

Living Hope for the End of Days— Walking Each Day with THE GOD You Can Know and Trust

Grace-energized, persevering hope is especially relevant to days in which we live. God wants hope-filled men and women walking through life side-by-side with hope-less worldlings, so that we can point those without hope to our hope in Christ.

In one of Christ's final messages, He tells us that the time period ahead of us called the end of days, is going to be so "hope-less"—that people actually will drop dead from heart failure as they see what is coming.

He then goes on to say that His children are to be different. Jesus wants you and me to be filled with hope.

Open with me to Jesus describing the End of Days in Luke 21; this is Christ's thumbnail or short version of the 22 chapters of the final book of the Bible called the book of the Revelation. There are fearful times coming to this planet. Listen to Jesus speak:

*Luke 21:25-27 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. 27 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 "Now when these things begin to happen, **look up and lift up your heads**, because your redemption draws near."*

Persevering Hope or Panic Attacks

Jesus says that we are headed toward the end of days when people "expire". The word translated 'failing' (NKJV) is **apосуcho** which means that a person's 'breath pops out' or 'expires' because of complete fear. We often see that in earthquakes, fires, and hurricanes that many deaths come among the elderly with heart attacks.

But the end of days will see the ultimate panic attack coming; and many healthy humans will just expire for fear. Jesus only briefly described those days in the Gospels; the final word is the last book of the Bible.

The Book of Revelation is God's final word to mankind; it is also the most powerful book of the Bible. Nearly twenty years ago I began writing a book about living hope based on Biblical prophecy because I believed that the last book of the Bible is the most hope filled, hope inspiring, hope anchoring book in all of God's Word.

Each of us who are believers, saved, and members of Christ's family, needs *Living Hope for the End of Days*. We need to learn how to walk each day—with the God we can know personally and trust completely.

Life is hard, the world is sometimes bleak, and I often need help to go on against the flow of the world and seek God. May I give you the single most encouraging aspect of my spiritual life? Each day I get so recharged and renewed by God's Word that I can go out and face another day. How?

By spending time with the God who has left me a daily reminder of Who He is and what He is doing—that I can see and test and have my faith renewed!

This authenticating, verifying, faith building record God has left for us I call the Signature of God in the Book we call the Bible, God's Word—the Holy Scriptures.

Have you studied the signature of God lately? That is what I have poured into this year of 365 daily devotional studies taking all who will come through every word of the book of Revelation and outward to every other book in the Bible, all to lead you into what God offers—***Living Hope for the End of Days: Walking Each Day with THE GOD You Can Know and Trust***.

Why not join me for just one week's studies? This is all seven days of week four entitled, "Get Ready to Meet Jesus".

One of the most powerful truths to strengthen and guide you through life is found in **Jeremiah 1:12**.

The Creator and Redeemer, the Lord God Almighty who is the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe tells us that there is something He is very focused upon.

The Book you hold in your hands this evening, the Bible God's Word, is like none other—because God says, "I am watching over my Word—to perform it!" That is what I like to call the signature of God.

THE SIGNATURE OF GOD

Perhaps the greatest way that you and I can affirm the reality of God today is through Biblical Prophecy. The Scriptures are unique in that God has mapped out specific events in the future. Only the Living and True God of Heaven and Earth has ever dared to say, **"Let me tell you the future"**.

In fact, He said that was the way you could know that He was real, and that you and I could place our faith and trust in Him.

God declares the future in His Word because He "watches over His Word to perform it!"

⇒ Jeremiah 1:12 Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word." NKJV

⇒ Jeremiah 1:12 The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled." NIV

⇒ Jeremiah 1:12 Then the Lord said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it." NASB

What is the simplest and yet most profound evidence the Bible offers concerning God's reality?

It is prophecy fulfilled--the irrefutable verification reserved to the Scriptures alone.

Prophecy is the missing element in all other sacred scriptures of the world's religions; it is not to be found in the Koran, the Hindu Vedas, the Bhagavad-Gita, the Book of Mormon, the sayings of Buddha, the writings of Mary Baker Eddy (Christian Science).

By contrast prophecy comprises about one third of the Scriptures! And the vast majority all of prophecy centers on the nation of Israel. God has said that if we watch Israel we will see what He is going to do in the future

Prophecy Is The Test To Show Who Is God

God has left His signature, the proof that He is who He claims to be—in the form of prophecies (God explaining future events in clear details that can be verified). So the huge amount of prophetic verses in our Bible is a strong and comforting place to encourage our trusting God. As we begin open with me to Isaiah 42:5-9.

Only the One and Only True God can predict the future with absolute accuracy!

Isaiah 42:5-9 *Thus says God the Lord, **Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it:** 6 "I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, 7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. 8 **I am the Lord, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.** 9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; **Before they spring forth I tell you of them.**"*

Isaiah 48:17-18, 22 *Thus says the Lord, **your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel:** "I am the Lord your God, Who teaches you to profit, **Who leads you by the way you should go.** 18 Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! **Then your peace would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.** 22 "There is no peace," says the Lord, "for the wicked."*

One Huge Event On The Prophetic Horizon

A series of events described in detail 2,600 years ago has been murky, fuzzy and out of focus for all of those centuries until recently. Let me just briefly point out what God says. Turn with me to Ezekiel 36-39. These chapters describe what I like to call—

Ezekiel Chapter 36-37 describes the scattered Israelites as a pile of bones—dry and dead. Then the Lord sends forth a call, stirring the hearts of scattered Jewish people all over the world; their slow return back to the geographic area now called Israel; their rebirth as a sovereign nation called Israel, and the formation of an exceedingly great army.

This is followed by chapters 38-39 describing a war where a coalition of Islamic Nations led by Iran (all clearly described) join with Russia (also clearly defined) in a huge conflict that Bible scholars call the war of Gog and Magog.

To start with—for all the centuries since Ezekiel penned God's Word there was no regathered nation called Israel as is seeing coming back in Ezekiel 36-37.

And so, there was no Israel to be the target of the coalition of Islamic nations and Russia, from the time Ezekiel wrote (about 600 B.C.) until 1948. So simply stated, for 2,600 years—there was no nation of Israel for any nation to militarily attack!

Century after century of Bible teachers looked at these two chapters as so remote, so vague, so impossible. But then starting in the late 1800's people started talking about making a place for Jews to again live. The Scriptures slumbered along as God watched over His Word to perform it. Slowly it seems that Ezekiel 36-37 began to appear. And point by point, each of the details that Ezekiel saw in the distant past over 2,600 years ago fell into reality.

The Rebirth Of Israel

After Ezekiel's bones grew into a living breathing nation, God continued to watch over His Word and because Hitler struck with such savagery and incomprehensible carnage that the world was moved to do something. In 1948 the nations of the world united in the form of the UN, and voted to establish a homeland, a nation that was named Israel. In a short period of time—there was a nation called Israel that could be attacked militarily.

But then 50-plus years passed and Iran never seemed to join Russia in any way to march against Israel—until last year. Again the God who watches over His Word was waiting and directing the rulers of this world to do His bidding.

God has already described in detail what will happen in the future. Every time what He has declared will happen—happens, it is literally just what He said. But when examined closely, those involved make their own decisions and have no intention or awareness of following God's plan!

We live in the most written about period of time, from God's perspective. Fully 20% of the Bible is consumed with describing the events that God calls the end of days. These end of days are more described and detailed for us—than even the days when Christ walked the shores of Galilee.

The end times Biblical prophecies are powerful pictures of the God we can trust, Who has plans for the future. Here are just a few of His plans:

First, You Can Trust The God Who Promised Israel Would Return As A Nation In Ezekiel 36-37

In Ezekiel 36-37 the God who rules tells us that Israel will one day be reborn as a modern country, that Jews will pour back into the Holy Land after centuries of exile, that Jews will rebuild the "ancient ruins" and make the deserts bloom, that Israel will develop a vast and powerful military, and that Israel will become remarkably wealthy (Ezekiel 38:12-13).

These prophecies have all come true in our lifetime. They began to be fulfilled in the early 1900s, accelerated in 1948 and 1967, and continue to come true to this day.¹

Did the British politicians and early Zionists that fought for the establishment of the nation of Israel do all that because they wanted to or because God ruled over them? Both are true, of course. That is how God works. God was watching over His Word to fulfill it!

To benefit from the power of the God who rules, we are asked to see what He has done. Note with me the predictions found in Ezekiel 36-37 that have already come true. These are the famous prophetic chapters that foretell the future of Israel as a nation, that were written almost 600 years before Christ's birth!

1. **The return of the Jews to the Holy Land after centuries in exile.**

*Ezekiel 36:10-11 "I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the **cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.** 11 "I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; **I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better for you than at your beginnings.** Then you shall know that I am the Lord. Ezekiel 37:12, 21 "Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, O My people, **I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.** 21 "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Surely I will take the children of Israel **from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;***

Did the countless thousands of Jews all over the world (100 nations and counting) get up one morning and each decide to obey God's Word that said they would return? No they just had a longing to be safe, to be free, to have a land of their own—and in all that they obeyed the God who rules over the nations by watching over His Word to fulfill it!

2. **The rebuilding of the ancient ruins in Israel.**

*Ezekiel 36:36 "Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the Lord, have **rebuilt the ruined places** and planted what was desolate. I, the Lord, have spoken it, and I will do it."*

Did God make the early settlers name their cities after the Biblical sites they were building upon? No, they wanted to tie themselves to the past, their heritage and God's Word! God was watching over His Word to fulfill it!

3. **The re-blossoming of desolate, desert lands to produce abundant food, fruit and foliage**

¹ Paraphrased from Joel Rosenberg blog 5.5.05 <http://joelrosenberg.blogspot.com/>

Ezekiel 36:8-9, 30, 33-35 "But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall **shoot forth** your branches and **yield your fruit** to My people Israel, for they are about to come.⁹ "For indeed I am for you, and I will turn to you, and **you shall be tilled and sown**. 30 "And I will **multiply the fruit** of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations. 33 'Thus says the Lord God: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the **ruins shall be rebuilt**.³⁴ "The **desolate land shall be tilled** instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by.³⁵ "So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become **like the garden of Eden**; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'

Did those agricultural engineers, irrigation pioneers, and desert scientists devote their lives to Israel in its wasteland condition just to make Ezekiel come true? No. God was watching over His Word to fulfill it! Israel supplies billions of dollars of fresh fruit and flowers to Europe and the Arab world from land that was once absolutely desolate.

4. The creation of an "exceedingly great army".

Ezekiel 37:10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an **exceedingly great army**.

Did the atomic scientists, the military weapons engineers and the businessmen that listened to them all want to fulfill Ezekiel? No, they were trying to protect themselves, defend themselves and make a living. But in the process became the third or fourth most powerful military in the world when the atomic weaponry is factored in. God was watching over His Word to fulfill it!

Second, You Can Trust The God Who Declares an Anti-Israeli Coalition Described In Ezekiel 38-39 will Attack a nation called Israel

Twenty six hundred years ago, the prophet Ezekiel predicted clues to identify when this would happen,

"After many days you will be summoned; **in the latter years** you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them." (Ezek.38:8 NAS)

Note this would happen in "the latter years" after the Israelites were scattered throughout the world and the land of Israel became a desolation for a long time. History is witness to all of this.¹

Third, trust The God Who Declares The Destruction Of The Entire Russian, Iranian, Syria, Lebanese and Other Islamic Military Forces who Will Come "Like A Storm" Against Israel

*Ezekiel 38:5,9, 18-22 "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; 9 "You will ascend, **coming like a storm**, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you." 18 "And it will come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," says the Lord God, **"that My fury will show in My face.** 19 "For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: 'Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel,20 'so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.'21 "I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains," says the Lord God. "Every man's sword will be against his brother.22 "And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.*

Iran Threatens Israel

Since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, Iranian leaders have uttered a seemingly endless series of curses against Israel, calling the Jewish people evil, insisting that the Holocaust never happened, and threatening to wipe Israel "off the map."

Ahmadinejad says Israel will soon disappear

Monday, June 2, 2008

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad predicted that Muslims would uproot "satanic powers" and reaffirmed his prediction that the Jewish state will soon be wiped off the map, the Agence France-Presse news agency reported Monday.

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad predicted on Monday that Muslims would uproot "satanic powers" and repeated his controversial belief that Israel will soon disappear, the Mehr news agency reported.

"I must announce that the Zionist regime (Israel), with a 60-year record of genocide, plunder, invasion and betrayal is about to die and will soon be erased from the geographical scene," Ahmadinejad said.

"Today, the time for the fall of the satanic power of the United States has come and the countdown to the annihilation of the emperor of power and wealth has started."

The White House quickly dismissed Ahmadinejad's latest broadside against Israel and accused him of having "total disregard" for the Iranian people's hopes and needs.

Since taking the presidency in August 2005, the Iranian president has repeatedly provoked international outrage by predicting Israel is doomed to disappear.

"I tell you that with the unity and awareness of all the Islamic countries all the satanic powers will soon be destroyed," he said to a group of foreign visitors ahead of the 19th anniversary of the death of revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Ahmadinejad also again expressed his apocalyptic vision that tyranny in the world be abolished by the return to earth of the Mahdi, the 12th imam of Shiite Islam, alongside great religious figures including Jesus Christ.

"With the appearance of the promised saviour... and his companions such as Jesus Christ, tyranny will be soon be eradicated in the world."

Ahmadinejad has always been a devotee of the Mahdi, who Shiites believe disappeared more than a thousand years ago and who will return one day to usher in a new era of peace and harmony.

His emphasis on the Mahdi has been a cause of controversy inside Iran with critics saying he would be better solving bread-and-butter domestic problems rather than talking about Iran's divine responsibility.

When Ezekiel lists Persia in 38:5 (the name of Iran up until 1935) he was recording the words of the God who sees and knows exactly what will happen in the future. Amazingly today's news bears witness to Persia (Iran's) deep hatred of Israel.

Interestingly enough, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad used the same word that God used in his speech in April 2006:

"Like it or not, the Zionist regime is heading toward annihilation," Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said at the opening of a conference in support of the Palestinians. "The Zionist regime is a rotten, dried tree that will be *eliminated by one storm*."²

Ezekiel 38:9 specifically says that God's enemies will "come like a storm" to destroy Israel, but are destroyed by a supernatural earthquake and firestorm unleashed by God Himself.

² <http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/ahmadinejad-israel-a-rotten-dried-tree/2006/04/15/1144521534197.html>

In September [2005], when Ahmadinejad took the podium to address the United Nations in New York City, he felt surrounded by light. It wasn't the stage lighting, he said. It was a light from heaven.

Ahmadinejad's "vision" at the United Nations could be dismissed as pure political posturing if it weren't for a string of similar statements and actions that clearly suggest he believes he is destined to bring about the return of the Shiite messiah. The mystical 12th imam, who is venerated by many in Iran, disappeared as a child in the year 941. Shiite Muslims believe he will return and rule for seven years in perfect justice.³

"While it may be tempting to some to dismiss such language as overly dramatic, it is worth keeping in mind that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has told colleagues that he believes the end of the world is just two or three years away. He believes that the way to hasten the coming of the Islamic Messiah known as the "Twelfth Imam" or the "Mahdi" is to launch a global jihad to destroy the Jews of Israel and the Christians of the United States. What's more, Ahmadinejad is feverishly trying to build, buy or steal the nuclear weapons to bring his Shiite end times beliefs to fulfillment."⁴

What are you Begging God for?

When Jesus explained the entire scope of end times events, He paused and concluded with two commands in v. 36 for us who listen to Him. We can learn what Jesus said were our responsibilities as believers (Luke 21:29–38)

"Watch therefore, and pray always..." (Luke 21:36)

Pray is the word for beg, implore and beseech, it is an intense word!

Jesus revealed that all of the magnificent buildings of Herod would become rubble. . . and that nothing on earth ever lasts; but Jesus came to His disciples with an offer of something they could become a part of that never ends.

What are you intensely asking (begging) God to be doing through your life that will last forever?

Christ said here is something anyone in my family can do! Here is what you do that I love, and I make your investments in these areas last forever. Jesus said:

³ <http://www.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2006/1/23/173442.shtml?s=lh>

⁴ Joel Rosenburg blog, 7.23.06

- **I collect all of your prayers - PRAY!** Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints. (KJV)
- **I multiply sacrificial gifts - GIVE!** Mark 12:42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. (KJV) **do rest**
- **I count souls you lead to me - WIN!** Daniel 12:3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. 1 Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. (KJV) **1st Thessalonians 2.19**
- **I remember humble service - SERVE!** Mark 14:3 And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head. (KJV) **do rest**
- **I love missionaries that do outreach - GO!** Matthew 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. (KJV)

To obey Jesus we must "watch and pray". That is how we can resist the temptations that lure us. Then we will be ready when our Lord returns.

RUSSIA ARMS IRAN

Just a few days after Ahmadinejad's inflammatory remarks about Israel, these headlines appeared around the world:

- Iran and Russia in \$1 Billion Arms Deal—Aljazeera.Net (12/2/05)
- Moscow Inks Arms Deal with Tehran—*Moscow Times* (12/5/05)
- Russia Agrees to Sell Missiles to Iran—Associated Press (12/5/05)

THE LENS OF SCRIPTURE (These sections drawn from various blogs by Joel Rosenburg blog 5.5.05)

Russia's enormous military sales to Iran, its sales of nuclear technology to Iran, and the training of more than 1,000 Iranian nuclear scientists—looks so much like chapters 38 and 39 of the Book of Ezekiel. God describes a Gog or a dictator "who would one day take over Russia, form an alliance with Iran and the radical Islamic world, and take up arms against a modern State of Israel." Is Ezekiel 38-39 at the end of the seven year Tribulation just before the Millennium? I don't think so, if you read carefully the text there is quite a long period of time after this attack that doesn't square with Armageddon and Christ's 2nd coming immediately following. ¹

WHAT IS GOG'S PLAN?

- 38:7 – Gog will build a military coalition and "be prepared" to strike
- 38:8 – Gog will deploy the coalition against Israel
- 39:9 – Gog will use overwhelming force against Israel; he and his coalition will "come like a storm....like a cloud covering the land"

BUT WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN?

- 38:2 – The Lord God will bring judgment upon the enemies of Israel, beginning with Gog, the dictator of Russia;
- 38:20 – The Lord will trigger a massive earthquake in which "all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence";
- 38:21 – The Lord will turn Gog's forces against one another;
- 38:22 – The Lord will subject Gog's coalition forces to: pestilence, blood, torrential rains, hailstones, fire from heaven;
- 39:6 – The Lord will "send fire upon Magog" itself and others;
- 39:9 – Israel will capture her enemies weapons and burn them for 7 years;
- 39:12 – It will taken 7 full months to bury all the bodies of Israel's slain enemies;
- 39:17-20 – Birds and beast will feast on the bodies of Israel's slain enemies.

WHEN WILL GOD DO THIS?

- 38:8 – When Israel has become a country again and Jews will be regathered to the Holy Land;
- 38:11, 14 – "My people Israel are living securely" before the "War of Gog and Magog";
- 38:12-13 – Israel will have economic prosperity;
- 38:16 – "It will come about *in the last days*" (before the return of Christ). **NOTE:** The Scriptures are not clear as to whether this war will happen before or after the Rapture of the Church.

WHY

- 39:21 – "I shall set My glory among the nations; and *all* the nations will see My judgment";
- 39:22 – "the house of Israel will know that I am the Lord their God"; 39:29 – "I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel"

In Genesis 12:1-3, the Lord is crystal clear that He will bless those who bless Israel, and curse those who curse Israel.

In Ezekiel 38-39, God specifically vowed to subject the leaders and military forces of Iran (among other enemies of Israel) to a massive earthquake, torrential rains, killer hailstorms, rampant pandemic diseases, and even hellfire and brimstone.

AN ISLAMIC CATAclysm

An event is coming and God has described it in great detail--that will strike the entire Middle East with death, destruction, earthquakes and supernatural events. That event is a Russian-Iranian led military attack on the nation of Israel.

If you read Ezekiel 38-39 you will find that God is describing how Russia and Iran form a military alliance with Lebanon, Syria and a group of other Middle East countries; and then set out to destroy Israel in what Ezekiel described as the last days.

Sit back and think, what fills the news reports these days? This past summer it was how Iran was making the mountains of Lebanon a virtual arsenal of Iranian weapons to be used in attacks against Israel. Now almost every day we hear another detail of how Russia and Iran are working together on everything from advanced missiles to atomic weapon production.

You need to ask yourself as you look into God's Word ...is it just a coincidence? Or are we watching Ezekiel 38-39 unfold before our eyes? Time will tell as God watches over His Word to fulfill it!

What lies ahead on the prophetic landscape as far as evangelism and missionary work in the Middle East? The clear word from God is that what will happen in an attack upon Israel will be a powerful message to the entire world that the Lord Jesus Christ is the true and living Son of God.

39:21 – "I shall set My glory among the nations; and *all* the nations will see My judgment"

39:22 – "the house of Israel will know that I am the Lord their God"

39:29 – "I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel"

That said, it is worth keeping this intriguing thought in mind. More than two millennia ago, Ezekiel chapters 36 and 37 foretold the dramatic rebirth of modern State of Israel in the last days of history and described how Jews would pour back into the Holy Land after centuries of living in exile. Remarkably, these prophecies have come to pass in our lifetime. Is it really inconceivable, then, that the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38 and 39 could happen soon? Maybe not. Time will tell.

Here is one fascinating possibility: if this Russian-Iranian invasion of Israel happens before Armageddon it could happen any day now. And when God stops the Russians and Iranian armies dead in their tracks, the entire world will be amazed—but *the world of Islam will be stunned, shaken to the core*—and what may be the greatest opening among any people will take place.

Is this event close at hand? Only God knows. But what is being said in the news is chilling if not prophetic!

We don't know when this Iranian-Russian invasion takes place; we just know that God says it will and that it will end in the catastrophic defeat of the armies of Iran and Russia. The results God says will get the attention of the entire world upon the True and Living God we know and serve.

¹ **Who Is Coming Against Israel?** *Ezekiel 38:1-6* Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying,² "Son of man, set your face against **Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,**³ "and say, "Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.⁴ "I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.⁵ "**Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya** are with them, all of them with shield and helmet;⁶ "Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.

In **Ezekiel 38:1-6**, the Hebrew prophet gives a list of obscure names that will form a united coalition. As I read these six verses listen to the historic records, geographic locations, and modern day countries that reside in those exact places described—and how they are all slowly aligning themselves against Israel.

- **Gog** is described as being "of the land of Magog" and as the "prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal." Most Bible scholars believe Gog is not a name but a title, like Pharaoh or Czar. He is a dictator who will hatch an "evil plan" (38:10).
- **Magog** = Leading Bible scholars say this is Russia and republics of the former Soviet Union. The first century Roman historian [Josephus](#) said the "Magogites" were the peoples whom the Greeks called "Scythians." [Scythians](#) were a fierce, blood-thirsty civilization that settled north of the Baltic Sea in [what is now Russia and the European republics of the former USSR](#). The first century historian Josephus wrote in his classic work, *Antiquities of the Jews*, that the "Magogites" are the people that the Greeks refer to as "Scythians." Study the history of the ancient Scythians and you will quickly discover that these were a brutal and bloodthirsty people that settled north of the Black Sea in the area we now call Russia and the former Soviet republics. In Moscow the State Historical Museum on Red Square has numerous Scythian artifacts prominently displayed. Russia is proud of its Scythian tradition, and this helps us pinpoint Russia as the modern country to which Ezekiel was referring.
- **Rosh** = Russia. True, Ezekiel never uses the word Russia. Instead, he says a dictator referred to as "Gog" will arise in the land of "Magog," and will be the "prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal." Other Bible scholars note that when Ezekiel mentions "Rosh" he is using the root word for Russia. Others believe "Meshech" refers to Moscow and "Tubal" refers to the Tubal River in Siberia and the Siberian city of Tobolsk.

Numerous leading Bible scholars agree that Russia will certainly be the leader of the anti-Israel coalition in what Ezekiel describes as "the last days."

- **Meshech** = Some Bible scholars say this is Moscow, others believe it refers to Turkey
- **Tubal** = Some Bible scholars say this refers to the city/region of Tobolsk in Russia along the Tobol River; others say it refers to a section of modern-day Turkey. (Interestingly, in 1964, massive reserves of oil and gas were discovered in the Tobolsk region of Siberia and people now refer to the region as the ["energy center of Russia."](#))
- **Persia** = This was the [official name of Iran](#) until 1935
- **Cush** = Sudan and Ethiopia
- **Put** = Libya, and possibly Algeria and Tunisia
- **Gomer** = Turkey, but also possibly Germany and Austria
- **Beth-togarmah** = Armenia and the Turkic-speaking peoples of Central Asia

"Many peoples with you" who will attack along **"the mountains of Israel"** = Other countries will be involved in the coalition as well, notably countries that border the mountains of Israel. This includes Lebanon, Syria and possibly Jordan.