

# Chapter 14

*"The Day of  
Wrath aka  
The Tribulation"*

Getting back to what happens at the Rapture, we will remain in Heaven with Jesus for the next seven years while the wrath of God is poured out on earth. As was touched upon above in the Olivet Discourse, those who come to faith during the Tribulation will probably experience a painful death in one of two ways. They will be delivered and killed for His name's sake. [Matthew 24:9-10 \(NLKV\)](#) <sup>9</sup> Then they will deliver you up to Tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another." They and unbelievers may also fall victim of the natural disasters. [Matthew 24:7 \(NLKV\)](#) "For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places." Either way at the end of the Tribulation we who are with Jesus will be joined with those souls who die during the Tribulation. These later souls are the ones who will become known as the Tribulation Saints. Just before Christ physically returns to earth at the end of the Tribulation, He will invite all believers as His bride to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in heaven. [Revelation 19:6-9](#) <sup>6</sup> And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. <sup>7</sup> Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. <sup>8</sup> And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. <sup>9</sup> And He saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And He saith unto me, these are the true sayings of God." This celebration is paralleled to the third phase of the Ancient Jewish Marriage custom. We will then return with Christ to fight Satan a final time. We will come back to this when we talk about the end of the Tribulation, Christ's Return, and the Millennium.

Before we go back to the beginning of the Day of Wrath or Tribulation period and whom it affects a few points need to be explained first. Bear in mind the timing of the following conditions may or may not transpire anywhere from before the Rapture through the beginning of the Tribulation. Prophecy scholars identify these events as prophetic for the later days or day of the Lord but are not corroborated in [Revelation](#) like some of [Daniel's](#), [Isaiah's](#) and [Jeremiah's prophecies](#). Supporting the belief that they are specific to the Jews. Remember that the most important factor for the end times is that Israel must be back and in control of their own state or country and, as we noted in the Fig Tree parable, those recalled people will be the Terminal generation.

- There is an incorrect understanding that the Rapture signifies the beginning of the Tribulation. In fact, according to [Daniel 9:27a](#) "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week:" the beginning of the clock for the seven year Tribulation does not start ticking until the Antichrist appears and confirms his peace treaty with Israel and her enemies. There may be and probably will be some time whether it be days, weeks or months between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation.
- As we discussed in the Olivet Discourse, the reconstruction of Solomon's (3rd) Temple on the temple mount in Jerusalem is now being occupied by the Dome of the Rock, a Muslim mosque. Permission for the reconstruction of the temple could be offered as an olive branch to that conflict. It could begin before or after the beginning of the Tribulation but it has to be completed by the middle mark for the Abomination of Desolation to take place. [Daniel 9:27b](#) "and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate." [Daniel 12:10-13](#) <sup>10</sup> Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand. <sup>11</sup> And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. <sup>13</sup> But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days." [Matthew 24:15a \(NKJV\)](#) "Therefore when

you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet.” This interim between Rapture and Tribulation could give time to at least begin construction of the Temple.

- Jerusalem will be at the center of controversy for possession. [Zechariah 12:2-3 \(NKJV\)](#) <sup>2</sup> Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.” God will bring judgment to the nations on their treatment of His chosen people Israel. [Joel 3:1-2](#) <sup>1</sup> For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.” A “Two State Solution” between Israel and the so-called Palestinians has been put up for discussion several times with various political figures since 1948. In July of 2000, President Bill Clinton hosted Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat for a peace summit which ended without a deal. There have been several others floated and proposed, but failed to bring lasting peace. On December 6, 2017, President Trump announced the USA will recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital city and move its official embassy there. Two days later, the following Friday, December 8, the fifteen member UN Security Council (the strongest governing agency for the UN) took a vote to denounce this declaration. The results were unanimous against with the US standing alone. As you might expect, the Muslim nations, and those who support them, erupted in violent protests across the globe. So much for a religion of “peace.” Palestinians have absolutely no interest in coming to an agreement of living side-by-side with Israel. Since Israel’s rebirth in 1948, they refuse to even acknowledge Israel’s right to exist. They wished to simply exterminate the Israelis, just like the Nazis. Although the Israelis have offered the Palestinians land in exchange for peace, (i.e. the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and Golan Heights), yet the Palestinians continue to fire rockets into Israel from Gaza as recently reported. How can you negotiate in good faith with an adversary who does not even recognize your right to live? All past and future attempts to bring the Palestinians and Israel to live together side by side will fail. Until the Antichrist takes his place and acknowledges Israel’s right to exist by confirming an accepted peace agreement. Furthermore, Islam allows lying and deception when dealing with the “enemy.” It’s called Taqiyya. As we just read in [Joel](#) any country, including the USA, puts their well-being in jeopardy if they force a condition to this conflict that involves Jerusalem or any part of Israel to be divided. Watching the evening world news, the stories that dominate are usually those concerning the Middle East.
- In order for the Antichrist to confirm a seven-year peace treaty, Israel must be in some form of conflict. Let’s look to see if we can understand the historical basis of the ancestral family feud between the Arabs and the Hebrews. When we looked at Abraham and Hagar early on, we read that God would bless Ishmael to be the Father of many nations, collectively called Arabs, because he was of Abraham’s seed. The catalyst of the rivalry was because Sarah didn’t want Ishmael to receive the birthright blessing from Abraham so she forced Hagar and Ishmael to be banished from camp. Subsequently, after this event, God will test Abraham’s faith by calling Abraham to Mt. Moriah to offer Isaac as an offering. When the test is passed God told Abraham that He would bless Isaac specifically to be the channel of God’s plan. We need to make a distinction between an Arab and a Muslim. An Arab is a national designation like American, French, or English etc.... Muslim is a religious belief system like Protestantism, Catholic, or Jewish. Unlike the Hebrews whose existence can be traced back close to 6,000 years, the Muslim or Islamic faith was founded in the late 6th - early 7th century. The god “Allah” was one of many gods Muhammed had from which to choose to have a focal point for his political

ambitions to control the population. At his death in 632 AD, this new religion went through a schism and produced two warring factions over who would take over for Muhamad; namely, the Sunnis (mostly in Iran) and the Shiites (just about every other Muslim). The only 2 things that they truly share are they both worship Allah and that they share a deep visceral hatred of the Jews. In 1979, the Islamic Revolution took place when it started with the ousting of the US backed Shah of Iran and the subsequent hostage taking of the US Embassy in Tehran. The government was taken over by Islamic religious zealots' extremists who now rule by Sharia Law. Fast forward to today, Iran's chief export is terrorism, but as we saw earlier, people who do evil things think that they are doing good. Iran is behind Syria, Hezbollah, and Hamas in finances, weapon supply, and philosophy. As troublesome as Hezbollah and Hamas are, Israel's major concern is Iran. Iran's tactic is to stall or delay to allow its pawns, Hamas, and Hezbollah, to move around the chess board to drag out any meaningful peace talks and to give time to set up a military offensive from Syria. It is only allowing Iran to take advantage of the time they need to either acquire or develop nuclear weapons. Lastly, Iran calls Israel the "little Satan" and the US the "Big Satan." Both the US and Israel are in Iran's cross hairs.

There are three Bible prophecies that most prophecy teachers say have yet to be fulfilled and that they are outside of the seven-year Day of Wrath period but specifically involve Israel. They are the [Isaiah 17:1](#) Damascus destruction, the [Psalm 83](#) war, and the [Ezekiel 38 and 39](#) aka Gog/Magog war.

- [Isaiah 17:1 \(NKJV\)](#) "The burden against Damascus. "Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap." Damascus has been continually occupied since estimated at 630 BCE until today. With the civil war in Syria and the retaking of Aleppo, the largest city in Syria, Damascus could be the next center of conflict to show on our nightly news. How that will affect Israel is anybody's guess, but we should keep an eye out for it. The end of chapter seems to indicate that the destruction will be sudden and overnight. [Isaiah 17:14 \(NIV\)](#) "In the evening, sudden terror! Before the morning, they are gone! This is the portion of those who loot us, the lot of those who plunder us." It might not be in the public awareness, but there is a stockpile of chemical/biological weapons of mass destruction under Damascus right now. Should those canisters be broken one way or another it could render the area unfit for human or animal habitation.
- [Psalm 83:4-8](#) "4 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. 5 For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: 6 The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; 7 Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; 8 Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah." These ethnic groups are sometimes referred to as the "inner circle" as they borer directly with Israel. Below are the nations as listed compared to the nations of today.

<a href="#">Psalm 83</a>	Today Nations
The Tents of Edom	} Palestinians (PLO) and Southern Jordan
The Ishmaelites	
Moab	} Saudi Arabia and Portions of Jordan
	} Palestinians (PLO) and Central Jordan

Hagrites	}	Northeast Jordan
Gebal	}	Lebanon (Hezbollah)
Ammon	}	Palestinians (PLO) and Northwest Jordan
Amalek	}	Sinai Arabs and Southern Israel
Philistia	}	Gaza ( Hamas)
The Inhabitants of Tyre	}	Lebanon (Hezbollah)
Assyria	}	Southeast Turkey, Northwest Syria, Northeast Iraq (ISIS)
The Children of Lot	}	Jordan

Of note, according to an Oct. 27, 2005, NY Times article, the sentiment of verse 4 was proclaimed by Iran's then President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who reiterated in a speech he gave the day before at the World Without Zionism conference. He said, quote "As the Imam (Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini) said, Israel must be wiped off the map" unquote. This rhetoric can be traced back to at least 1979 when Ayatollah Khomeini had just assumed the leadership of the Islamic Revolution. Just for the sake of full disclosure, there are some who think this prophecy was fulfilled in the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Opponents to this argument say not all of the groups listed were involved in this conflict and most notably Egypt, who along with Syria spearheaded the attack, were not listed in [Psalm 83](#). The point here is IF we were to see these groups come together to attack Israel, we should recognize it for what it is. A fulfillment of a specific prophecy for the State of Israel.

- [Ezekiel 38 and 39](#) aka Gog/Magog war. First, let's see exactly what the Bible says. This is perhaps the most detailed prophecy in the Bible pertaining to the people of Israel. A natural question might be why? The answer might just be simply that when it comes to pass, Israel will know the return of the Messiah is at hand. We will examine several important points about this prophecy afterward.

[Ezekiel 38:1-6 \(NKJV\)](#) <sup>1</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup> "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, <sup>3</sup> and say, "Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; <sup>6</sup> Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troop's many people are with you." Some translations have the names of Cush and Put included but not in the NKJV. The combatants in this coming conflict are sometimes referred to as the outer circle as they do not have direct border contact with Israel.

[Ezekiel 38:7-9 \(NKJV\)](#) <sup>7</sup> Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them. <sup>8</sup> After many days you will be visited. In the latter years, you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. <sup>9</sup> You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you."

**Ezekiel 38:10-13 (NKJV)** <sup>10</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: “On that day it shall come to pass that thought will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: <sup>11</sup> You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates’ <sup>12</sup> to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land. <sup>13</sup> Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?’”

<b>Ezekiel 38:1-6</b>		Today Nations
Magog	}	Russia
Meshech	}	Turkey
Tubal	}	Turkey
Rosh	}	Russia
Persia	}	Iran
Ethiopia	}	Sudan
Libya	}	Libya
Gomer	}	Turkey
Togarmah	}	Turkey
Cush	}	Modern Day Ethiopia
Put	}	North Africa
<b>Ezekiel 38:10-13</b>		
Sheba	}	Saudi Arabia
Dedan	}	Saudi Arabia
Merchants of Tarshish	}	Spain/England?
Young Lions	}	USA ?

**Ezekiel 38:14-17 (NKJV)** <sup>14</sup> Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, “Thus says the Lord GOD: “On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? <sup>15</sup> Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company, and a mighty army. <sup>16</sup> You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.” <sup>17</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: “Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?”

**Ezekiel 38:18-23 (NKJV)** <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> 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.’ <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup>Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.”

**Ezekiel 39:1-10 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup>And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, “Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; <sup>2</sup> and I will turn you around and lead you on, bringing you up from the far north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel. <sup>3</sup> Then I will knock the bow out of your left hand, and cause the arrows to fall out of your right hand. <sup>4</sup> You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the Beasts of the field to be devoured. <sup>5</sup> You shall fall on the open field; for I have spoken,” says the Lord GOD. <sup>6</sup> “And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the LORD. <sup>7</sup> So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. <sup>8</sup> Surely it is coming, and it shall be done,” says the Lord GOD. “This is the day of which I have spoken. <sup>9</sup> “Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years. <sup>10</sup> They will not take wood from the field nor cut down any from the forests because they will make fires with the weapons, and they will plunder those who plundered them and pillage those who pillaged them,” says the Lord GOD.”

**Ezekiel 39:11-16 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup>It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore, they will call it the Valley of Hamon Gog. <sup>12</sup> For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. <sup>13</sup> Indeed all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified,” says the Lord GOD. <sup>14</sup> “They will set apart men regularly employed, with the help of a search party, to pass through the land and bury those bodies remaining on the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months, they will make a search. <sup>15</sup> The search party will pass through the land; and when anyone sees a man’s bone, he shall set up a marker by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon Gog. <sup>16</sup> The name of the city will also be Hamonah. Thus they shall cleanse the land.”

**Ezekiel 39:17-20 (NKJV)** <sup>17</sup>And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field: “Assemble yourselves and come; Gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal Which I am sacrificing for you, A great sacrificial meal on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. <sup>18</sup> You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, Drink the blood of the princes of the earth, Of rams and lambs, Of goats and bulls, All of them fatlings of Bashan. <sup>19</sup> You shall eat fat till you are full, and drink blood till you are drunk, At My sacrificial meal Which I am sacrificing for you. <sup>20</sup> You shall be filled at My table with horses and riders, with mighty men and with all the men of war,” says the Lord GOD.”

**Ezekiel 39:21-29 (NKJV)** <sup>21</sup>I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed and My hand which I have laid on them. <sup>22</sup> So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day forward. <sup>23</sup> The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. <sup>24</sup> According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden My face from them.” <sup>25</sup> “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:

‘Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name <sup>26</sup> after they have borne their shame, and all their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, when they dwelt safely in their own land and no one made them afraid. <sup>27</sup> When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies’ lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, <sup>28</sup> then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer. <sup>29</sup> And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,’ says the Lord GOD.”

We will now highlight several important points about this coming conflict.

- A. Gog is a title like Prince or President, not a country. [Ezekiel 38:2a](#) “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh.” In [Ezekiel 38:6](#) and [Ezekiel 39:2](#) states the coming enemies who will go up against Israel are from “the far north.” In the Bible, all directions (north, east, and south west) are in a relative position from Jerusalem. IF this were applicable today, the far north from Jerusalem could be Russia and its leader is Vladimir Putin.
  
- B. There has to be a reason the Magog/Meshech/Persian et al. coalition moves against Israel. Let’s look at some specific requirements the Bible lists that cause the countries of the coalition to plot together their assault. [Ezekiel 38:8](#) “In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.” [Ezekiel 38:10-12](#) “<sup>10</sup> You will make an evil plan: <sup>11</sup> You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates’ <sup>12</sup> to take plunder and to take booty.” There are two points that need to be made here. They are “the land being long desolate,” and “unwalled villages and living in safety.” Point one, before the land area was reverted back to the Jews in 1948, the land was arid and desolate. According to some accounts, there were no trees or greenery of any kind as far as the eye could see in the pre-1948 Israel era. Also, the population of the inhabitants was very low, estimated of less than 700,000. As noted, before when we listed signs of the “latter day,” two of those signs were the desert land of Israel blooming and that the Israelites being called home from the four corners of the earth called Aliyah. However, now that Israel is the agricultural envy of the Middle East, there must be something more that would cause this coalition to plan an invasion. It is natural gas and oil, the hook in the jaw if you will. [Ezekiel 38:4 \(NKJV\)](#) “I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out.” Within the last five years, an enormous underwater and underground gas reserve has been newly discovered off the coast of Israel and in the oil fields found in the Golan Heights. The gas fields are just a few miles from the unpredictable Syrian civil war. Russia and Iran are supporting the Assad regime not because they like him, but because they see Syria and Damascus as the strategic place it is. They will have a better position when they decide to pull the trigger against Israel. In recent months, both Russia and Iran have been building permanent bases in Syria. On January 20, 2018, Turkey invaded northern Syria. All a preliminary move to invade Israel. Israel has taken action by attacking the base. Russia and Iran have been trading partners in the past, but never before, until recently, have they been military partners. Thanks to Iranian cash reserves being



released as part of the Iranian Nuclear Deal under President Obama, they now have funds which they are using to buy advanced missile systems from Russia. Point two, is the issue of “unwalled villages” and “living in safety.” This could be a reference to Israel’s ability to protect itself. The Israeli Defense Force (IDF) is considered to be in the top 20 of military capabilities in the world, according to a 2016 ranking from Global Firepower, are they living in safety? From a certain point of view perhaps. Safety is relative. The [Ezekiel 38 and 39](#) war could not happen unless they consider themselves to be “living in safety.” Consider this, if your definition of safety is the absence of any type of violent crime or attacks, then that cannot ever be until the Millennium. Until Jesus sets up His kingdom there will always be sin and evil in the world and no country, including Israel, will be exempt. More than a few Israeli citizens claim they are as safe today as they have ever been, even under the specter of rocket attacks by Hamas or Hezbollah or the Israeli/Palestine conflict. Certainly, an argument can be made that Jerusalem is safer than any major US city when crimes rates are compared. They are always in a state of vigilance, watchfulness, and preparedness which enhances their self-confidence they can defend themselves. The Jews are firm in their resolve that the atrocities of the Holocaust will never be repeated. Their chant is an oath and a rallying cry, “Never Forget, Never Again!”

- C. What is holding the Magog/Meshech/Persian et al coalition back from launching their offensive? Currently, the only thing keeping this coalition at bay is the fear of retaliation from the US. But, consider this, with the rapture event, the sphere of influence and military might of the USA and Europe could be drastically impaired with the sudden vanishing of millions of its citizens and soldiers. It is certainly in the realm of probability that this scenario is at least possible. Seemingly with Israel’s powerful allies gone, this coalition could decide to attack Israel. In [Ezekiel 38:16 \(NKJV\)](#) “You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud.” Israel is clearly the target. When the [Ezekiel 38 and 39](#) war begins, there will be only four countries that voice a protest and not send military aid to Israel when Russia/Iran attacks. [Ezekiel 38:13 \(NKJV\)](#) “Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions.” Sheba and Dedan are universally believed to be Saudi Arabia, which has maintained open support for Israel these last few years, much to the anger of Iran and fanatical Islam. The identity of the “Merchants of Tarshish” and the “young lions” are more vague. There are several possibilities for Tarshish, but the common theme that runs through the possibilities is they are from the far west of Israel and on the Mediterranean Sea. They could be from the north coast of Africa, Spain or even Great Britain. One of the popular candidates for the “young lions” is the USA. IF so, this is the only place in the Bible where the USA is inferred in prophecy. The USA is the strongest economic and military country ever formed, so why is it conspicuous by its absence in the Bible and especially in latter-day writings? The obvious answer is the USA is either unwilling or unable to come to Israel’s defense. Before we go on, please rest assured the following observations are not intended to either support or disparage any presidential administration. However, when viewed through the lens of Bible prophecy you can’t help but notice the pendulum of political viewpoint regarding foreign policy as it swings either pro or anti-Israel. If the answer to the question of USA’s absence in prophecy is its unwillingness, it could simply be because the level and commitment of support to Israel can waiver. One administration can be proactive and another not as much. It could be argued that our current president is more proactive as he authorized moving the USA’s embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, something many before have promised to do but didn’t

because of the political fallout. Our past presidential administrations and state departments have insulted Israel in subtle and not so subtle ways. Most notably, then President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry are reported to have worked behind the scenes of orchestrating the members of the UN Security Council to vote 14-0 on December 23, 2016. The motion is to condemn Israel for developing the expansion settlements of their ancestral heritage land, Judea, and Samaria (West Bank). The motion also calls for Israel to place oversight for the old city, which includes the temple mount, the western (wailing) wall, and other holy sites for Christianity and Judaism over to Muslim control. The US used to be Israel's only country they could depend on for back up, but with this motion, the US effectively stabbed Israel in the back by supporting the "Palestinian" position. No country came to Israel's defense. Furthermore, there is an anti-Semitic movement called Boycott, Divest and Sanction Movement (BDS). It was initiated by Palestinians as a protest against the Israeli "occupation" of the West Bank. There are many companies in the US who agree with this movement. The world has distanced themselves from Israel just as predicted 2,800 years ago by Israel's prophets. The answer to our question of why the USA is absent from Bible prophecy is we are unable to do so. It is foolish of us to trust Iran or North Korea to dismantle their nuclear arsenal. This will be explained in detail when we look at the second horse of the Apocalypse in chapter 17.

- D. Israel will be left alone to defend herself from the onslaught, but it is by God's hand they are protected. God will make His purpose known to the world and Israel that God's covenant with God's chosen people still stands. [Ezekiel 38:16 and 23 \(NKJV\)](#) "16 It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me." and "23 Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD." [Ezekiel 39:22 \(NKJV\)](#) "So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day forward." God will personally intervene and destroy Israel's attackers. [Ezekiel 38:18-22 \(NKJV\)](#) "18 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." Like in the days of Moses and Pharaoh, God will cause the ground to open up and swallow Israel's enemies and call for the skies to unleash their calamities so that the Jews never have to lift a finger. God Almighty, Himself will destroy the invading armies via manipulating the earth's environment and what is called today friendly fire where soldiers erroneously fire upon their comrades.
- E. This war is sometimes confused with Armageddon. There are similarities in regards to the timing of the Rapture in relation to the Tribulation (Pre, Mid or Post Tribulation), but [Ezekiel 39:9 \(NKJV\)](#) "Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, and they will make fires with them for seven years." This length of time coincides with the length of time for the Tribulation. The text seems to corroborate the position that it occurs just before or

just after the beginning of the Tribulation. Additionally, when His Millennial Kingdom on earth is created, we will not have a need for anything from the former seven years' time as all our needs will be met. [Isaiah 51:3-4 \(NKJV\)](#) “<sup>3</sup> For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody. <sup>4</sup> “Listen to Me, My people; and give ear to Me, O My nation: For the law will proceed from Me, and I will make My justice rest as a light of the peoples.”

The players of the Gog/Magog war are definitely lining up as the stage is being set.