

# God's Everlasting Covenant

presents

## The End of the Age – Part 2 Gog of Magog – Who Is He?

In [Part 1](#) of our “End of the Age” series, we discussed the Scriptural basis for the War of Gog from Magog in chapters 38 & 39 of Ezekiel being the same war as the final war at the end of the age known as Armageddon. We discussed several textual similarities describing the two “wars” which, in our opinion, clearly link them to be one and the same. The final point of the study was our belief that Gog and the Antichrist/Antimesiah is the same person.

Though the identity of all of the nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38 is important, in this study, we will concentrate on where the Antichrist comes from. We will show what the term “Antichrist” means, why he can’t be Jewish and we will prove from the Scriptures that he is a Muslim. First, let’s discuss where the term “Antichrist” comes from and what it means.

In the Tanakh or Hebrew Scriptures, there is no mention of a person called the “Antichrist” or “Antimesiah.” In part one of this series, we discussed the titles the Hebrew prophets gave him. The term comes from the Apostolic Scriptures and is only mentioned in the letters written by John the Apostle, in 1 and 2 John. The Greek word is *antichristos*. It literally means “against Christ.” Many “types” of antichrists have come and gone throughout history: Pharaoh, Haman, Antiochus IV, Nero, and Hadrian to mention a few. Each of them tried to destroy the Jewish people and the Jewish way of life as taught in the Torah. But the Scriptures talk about one person who will be inhabited by Satan himself. He will fight against the Messiah in the last days before the Kingdom of God comes fully to the earth. The prophets tell us that he will claim to be God Most High and he will amass a great army to come against Jerusalem and the true Messiah *Yeshua* and on the mountains of Israel, he will come to his end. He is the one who is an opponent of the Messiah. He is “against Messiah.” Since the Greek word *Christos* is *Moshiach* in Hebrew, this is a fair way to translate *antichristos*. The Hebrew *moshiach* really means “anointed one” and from this word, we get the word “Messiah”. So, Antichrist is against the anointing or more accurately, he is against the Anointed One. But this still shades a deeper meaning. The word “anti” in Greek can also mean “instead of.” The Antichrist is the one who is “instead of” or “in place of” the true Messiah. This is always what the devil does. He creates a counterfeit in order to deceive and lead people away from the truth. In this case, the antichrist spirit and the person filled with that spirit will deceive and lead many people away from the true Messiah, the quintessential Son of Israel, *Yeshua*.

Because Christianity has interpreted the Antichrist will be an exact opposite to the true Messiah, many have in error decided he must be a Jew, and this because the Jews would not accept a non-Jew as a Messiah. This is very true. The Jewish people know their Messiah must be Jewish and must be from the tribe of Judah. However, there is no place in the Scriptures that say the Jews will accept the Antichrist as their Messiah. This is a matter of conjecture and private interpretation. The Scriptures do seem to say the Antichrist is someone who confirms

some kind of agreement (covenant, in Hebrew from Daniel 9:27). That covenant could be between Israel and some other peoples the Antichrist represents, possibly a peace covenant deal with the Arab world and more specifically, the “Palestinians.” But again, this is a matter of interpretation. The Scriptures do not specifically say this. In addition, this agreement or covenant could possibly allow the third Jewish Temple to be rebuilt. Again, I want to stress *that these are matters of pure speculation, interpretation and conjecture*, and believe you me, there are many divergent opinions on this issue. What we can safely say is that the Scriptures do clearly speak of someone named Gog who comes against Israel with a huge coalition of nations in Ezekiel 38. God Himself is present in this war, albeit in the person of Messiah. This war also bears many similarities to the battle known as Armageddon described in Revelation, Zechariah, Joel and other prophets. If Gog is indeed the Antichrist, then we know his identity. According to the prophets, He is an Islamic or Muslim leader from a Muslim nation.

So, where does Gog or the Antichrist come from in the Islamic world specifically? In [Part 1](#), we discussed how all of the prophets spoke of Gog, though not by that name. And every single prophetic type was a leader of Israel’s ancient enemies: Pharaoh of Egypt, the Assyrian, King of Babylon, Prince of Tyre, to name a few. Today, every single one of those nations is Islamic. Further, every single nation that gets destroyed and is thrown into the pit by *Yeshua* the Messiah is a Muslim nation (see Ezekiel 32). But since the ancient types were leaders of different countries, how can we be certain which country *the* Antichrist will hail from? Does the Bible tell us? Yes, absolutely.

One of the clearest texts to prove that the Antichrist comes from the Middle East is in Daniel 11, where is described a battle between the King of the North and the King of the South. This passage in Daniel was partially fulfilled by the Seleucid King Antiochus IV, who ruled after the empire of Alexander the Great was divided up among his four generals. “The Seleucid Kingdom in the north included the region of modern-day Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Iran and even Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Ptolemaic Kingdom in the south ruled Egypt and portions of modern-day Libya and Sudan.” (Joel Richardson, [www.joelstrumpet.com](http://www.joelstrumpet.com), August 2012)



It is thought by most scholars that Antiochus IV was perhaps the most compelling of the types found in the Bible because it is believed he most closely mirrored the future Antichrist's actions and behavior.

We will continue with Joel Richardson's analysis:

"In the later portion of Daniel's prophecy, the historical events and wars that took place between Antiochus IV in the north and Ptolemy VI in the south, bleed into a powerful end-time prophecy concerning the Antichrist (the King of the North) and Egypt (the King of the South). In essence, that which took place between Antiochus and Ptolemy will be repeated again in the last days. In fact, this chapter is among one of the clearest "slam dunks" for the view that the Antichrist will come forward out of the Middle East and not a revived Roman or European kingdom. As we will see, this interpretation of Daniel 11 was the view of all of the earliest Christian interpreters and has also been held by a majority of other highly respected commentators and scholars." (Joel Richardson, [www.joelstrumpet.com](http://www.joelstrumpet.com), August 2012)

Modern day events seem to be shaping up so that this battle may be re-played in history. The recent conflict between Hamas in Gaza and Israel (November 2012) has resulted in the recognition of Mohammed Morsi, the President of Egypt and his Muslim Brotherhood-led government as a viable and "responsible" leader in the region. It is our view, as the demand for an Islamic caliphate rises in the Islamic world, a clash will once again arise between these ancient powers for who will control it. Who then is the King of the North at the end of days? Let's return to the text in Ezekiel 38 once again, for it is there we find a huge clue.

The word of the LORD came to me saying, "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal and prophesy against him and say, 'Thus says the LORD God, "Behold, I am against you O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.'" (Ezekiel 38:1-3)

"And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, 'Thus says the LORD God, "Behold I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal..." (Ezekiel 39:1)

Gog is identified by the prophet as from the land of Magog, and as the leader (*Rosh* in Hebrew) of Meshech and Tubal. Where are these places? Many have believed these places are in Russia, but this is incorrect. For a complete treatise on this subject, please refer to Walid Shoebat, *God's War on Terror*, pp. 250-261. I will quote from a small section of these pages:

Magog encompasses Asia Minor. But some prophecy teachers try to claim that Magog is also pointing to Russia. Tim Lahaye, author of the best-selling *Left Behind* series points to Josephus' identification of Magog as "the land of the Scythians – the ancient northern nomadic tribes who inhabited the territory from Central Asia across the southern Steppes of modern Russia." (*The Popular Bible Prophecy Commentary, Understanding the Meaning of Every Prophetic Passage*, Tim Lahaye and Ed Hindson).

Lahaye's assessment of the Scythians is accurate, yet it proves the point that if Magog is the Scythian territory, then this land mass is in the southern region of the former USSR, but not Russia proper (emphasis mine).

The problem with using this method to see Russia in Ezekiel's prophecy, however, is that the southern Steppes of modern Russia include portions of the former USSR. Still, it is not part of Russia proper. These Muslim states split from Russia when Communism fell. Ancient Scythia includes the regions of Asia Minor (Turkey) and the several Central Asian states (Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, etc.). These are all Muslim nations.

Analysis that supports the "Magog Russia theory" uses correct references, but draws faulty conclusions. (*God's War on Terror*, pp 254-255)

Another argument that is used for Magog being in Russia is because in Ezekiel 38:6 and 15, the text says the "remote parts of the north" or the "uttermost parts of the north." However, the Hebrew only says *yarechati tzafon*, which means the "quarters of the north" or the "flanks of the north." The words "remote" or "uttermost" are added commentary! Asia Minor (Turkey and the Central Asian States) are directly north of Israel.

What about Meshech and Tubal? Where are they located? If you guessed Asia Minor and Turkey, you would be right.

Like Magog, the support for Meshech and Tubal to be in Asia Minor gains the blessings of historians, even in Ezekiel's day – Herodotus tells us that the name of the Cappadocians (Katpatouka) was applied to them by the Persians, while they were termed by the Greeks as "Syrians" or "White Syrians" (Leucosyri). One of the Cappadocian tribes that Herodotus mentions are the Moschoi, associated by Flavius Josephus with the Biblical figure Meshech, son of Japeth, "and the Mosocheni were founded by Mosoch; now they are Cappadocians." (*Antiquities of the Jews*, 1:6 and *Ketubot* 13:11 in the *Mishnah*). (*God's War on Terror*, p. 258)

Where is Cappadocia? It's in Turkey and it is a Muslim region.

There are two other places that are mentioned in Ezekiel 38 that are found in Asia Minor: Gomer and Beth Togarmah (house of Togarmah). Both of these regions are also found in modern-day Turkey. Gomer was in north central Asia Minor or Cappadocia, and Togarmah was in the southern part of Turkey very close to the Syrian border.

Hopefully, we have done enough to dispel the Russia theory. If not, we recommend the *IVP Atlas of Bible History*, *Macmillan Bible Atlas*, *Moody Atlas of Bible Lands*, and the *Holman Bible Atlas*, to name a few. You can also check out *Zondervan Bible Atlas*, *Harper Collins Atlas of Bible History*, *ESV Bible Atlas* and *Baker's Bible Atlas*. They all place Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Gomer and Beth Togarmah in Asia Minor.



IVP Atlas of Bible History



Macmillan Bible Atlas



New Moody Atlas of the Bible



The Holman Bible Atlas

It should not be surprising to us that there seems to be a geographic emphasis in this coalition that comes against Israel. Is it possible that the prophet is pointing us to something important? Of the eight places mentioned in Ezekiel 38 (Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Persia, Ethiopia, Put, Gomer, and Togarmah) five of them are located in what is today modern Turkey. The prophet Ezekiel is clearly pointing us to Turkey.

Ezekiel 30 also speaks of the Day of the LORD and mentions the coalition of nations that will be destroyed:

A sword will come upon Egypt and anguish will be in Ethiopia. When the slain fall in Egypt, they take away her wealth and her foundations are torn down. Ethiopia, Put, Lud, all Arabia, Libya and the mixed people of the land that are in league will fall with them by the sword.” (Ezekiel 30:4-5)

These are some of the same nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38, with the addition of Egypt and Arabia. Here Turkey is specifically mentioned as “Lud.” Some translations say “Lydia”, but all the same, the location is western Turkey. Are there other prophets who add their voices to Ezekiel’s? The answer is absolutely yes!

Zechariah 9:13 speaks of the deliverance of Judah and Ephraim, a summary for the 12 tribes of Israel: “...And I will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece.” The word for “Greece” is *Yavan*, sometimes spelled *Javan*. This is referring to a race of people known as the

Ionians who lived in a geographic area called by the same name. Where is Ionia? It is located near an area called Anatolia, which is in Turkey.

In case you are not convinced yet, here is another interesting fact. Did you know there was a historical person named “Gygez” who hailed from ancient Lydia, which is Turkey? You can learn about him [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gyges\\_of\\_Lydia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gyges_of_Lydia) and the writings of the ancient Greek historian Herodotus validate his existence. What is also interesting is that Gygez lived around the time that Ezekiel was a prophet. For more interesting information, you can refer to *God’s War on Terror*, page 264.

Could a future battle between Daniel’s King of the North (led by Turkey) and the King of the South be shaping up? If so, what could it look like? Who would be in the alliance? Though we can’t say for absolute certainty until time passes and current events unfold, we know there is a deep rift within the world of Islam between the Shi’ites and the Sunnis. The majority of Muslims are Sunni, and this would include those who want a Caliphate in Turkey. Before the Antichrist (Gog) is able to be the leader of the Islamic world, he must get control of the now dominated Shi’ite Islamic nations – Iran, and her proxies, Hezbollah in Lebanon (ancient Tyre and Sidon), and Hamas in Gaza (ancient Philistia). It is highly possible that Syria could also fall to Shi’ite Islam. A two-year plus long civil war is raging now. Iraq is dominated by Shi’a Muslims as well. If you remember, in Daniel 7:8, 20, the “little horn” plucks up three of ten horns. According to Daniel 7:24, these ten horns are ten kings that arise in the end of days. And the “little horn” is the Antichrist. Is it possible that these three “kings” who are subdued are Iran, Lebanon and Gaza? Or does Gaza align itself with the King of the South’s coalition? In that case, perhaps one of the three horns is Syria or Iraq? Following the pattern of ancient history and what happened between the northern Seleucid and the southern Ptolemaic kingdom, the three kings are more likely part of the Kingdom of the South. These are only possibilities and time will tell. However, we can be almost certain that this ancient battle will play itself out once again. And it is likely that geographic regions will play a part in the alignment: The Islamic nations in the North (Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and perhaps the CIS nations against the Southern Islamic stronghold which with almost certainly would include Egypt, north Sudan, and Libya.

Now that we’ve determined the Antichrist is a Muslim from Turkey, this also dispels a common myth that he will be Jewish. Since one can’t be both Muslim and Jewish, this becomes impossibility. In “End of the Age - Part 3”, we will dispel another myth, that the Antichrist will be a homosexual. We will also revisit an ancient prophecy in Daniel that will further prove the final beast empire is Islamic. And we will take what we hope will be a refreshing look at Psalm 83 to see who else might be part of the nations who join with Gog of Magog.