In general over chapters 38 & 39 we will answer the following questions pertaining to this invasion:

- Who are the invaders?
- Where will they invade?
- Why are they doing this?
- What do they expect to achieve?
- How are they prepared?
- When will invasion this happen?

**WHY ARE THEY DOING THIS? & WHAT DO THEY EXPECT TO ACHIEVE?**

Ezekiel 38: 10-13

> Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: It shall come to pass in that day, that things shall come into thy mind, and thou shalt devise an evil device: 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 securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates; to take the spoil and to take the prey; to turn thy hand against the waste places that are now inhabited, and against the people that are gathered out of the nations, that have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the middle of the earth. Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take the spoil? hast thou assembled thy company to take the prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take great spoil (ASV, 1901)?

This section discusses the concept as to why this invasion takes place on the part of Russia:

The key reason for the Russian invasion is the matter of spoil (vv.10-12). Further Israel is described as the land of unwalled villages. Israel today does not consist of cities and villages protected by walls. Exactly what Israel has that Russia would want is not spelled out in the text. The text simply mentions cattle and goods and silver and gold, but these are general Old Testament references for spoils of war. Much speculation has been promulgated as to what it is that Israel has that the Russians want. One of the most popular reasons is that of the Dead Sea, which contains 45 billion tons of sodium, chlorine, sulfur, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and bromide. Another reason centers on
Russia’s need for oil. The purpose of the invasion might be to gain a solid foothold in the Middle East without upsetting the Muslims. The Muslims would welcome any help in destroying Israel. The Russians would then be in close proximity to the oil rich countries to invade them too. The text states (v.10) that the reason is for Russia’s own premeditated effort, for they devise an evil thing and resolve to invade for the purpose of spoils. (vv. 11-12) Recent natural gas and oil discoveries in Israel add to the intrigue of what the Russian Gog may desire in terms of spoils.

**NATURAL GAS FOUND IN ISRAEL**

An Israeli exploration group has discovered what could be the largest natural gas field off Israel’s Mediterranean coast. The group, said a geological report showed there could be 8.9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas at the Daniel East and Daniel West sites, close to Gaza’s waters. It was said that the Daniel site presented the greatest potential gas find and could substantially change the Israeli energy market.¹

**OIL FOUND IN ISRAEL**

Recently massive oil reserves have been located in the Golan Heights, close to the country’s border with Syria. Afek Oil and Gas, an Israeli subsidiary of the U.S. company Genie Energy, confirmed the find. Genie, has undertaken exploratory drilling in the Golan. Afek believes there is a vast reservoir of oil under the Golan that could supply all of Israel’s energy needs. This now adds to the massive natural gas reserves have been discovered and developed off the Mediterranean coast of Israel.²

In verse 13 a second group of nations are listed as protesting this invasion, for they recognize it to be an invasion for spoil and for nothing else. Sheba and Dedan are countries which are now located in northern Arabia, which shows that at least some of the Arab state will not favor the Russian presence in the Middle East. Another nation is Tarshish followed by the phrase with all the young lions thereof. The phrase refers to the nations that have come out of Tarshish. Tarshish may mean, Spain, England or Africa. Therefore the nations that have come out of as colonies or independents. These countries are the young lions thereof. Regardless of the exact identity of the nations it does not go beyond the protest stage. Russia succeeds in invading, and then the invading army is disposed of with no help from the protestors.

**ISRAEL IS DWELLING SECURELY**

Ezekiel 38:14-16

> Therefore, son of man, prophesy, and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: In that day when my people Israel dwelleth securely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from thy place out of the uttermost parts of the north, thou, and many peoples with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a


² [https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/charlotte-silver/israel-steps-oil-drilling-golan](https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/charlotte-silver/israel-steps-oil-drilling-golan)
great company and a mighty army; and thou shalt come up against my people Israel, as a cloud to cover the land: it shall come to pass in the latter days, that I will bring thee against my land, that the nations may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes (ASV, 1901).

In verses 14-16a, the invasion begins and the confederate army covers the land like a storm cloud in a massive swarm. Israel is a nation now and has reasonable security knowing that they have statehood. No longer are they a group of wandering people subject to the whims of the host nations in which have lived in the diaspora for many years. They negotiate trade relationships with many nations and they have one of the largest armed force in the world. They have a democratic government and many freedoms. Their intellectual and agricultural output is worthy of a prominent place on the world economic stage. They have a seat on the United Nations and have repelled several invasion attempts.

In 1948, after the United Nations voted to give Israel statehood, five Muslim armies (Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon and Iraq) immediately invaded Israel. The stated purpose of this invasion was to "push the Jews into the sea", in other words, genocide. Assam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League, declared their intentions: "This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacres and the Crusades. “What Hitler didn't finish three years earlier, the Arabs would finish once and for all.” A Nazi collaborator, Hajj Amin al-Husseini, led the Arabs of the former British Mandate of Palestine. He was charged at the Nuremberg trials before escaping in 1946. Al-Husseini actively supported Hitler's aim to exterminate the Jews in World War II. The Jews prevailed with only WW I weapons against all these Muslim nations.

In 1949 Israel signed armistice agreements with Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Transjordan, (which in April 1949 changed its name to Jordan). At this time Jordan annexed Judea and Samaria. This region became a source of many terrorists’ attacks against Israel’s citizens. In 1945 there were about 870,000 Jews living in the surrounding Arab countries. The Muslims call them the Dhimmi. During 1948 and 1949 the Arabs persecuted these Jews. Their personal and real property were confiscated. Yemen Egypt, Libya, Syria and Iraq had anti-Jewish riots. Zionism was declared to be a capital crime in Iraq. Approximately 600,000 Jewish refugees left the Arab states and were welcomed into Israel by the Ashkenazi Jews living there at that time. The Jews became full citizens of Israel. Due to the wishes of their Arab leaders, many of the Arabs in Israel did not become citizens but remained in internment camps awaiting emigration to the Arab countries. However, they remained “refugees” because the Arabs intentionally delayed their emigration.

On May 15, 1967 president Nasser of Egypt ordered a blockade of the Strait of Tiran. This blockade cut off Israel’s southern access to the Red Sea and beyond. By May 31,1967 Egypt had moved 100,000 troops, one thousand tanks, and five hundred heavy guns into the Sinai. By June 4, Arab forces outnumbered Israel three to one as they poised on Israel’s borders. This was Israel’s Six Day War and it was fought on three fronts, against three countries, in three overlapping stages. In the south, Israel engaged
and defeated the Egyptians. In the central region, Israel engaged and defeated the Jordanians. In the north, Israel engaged and defeated the Syrians. In each of these theaters, Israel gained significant territory that would serve as its own buffers in future years.

On the morning of June 5, 1967 the Israeli Air Force destroyed almost the entire Egyptian Air Force (more than three hundred planes) in less than three hours. Israel’s armored divisions, under the leadership of General Ariel Sharon, also launched a lightning attack on the same day. More than eight hundred Egyptian tanks had been destroyed, and thousands of soldiers were taken as prisoners of war. Nasser later acknowledged that eighty percent of Egypt’s Russian-supplied military equipment had been lost in the Sinai debacle. Finally, at 8:00 p.m. on June 8, Nasser accepted a cease-fire.

From 1948 to 1967, Jerusalem was a divided city. The Arab Legion of Jordan had occupied East Jerusalem, including the Old City, since the War of Independence. The Jordanian troops had decimated the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, blowing up its synagogues and destroying every vestige of Jewish life there. During the initial battles with Egypt, Israel actually notified the Jordanian King Hussein that it had no intention of attacking his country. Hussein, however, believed Nasser’s lies and joined the Arabs. When the Arab Legion began to shell Western Jerusalem, the Israelis swiftly counterattacked, with success. Paratroopers landed and attacked from the Mount of Olives, entering the Lion Gate from the east. Israel was careful to minimize the use of artillery, which could have made their attack much easier with less loss of life. This was done out of respect for the numerous holy sites within the ancient walls. By June 8, Israeli troops were gazing at Herod’s stones of the Western Wall. Although Jerusalem was the central prize, Israel also captured in those four fierce days the areas of biblical Judea and Samaria (Now contemptibly called the West bank by Israel’s enemies).

Egypt’s ally in the north was Syria. From their heavily fortified bunkers and miles of trenches along the Golan Heights, Syrian gunners had harassed the Jewish farmers and fishermen of the Huleh Valley and Sea of Galilee for nineteen years. The problem for the Israelis was that the Syrians literally held the high ground, and their Russian sponsors had helped them to fortify it well. With Syria also threatening Israel’s destruction, the army saw an opportunity to end this threat to its northern citizens once and for all. The battle for the Golan was difficult. This was not a desert, like the Sinai, where tanks could maneuver easily. Furthermore, the Syrians had planted numerous mines to deter any Israeli response to its constant shelling. The Air Force prepared the way by landing paratroopers behind the Syrian lines. Finally, Israeli bulldozers were able to clear the way so the armored units could batter the Syrian troops and drive them deep into the Golan. Syria accepted a cease-fire on June 10, 1967.

Although it was an amazing military victory, the Six Day War left more than seven hundred Israelis dead and more than twenty five hundred wounded. Although figures were never officially released, Arab casualties were conservatively estimated at fifteen thousand. The Six Day War established Israel as a major military power, but it unexpectedly cast it in the role of "occupier", a burden that has proven hard to bear for fifty years. Israel eventually returned the Sinai to Egypt (after another war in 1973), when
President Sadat finally acknowledged their *legitimate* existence. Israel remains in control of the Golan Heights, unwilling to see it return to a nest of bunkers and artillery positions.

In an effort to force Israel to surrender captured lands, Egypt and Syria jointly attacked Israel on October 6, 1973, on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. Other Muslim states contributed troops and financial support. Caught by surprise, Israel suffered severe losses in human life and equipment. Following an Egyptian refusal to accept a cease-fire and a Soviet airlift to the Muslim states, the United States sent an airlift to Israel enabling a recovery from earlier setbacks. Saudi Arabia then led the Arab world in an oil embargo imposed on the United States and other western nations. Israel despite the attacks is dwelling securely.

The invaders in the Gog and Magog invasion will come from the uttermost part of the north. Moscow is in a direct line north of Jerusalem. Then there is initial success on the part of Russia. In verse 16b, God’s reason is given for allowing this invasion to come to pass, as over against Russia’s reasons given in the preceding verse: that He might be sanctified in the eyes of the nations in light of what is about to happen. Further, He calls Israel “My Land.” God will prove to all who will listen to Him that He is always correct and in complete control of all events on the earth. He does things for His own pleasure and will extract vengeance on those that have harmed His Jewish children, the apple of His eye.

**The Destruction of the Invaders**

Having described God’s purpose, which is to bring glory to Himself, the text moves on to discuss what and how all this, is going to happen.

*Ezekiel 38:17-23* Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Art thou he of whom I spake in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, that prophesied in those days for [many] years that I would bring thee against them? And it shall come to pass in that day, when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord Jehovah, that my wrath shall come up into my nostrils. 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 birds of the heavens, 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 unto all my mountains, saith the Lord Jehovah: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And with pestilence and with blood will I enter into judgment with him; and I will rain upon him, and upon his hordes, and upon the many peoples that are with him, an overflowing shower, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. And I will magnify myself, and sanctify myself, and I will make myself known in the eyes of many nations; and they shall know that I am Jehovah.
As to the question of what, with the Russian invasion of Israel, the cup of iniquity is full, for the apple of God’s eye is touched, and the Wife of Jehovah is violated, arousing god’s anger to that He moves out in judgment (vv. 17-18) to destroy the invading army. This is followed by the answer to the question of how the invading army is disposed of and destroyed. Several causes are listed: earthquake (vv.19-20); civil war breaking out among the invading soldiers themselves (v.21); pestilence, blood, flood, hailstones, fire, and brimstone (v.22). Since these things totally destroy the invading army without the aid of other nations, God’s purpose is seen as succeeding in its objective. God is indeed sanctified in the eyes of many people (v.23)

**THE PLACE OF THE DESTRUCTION**

Ezekiel 39:1-6 follows a common hermeneutical “Law of Recurrence” which gives further details to the information as found in chapter 38. In 39:1-5 there is a further description of the invasion and its subsequent destruction.

Ezekiel 39:1-6

> And thou, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say. Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal: and I will turn thee about, and will lead thee on, and will cause thee to come up from the uttermost parts of the north; and I will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel; and I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy hordes, and the peoples that are with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. Thou shalt fall upon the open field; for I have spoken it, saith the Lord Jehovah. And I will send a fire on Magog, and on them that dwell securely in the isles; and they shall know that I am Jehovah.

The new information added is found in verses two and four, where the armies are said to fall specifically on the mountains of Israel. They extend the length of the center of the country, beginning at the southern point of the Valley of Jezreel at the town of Jenin in Galilee (Biblical Ein and Ganim) and continuing south until they stop at a point north of Beersheba in the Negev. These mountains contain the famous biblical cities of Dothan, Shechem, Samaria, Shiloh, Bethel, Ai, Ramah, Bethlehem, Hebron, Debir, and most importantly Jerusalem., which seems to be the goal of the invading army.

Here is another example where the six-day way has set the stage for the fulfillment of prophecy. Up to the Six Day War in 1967 all of the mountains of Israel, except for a small corridor of West Jerusalem, were entirely in the hands of the Jordanians. Only since 1967 have the mountains of Israel been in Israel, thus setting the stage for the fulfillment of this prophecy. Another thing to notice is the mistranslation in the KJV, which says that one-sixth of the invading army, is left alive. This is not true and has not been translated in that manner in subsequent word for word translations.
In Ezekiel 39:6 another dimension is added to the Russian invasion.

Ezekiel 39:6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and on them that dwell securely in the isles; and they shall know that I am Jehovah.

Not only is the Russian and allied army destroyed, but the land of Russia itself is devastated by the raining of brimstone, causing much destruction in the nation itself. It will cause Russia to cease being a political force in world affairs.

THE SANCTIFICATION OF GOD’S NAME

Not only will God’s name be sanctified among the Gentile nations, but in Israel as well. As we have seen many times in this book God is doing many things to bring about an awareness of who He is and the fact that it is He who is behind all of human history.

Ezekiel 39:7-8 And my holy name will I make known in the midst of my people Israel; neither will I suffer my holy name to be profaned any more: and the nations shall know that I am Jehovah, the Holy One in Israel. Behold, it cometh, and it shall be done, saith the Lord Jehovah; this is the day whereof I have spoken (ASV, 1901).

Thus a revival occurs in Israel, causing many Jews to turn to the Lord.