earth. Make their nobles like Oreb, and like Zeeb: yea, all their princes as Zebah, and as Zalmunna: Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession. O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind. 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; that they may seek thy name, O LORD. 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.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 83:1-18.

Now shall we pray?

*Now, Father, I pray that as we look into this Word today, that you would make it clear and understandable to every one. And, Father, at this time I pray that you would help each person to realize that not only is Jesus Christ coming again, he is coming soon. And if they are saved and they realize that all accounting will be done at that time they will be caught up just as they are. If they are without Christ help them realize that today is the day of salvation, that they will flee the wrath to come. And we would ask this in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Now last week we told you of a Middle East coalition of nations that are out to destroy Israel. They want to eliminate the Jew and wipe them completely off the map.

We look at verse four in our text. It says:

“Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.”<sup>2</sup>

And that is their desire. And it fits right into the intent today of those nations that surround Israel to destroy them completely as we see these Arabic, Muslim nations. They want to destroy them. There is no desire to compromise with the peace process.

There are four coming wars to this earth that the Bible identifies for us. Now there may be many more wars, but the Bible talks of four of them. There is a... I am going to go from fourth to first, but there is the fourth one is the last one and that is the battle at the end of the millennium when they all gather against Jerusalem once again. They have been deceived by the devil who during the millennium who was chained in the pit and he is loosed and he deceives many more once again. And then there is a war at the end of the tribulation when all the nations come against Israel. And, again, they are soundly defeated and the blood flows to the horse's bridle. Then at the beginning of the tribulation there is a coalition of nations under Russia. It is a Russian coalition and we went to Ezekiel 38 by which we will be going to there again in just a few minutes. But we went to Ezekiel 38 and we showed you those nations, Germany, Turkey, Libya, Ethiopia and others in that coalition, Persia, Iran, Iraq. And those nations will be coming at the beginning of the seven year tribulation period.

Then the first war of which the Bible addresses is the war that could happen before the tribulation, before the rapture or right after the rapture. Now, understand, the rapture does not start the tribulation. The confirming of a covenant with Israel begins it, but it will not be confirmed with Israel until after the rapture. This war could happen before. It could happen after the rapture, but it would be before the tribulation.

The nations listed in verses six through eight are: Edom, the Palestinians; the Ishmaelite, Moab and Ammon which today is Jordan; the Hagarenes and Amalek which seem to be

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<sup>2</sup> Psalm 83:4.

identified with Egypt in their historical locations; Gebal which could be part of either Jordan or Lebanon. In my own personal opinion it is more of Lebanon. The Philistines which seem to be Gaza and then there is Tyre which is Lebanon and then Asher which is today Syria. The children of Lot we told you that could be the Golan Heights area, those in that area or it could be in Iran which some hold to. I have to hold to the Golan Heights area. But it could be other areas as well.

But we know that they surround Israel. So since we looked at those first four verses as well as those countries in verses six through eight, we want to continue with the thought this morning. The war of the surrounding nations again do not need to wait until after the rapture. It could happen today. It could happen this week it could start.

Now we need to look at the Russian coalition coming down against Israel at the beginning of the tribulation period to understand some possibilities that are here, why we read what we read here and how it affects that war later. Ok?

So I hope that you will follow with me as we go to Ezekiel chapter 38, because we are going to lay a foundation here to help you understand Psalms 83. We are going to look briefly at this second war, the war at the beginning of the tribulation with Russia so you can understand the Psalm 83 war.

In verse eight of Ezekiel 38 we read:

“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 have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.”<sup>3</sup>

Now we are told they are brought back from the sword, but not only are they brought back from the sword, they are dwelling safely, all of them.

Now that is not true today. Israel is not dwelling safely. They are not brought back from war. They are not brought back from the sword, so to speak. There are bordering Gaza there are thousands of bombs that have already hit Israel in the last three years coming from Gaza which promised to stop bombing three years ago. And so this is not true at this time what we are reading here.

We go on to verse 11 of Ezekiel 38.

“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.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ezekiel 38:8.

<sup>4</sup> Ezekiel 38:11.

Some of you who went with me to Israel last time and when we were in Bethlehem, you remember the guide saying, “Please tell your leaders when you get back to America to put the pressure on to take down these walls.”

Now really what I wanted to say to them, is, “Well, if you will quit shooting Jewish families and babies, maybe they will.”

I didn’t say that because Bethlehem is 75 percent Hamas and I did kind of want to get our folks out of there.

But we know that Israel is not now the land of unwalled villages. They have got gates. They have bars. They have checkpoints and rightfully so. That is the better part of wisdom for that area.

Now let’s go into verse 15, speaking the Russian coalition.

“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.”<sup>5</sup>

Now it is interesting the many people there. We will get back to that later. But just keep that as a mental note.

One of the interesting things about that 15<sup>th</sup> verse of Ezekiel 38 is that we don’t see symbolic language. When symbolic language will include words like and unto, as it were, as if, as and words of that nature. But those are not used here especially concerning these horses.

Now why the illustration of a horse at the beginning of the tribulation period, especially when at the end of the tribulation it says that blood will flow to the horse’s bridle. And here at the beginning of the tribulation and none of this seems to be symbolic.

I believe there is a reason for that and we will get to that as well a little bit later. Verses 19 through 23 or Ezekiel 38.

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; 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. 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. 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

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<sup>5</sup> Ezekiel 38:15.

stone. 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.<sup>6</sup>

For many nations they will see there is no doubt with the hail stones, the fire and everything that comes down and destroys this army that this is the hand of God against the Russian coalition.

God will use nature to destroy them. And this is at the start of the tribulation period. But it makes me think how powerful this antichrist must be that they will believe his lie. Now, of course, God will send strong delusion that they might believe that lie, but they will believe it. What is the power of that influence.

Now we finish out some thoughts in chapter 39. I just want to look at four verses in chapter 39. First of all, verse two.

“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.”<sup>7</sup>

We are told here that five out of six soldiers will die. Five-sixths of this entire army that has many in it are going to die at this time.

In verse six it says:

“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.”<sup>8</sup>

Now, understand. Not only on Israel, but back in the land of Magog, back in Russia, but not only Russia, but also those lands that dwell carelessly in the isles, those lands that are far off.

What does he mean dwells carelessly? These are those, they see Israel attacked and they have the idea, boy, that is none of our business. Just let it alone. Don't have anything to do with it. Have nothing to do with it whatever. And there is a Libertarian or a Monroe Doctrine attitude that comes in and especially as the economic crunch is hitting our country, it seems to be more and more of the... well, hey, let's just let that go. And we get closer to that position of, no, let's not be a help to those people.

Let's go on to verse nine.

“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.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Ezekiel 38:19-23.

<sup>7</sup> Ezekiel 39:2.

<sup>8</sup> Ezekiel 39:6.

This is why many believe that this Russian coalition comes against Israel at the beginning of the tribulation, because during the next seven years burning their weapons.

Then you go on down to verse 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.”<sup>10</sup>

God will do a complete work and much of Israel will know he is Jehovah God. Israel right now is more of a secular government. This will work to transform them even more so.

Now, the defenselessness of Israel when the Russian coalition comes against them is not that way in Psalm 83. It is much different.

Well, why is it different? Well, things have changed. This is why the Russian coalition brings many with them. They think just by sheer numbers they are going to overcome them.

Well, this battle is the reason, this battle in Psalms 83, because it is much different. Now this battle in Psalms 83 it speaks of complete devastation in verses nine through 15 making memory of the past. But you will notice the purpose for their prayers and their desire.

We see it in verses 16 through 18. Let's read it again.

Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O LORD. 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.<sup>11</sup>

Muslims follow the false prophet Mohammed and they profess to worship Allah. They say that Allah is the one true God. Actually in the mythology he is the moon god. That is why you often see the crescent moon with the Muslims. It is one of their many emblems, but one of their main emblems. Now what you need to understand, Allah is not Jehovah and the Koran is not the true revealed Word of God.

The purpose for asking this judgment in this psalm is that the heathen that are left will seek the Lord's name, not Allah. Then he says if they won't, then let them be troubled. Let them be confounded forever. Let them come to shame. Let them perish. The

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<sup>9</sup> Ezekiel 39:9.

<sup>10</sup> Ezekiel 39:11.

<sup>11</sup> Psalm 83:16-18.

ultimate goal is to know that his name, the name of Jehovah alone is most high over all the earth.

Now really that wouldn't matter a whole lot to the Russian coalition who are really quite secularist. But for those Muslim nations, that would mean a whole lot to them. The Muslim coalition would find it of primary importance. They go into this war viewing it as Allah versus Jehovah. That is why you see suicide bombers. You always hear about them when they are getting ready to blow themselves up with a whole group of people they always sing out their praise to Allah.

But this will prove to them once and for all, Allah is not God. Jehovah is our God.

We need to see the destruction and try to understand it so as it is stated here in verses 13 and 14, because there are other scriptural references. We are not just looking at one reference here.

In Isaiah chapter 17 verses one through three we read there:

“The burden of Damascus...”<sup>12</sup>

Damascus now. This is part of Syria.

Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. The cities of Aroer are forsaken: they shall be for flocks, which shall lie down, and none shall make them afraid. 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.<sup>13</sup>

Well, this has never happened in the history of man. Damascus has never been leveled and become a ruinous heap. It just hasn't happened. And the kingdom of Syria has not become the glory of Israel. They are not that today. They are the enemy of Israel today. It is yet to happen.

Now I want to take you back to another passage. In Ezekiel, again, chapter 29 verses nine through 13.

And the land of Egypt shall be desolate and waste; and they shall know that I am the LORD: because he hath said, The river is mine, and I have made it. Behold, therefore I am against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste and desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia. No foot of man shall pass through it, nor foot of beast shall pass through it, neither shall it be inhabited forty years. And I will make the land of Egypt desolate in the midst of the countries that are desolate, and her cities among the cities that

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<sup>12</sup> Isaiah 17:1.

<sup>13</sup> Isaiah 17:1-3.

are laid waste shall be desolate forty years: and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries. Yet thus saith the Lord GOD; At the end of forty years will I gather the Egyptians from the people whither they were scattered.<sup>14</sup>

Now, again, this hasn't happened in Egypt's history. They have been defeated many times, but never have their people been removed from the land and scattered throughout the nations. That has never happened. And it never happened that that was for 40 years and then all of the sudden they were brought back.

Now I believe that there is a reason for this. In verse nine that we just read he said:

“The river is mine, and I have made it.”<sup>15</sup>

I believe that that speaks of the Nile River and the Aswan dam. It is said to take out the Aswan dam that it would take two bombs the size of the ones that took out Hiroshima back in World War II.

They made the river for the purpose to help their lands. They said:

“The river is mine, and I have made it.”<sup>16</sup>

They built that dam. It is a very strong dam, a very large dam. 100,000 acres of farm land are irrigated by this river as a result of the dam. If that was moved out suddenly, Egyptian devastation would be so great that it would not only wipe out their farm lands, it would wipe out many cities and leave much disease and destruction in its path and, hence, there is a great humanitarian effort in the world to take these people in and save them and help them to get back up on their feet. Again, that has not happened as of yet.

And so we read they made the river for themselves.

And you will notice the language here back in our text in Psalms 83 and verses 13 and 14.

It says:

O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind. As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire.<sup>17</sup>

The defeat is so devastating and complete, the Muslims drop all claim to the land. Now I believe Israel will suffer some losses in this as well, but the land surrounding the losses will be severe. And the severity of the war will shock the world.

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<sup>14</sup> Ezekiel 29:9-13.

<sup>15</sup> Ezekiel 29:9.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Psalm 83:13-14.



Now we have foolish western observers today who have lauded the great revolutions of Arab Spring that is sweeping the Middle East. But they have displayed profound ignorance. They have failed to comprehend the region is woefully unprepared for democracy. The downfall of those tyrants when we think of them, Mubarak, we think of Iran or Iraq should I say. We think of Libya and leader after leader who were... these leaders who were just terrible leaders, failed. One after another. And they were bad men. They killed multitudes.

And that might seem very pleasing at first, but they have been replaced by radical extremists who thought these leaders weren't tough enough. The darkest, most radical forces are erupting with power and setting the tone in the Middle East. And there is less semblance of regional stability in the Middle East today.

Evidently the use in this war will be of chemical weapons, biological weapons and, perhaps, nuclear weapons. And it will trouble the nations so badly that the number one speech will now be actual disarmament. With economic problems already the interruption of the flow of oil brings greater problems. But as Israel takes to her land and she has a discovery of oil and natural gas as we have discussed in another sermon, we find that many begin to turn to her. Quick disarmament sweeps the nations, less use of oil. Many begin to go to horse back.

I just heard this week on the news and, I mean, this is a month after I prepared this sermon. Just this week on the news if the radical elements take over next in Saudi Arabia, which the next one in line could very well do that in their kingdom, it won't be long before the United States is paying eight dollars a gallon of gasoline. And so that is why, you see, as it goes around the world, horses are back in use.

Remember, the language was not symbolic. Russia is one of the largest horse nations if not the largest. And they will need a large army against Israel.

Now there will be weapons besides just bows and arrows, so to speak. There will be weapons. And it will take seven years to burn all those weapons and things of war.

Egypt will need humanitarian aid with the fall out from the nuclear waste and the other things that will happen. And so they are scattered to the many nations and they are there for 40 years.

You say, "Is that though the tribulation?"

I don't know. I don't know. I just know that it is going to happen.

Walls come down. As a result of this war, the walls are taken down and now Israel is dwelling in peace. Trust is being built via coalition of nations of the old Roman Empire. And many of them will drop their angst against Jerusalem and against Israel for the time

being. And then antichrist moves in without arrow, but with the bow as described in Revelation chapter six, moving in in power, but not with military power.

As a matter of fact, so devastating is this war and these bombs and what happens when you are reading of the tribulation in Revelation 18 and you see the destruction of Babylon which is the city in the old Roman Empire that had seven mountains surrounding it and it was a religious city of which it speaks and refers to Rome and Rome is destroyed it says in one hour, just that quickly.

And the world seems surprised as well as hurt. And I believe that the reason for that is that they will be surprised is for one reason is because they thought that all that weaponry was done away with and destroyed.

And suddenly it is leveled and heaven will rejoice, the Bible tells us, because they were responsible for over 60 million deaths of Christians. They were responsible for even more than that, of people that have believed their doctrine and are in hell today, falling into Mariology instead of into Jesus Christ. And the Bible tells us clearly that heaven rejoices over that. But the world is greatly surprised.

And oil problems resulting from the war also affects Armageddon. Why aren't the armies at Armageddon just sending in jets, carriers and things of that nature? Why do we see the armies marching towards them? Well, it is because most have abandoned much of that and are marching together as armies as they go in to destroy Israel they think.

Now this war of Psalms 83 could happen before the rapture. That is why our nation needs to be on the right side of Israel. And if they are not, then you individually need to be on the right side of Israel. You have children in the military. I would emphasize to your children in the military. You always obey your officers unless they tell you attack Israel.

With the coming destruction stated ahead of time and so many prophecies already fulfilled about the coalitions, we see all those nations right now that are surrounding Israel that were named here and they want to do as they said here, wipe them off the map.

We look at the Russian coalition last week. They are already lined up. It tells us that Jesus Christ is going to rapture very soon and the question comes is: Are you ready to meet God?

Who hath warned you to flee the wrath to come?

This is not science fiction. I don't sell books, ok, so it is not science fiction. It is not about me. It is about your soul and God. It is about eternity.

Men are expecting war to come even today in the Middle East. They say it can happen at any time. And that will effect all the world. But more important than that is the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the judgment to follow.

If you are saved, you better know it is near. Sometimes we live in this country today as saved people. We are unfaithful to church. We are unfaithful in our Bible reading. We are unfaithful to be separate from this world. And we think we are getting away from it. God doesn't care. You are getting ready to be caught up. And then you will wish you had stood as you ought to stand.

Yes, it is near. Be ready. For in a time when you think not, the rapture will come. Understand. The first time he came to this earth he came to save. The next time he comes in wrath before he sets up his kingdom. You better be ready. And, my friend, you are not ready if you are depending on your baptism to get you to heaven. You are not ready if you are depending on your good Christian parents to get you to heaven. You are not ready if you have a good heritage to get you to heaven. You are not ready if you are a member of Central Baptist Church to go to heaven. You are not ready if you are depending on your good works. You are not ready if you are depending on Jesus and, because it is Jesus Christ only.

He shed his blood on the cross for every sin you ever had or ever will commit.

You say, "I don't think I am worthy of hell."

Then you are going to break hell wide open, because until the day you realize that you are a sinner headed to hell and that you deserve it and that you can do nothing to save yourself, you are still going that direction. But if you realize Jesus paid your penalty because he loves you. And he wants to save your soul and he wants to give you everlasting life, you come to him in repentance and faith and he will save your soul. Won't you come to him today?

Let's bow our heads.

*Father, I pray. We have tried to preach your Word just as it is to men as they are. And in a moment we are going to sing hymn 342, Just as I am. That is how you want people to come to you. You are the one that makes the difference. So I pray for that one. Lord, I didn't see a hand go up to say I am not saved, but, Lord, if there is one in here that is not saved and they are concerned about their soul, I pray that today would be the day they come. If there is a Christian that has wandered far from you, I pray that today would be the day they come. There are Christians not far from you, but, Lord, they are faithful to church. They are just not what they ought to be right now. And if you came, they would be ashamed at your appearing. And I pray that there would be that heart's desire to be right with you in Jesus Christ's precious and holy name. Amen.*