***Russia in Ezekiel 38 and 39
RO160-02***

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We are studying Romans 12:9-12. Our subject is "Christian Conduct," and this is segment number eight.

Once a society has rejected the Bible as an understandable and binding revelation from God, that society will degenerate into totally humanistic thinking and animal level conduct. People will then not be viewed as being naturally enslaved by a sin nature. Man will be viewed as being free from all moral rules except those which are approved by the majority of the people in the society. People will not be seen as having an inherent propensity to moral evil, which is expressed in self-centeredness and sensuality. People will not be seen as flawed by sin, and therefore, in need of spiritual regeneration through trust in Christ as Savior.

**Humanism**

This humanistic, non-biblical view of man is where American society is today. Such is the condition of our own nation with its abandonment of God and its abandonment of the Bible. So, we have created a society which is rushing to its own self-destruction. Because of this rejection of God's authority and God's guidelines, we now have a society that is plagued by drugs; murders; stealing; lesbianism; homosexuality; incest; fornication; adultery; occultism; drunkenness; gluttony; welfarism; vile language; pornography; idolatry; lying; hatred; jealousy; anger; abortion; violence; low school grades, and, illegitimate pregnancies. You could go on and on. And these are not exceptions. These are not occasional things. These are what our society is shot-through in enormous numbers. American society, through all of its media of communication, now freely and without restraint, promotes and exalts what is obscene and evil. And they're downright proud of it. They are now fulfilling, indeed, what Paul pointed out in Philippians 3:19, when he said, "Whose end is destruction; whose God is their appetite (their sensuality); and, whose glory is their shame, who mind earthly things.

**America is Obscene**

Also in Ephesians 5:12, Paul says, "For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." And if you ever listen to any of the talk shows on television, you will know that they are not ashamed of talking about the grossest, vilest kinds of things, and to gather crowds who will give an ear to that kind of obscenity. Yes, American public media is basically to be described by the word "obscene."

When a society has come to this point of view, all the solutions for these evils that have accumulated are going to be dealt with on the basis of viewing people as merely animals, but who are presumed as good. None of the solutions for the problems of society are based on the need for personal regeneration, and for subjection to biblical morality. So, AIDS is running rampant, and all kinds of ideas are being promoted as to how to deal with this problem, when there's only one solution, and that's biblical morality. Immorality is what caused the problem. But once man has cut himself yourself off from God, and from the fact that man has been made in the image of God, and has a soul through which he must account to God, then you only deal with him as an animal trying to solve these terrible problems without removing the cause of the problem.

That's just as crazy as someone who has a disease, and it's being caused by something, and he keeps doing the thing that causes the disease. That could be like smoking, for example. People are spending enormous amounts of money on their physical well-being, who go through terrible surgery as the result of trying to remove the problems that have been brought on by their use of tobacco. Then as soon as they get out of the hospital, and get on their feet, they go right back to smoking. You say, "That's crazy." But that's the way our society works. We don't remove the cause of the problem.

So, the cause of the problem of man's nature, and his naturally degenerate condition is never dealt with, regarding all of these problems that I have listed for you. All the solutions are based on the assumption that man is capable of correcting himself.

So, what has the result been? "Here in the state of Texas, we have more prison inmates than we have room for. Our visiting guest from the Kentucky State Penitentiary is dealing on a daily basis with inmates in prison institutions. And he told us some real hair-raising stories. He, interestingly, pointed out that the rate of recidivism (the rate of returning to prison after being released) is so enormous that it is almost ludicrous ever to release anybody to begin with. He said, "People are not rehabilitated." And I mean, he's quoting: "We'll let them out, and we know that 90% of them are going to come back.

Here in Texas, we're having to let people out before they serve sentences because we don't have room for them. Why is this? This has only happened in recent years. It is because we are now bearing the bitter fruits of thumbing our nose to God, pretending that He's not out there, and that He has not spoken to us in His words, and that His Word is not absolutely required of us – that it is optional for our response.

**Obesity**

The federal government, therefore, is being called upon to use taxpayers' money to solve the consequences of the animal lifestyle of humanism. I caught part of a Donahue show the other day, which was on obesity. That's a euphemistic word for "fat." And on the stage were some fat people. Now I don't mean your ordinary fat people. I mean people who were 400 to 450 pounds. I don't even know how they walked out there. And there they sat in huge chairs. I mean they are what's really fat? And they were having a discussion about how they came to be in this condition.

One of the workers with people in this condition said that recently the paramedics had to go to the home of a person who was in this condition. They needed to take him to the hospital. But before they could remove him from the house, they had to break the door open, and tear the door front out of the front of his entrance in order to make it big enough to get him through.

I found it interesting that these people, finally, as they sat there discussing this, with Donahue's sympathetic response, said, "The problem is that we don't have any government funding for this problem. We need government funding." I thought to myself, "Government funding for what?" You know, you don't go to bed at night, and then wake up the next morning like a big, bloated balloon and say, "I've gotten fat." That's something that accumulates over a period of time. That's what the Bible calls "gluttony." And it has been a deliberate choice on the part of the individual. Now he's in this condition, and he says, "Something has to do something about my sin nature problem that I've created here. And the people who should do it are all you people around the United States. We want your money to solve my problem."

They asked one man, "Do you drink?" You know, drinking makes people fat. And he said, "Well, not much." They said, "Well, do you drink beer?" He said, "Yes, just a little." They said, "How much?" He said, "Well, two six-packs a day." They said, "Do you drink any whiskey?" He said, "Well, just a little." They said, "How much?" He replied, "Three bottles a day. Three fifths a day." I don't know why they divide these up into fifths of a gallon. But he drinks three a day. I wondered, "What does he have for breakfast?" You know, stuffing down one egg is a problem for most people. This guy probably has a couple of dozen. I know that it's an enormous amount of food. That's what creates that conditions.

Yet what's the solution for a product of sin? "Let's get some government funding."

That is the same principle as on the AIDS problem. "Let's get government funding to solve the consequences of depravity. But God said, "If you do this, I will send disease, and there will be a consequence for your act, so don't do that."

**Capital Punishment**

Well, without God and His word, people, indeed, can only live like animals, because they are enslaved to a sin nature that they're born with. Those are the facts of life. And I find it very sad that now we are listening to political candidates of every kind who now, in American society, with our tremendous biblical Christian heritage, feel free to make such pronouncements as strong opposition to capital punishment for those who have been guilty of heinous, willful, first-degree murder. So, when you hear a politician who says, "I'm opposed to capital punishment," if you are an intelligent, honest Christian, you will recognize that that man is thumbing his nose at God, who has laid down the law, that this is what justice demands, and preservation of freedom in a society, when Satan dominates the world, requires this penalty for first-degree murder.

**Abortion**

This kind of a man is a threat to justice in a society, and to the personal freedom of individual citizens. And it goes without saying that, when you find a candidate that says, "I'm against capital punishment," you should never vote for him. He should never be put in public office because he has arrogantly stood himself up against the almighty living God. If you believe that God is out there, and that God has spoken, don't look at this guy twice. I can almost reassure you that, without exception, the same one that is against capital punishment is all for abortion. Interestingly, these two things almost always, inevitably go together, because the mind of these people is so irrational, and it is so arrogant in its self-conceit, because they think that, on their own, they can make sense out of life.

No one can be a normal person without being born again through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, and then living by the guidelines of the Bible. Most of the institutions of our society today are guided by abnormal human beings who are enslaved to Satan's ideas of humanism through their sin natures. These abnormal people are put in public positions of trust and authority by the fact that most of our people in American society are themselves abnormal. They are not regenerated people, or they are not instructed in the Word of God. So, they put their own kind in authority, and American society is becoming a jungle.

We had one of our men out on Harry Hines Boulevard at 2 o'clock in the afternoon yesterday. And he accidentally had an easy bump to the back bumper of the car in front of him that suddenly stopped, and he found himself confronted by an irate citizen who pulled a knife on him. He punched him twice, and then pulled a knife. It's a jungle out there. And you're wondering: "What are you going to do with something like this?" Of course, the appropriate thing to do, if one is equipped, is to pull out a 38 or a 45, and aim right between the eyes. That will solve the problem. It will bring peace immediately on Harry Hines at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

This is the jungle that has been created by a nation that says, "We don't care if God is out there, and we certainly don't care about anything He tells us we have to do in Scripture. Abnormal people run our society because abnormal people are the norm today.

**Hope**

Here in Romans 12, the apostle Paul explains the normal lifestyle of a regenerated human being operating on Bible doctrine principles. In Romans 12:12, we read, "Rejoicing in Hope." This directs the Christians to rejoice in hope. Hope in the Bible is something that a believer will be certain of receiving. It is a confident future expectation. When the Bible says, "You may hope for something," it means you can trust for sure that you will get it. The Christian has the hope from God, which gives him great joy no matter what happens in society. This hope that produces such joy is based on the fact that the person who has trusted in Jesus Christ has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which has placed him forever into Christ and thus has assured him of eternal life no matter what (1 Corinthians 12:13).

The unbeliever, on the other hand, has no hope that can bring him any joy. In the long-run, he is doomed. He needs the gospel. The Christian's happy hope is based on God's promises to him in Scripture. These are not based upon self-generated, groundless optimism that all will be well with us, In Romans 15:13, the apostle Paul puts it this way: "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. We Christians have a true ground of hope. It isn't something we psych ourselves into. We know that everything's going to come out right.

Now I know that some of you have problems of one kind or another that are burdening your heart, and they brings tears to your eyes, and you wish it weren't so, and you wish people would do better, and they should do better, and they've had a chance to know to do better. But I can assure you that, ultimately, it's going to turn out OK. We have a hope that God is going to come through. Justice will be served, and the will of God will override the will of man.

**Peace on Earth**

The Christian's happy hope is based on the promises of God. These include our physical resurrection; our absolute righteousness; our eternity in heaven; our transformation into the sinless image of Christ; and, our freedom from the fear of death. The Christian's hope in God enables him to rejoice in the knowledge that all will be well with him in eternity. We, as Christians, therefore have indeed a hope for what all the world is really hoping for, and we're hearing a lot about, but which is not going to come the way the world thinks it's going to come; and, that is peace on earth.

**The Millennium**

We Christians do have a hope for peace on earth, and we have a great joy in that peace. This hope is not based upon peace treaties with Russia and disarmament. The Christian rejoices instead in the hope of Christ's rule over all nations for 1,000 years, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The millennium is the only hope for real peace among nations. All the vain attempts by humanistic, godless leaders to create peace on earth with Russia are going to be doomed.

In the last session, I direct your attention to Ezekiel 38 and 39. Please turn back to that because we are being told by our political leaders that the communist world is now turning to peace. And the Word of God tells us that that's not true. It tells us specifically that this great nation to the north of Israel, the nation of Russia, is going to do something very terrible in the future. That was revealed to the prophet Ezekiel in the sixth century B.C., in terms of the conditions of that day, and in terms of locations of that day, and which we may transport to our present day, and apply it with a great deal of specific understanding.

In Ezekiel 38, we revealed the future act of aggression by Russia on the earth. We are told in Ezekiel 38 that there's a great military power to the north of Israel, and that power, with its allies, is going to be moved by God Himself to attack Israel in the tribulation era. Getting our perspective of what we're talking about, we today live right here in the church age. At some point in time in the future, the rapture of the church will take place, and we Christians will be taken up into the air. Jesus Christ will come down. We'll be caught to meet the Lord here at this point, and He will take us back to heaven. At that point in time, seven years will begin ticking off here on earth. It will be the final years of the 490 years that Daniel was told that was left of God's dealing with Israel.

However, Daniel was also told that the last seven years is going to be cut off because the Messiah is going to be cut off. And when Jesus Christ was crucified, seven years were left of God's dealing to fulfill His plan for the nation Israel. At that point in time, the prophetic clock stopped ticking. That clock will again be ticking, and the last seven years will take place – the years of the tribulation. At the end of that time will come the Second Coming of Christ. We will come back with Him to rule and to rain on this earth in this 1,000-year millennial period.

**Russia will Attack Israel**

Now we've come to the midpoint of this tribulation period (three-and-a-half years). The Jew is now living in peace. He's back in his own land. He is under the protectorate of the antichrist so that finally the Jews feels secure. Three-and-a-half years have gone by, and now Russia makes her move. The Bible speaks about distances, locations, and geographic places in terms of the nation of Israel. You can see the city of Jerusalem on a map. If you draw a line straight north from it, you will go right straight through Moscow in the country of Russia. We are told in this passage in Ezekiel that when this mighty military power of the north comes sweeping down upon Jerusalem in order to take this territory, which is the hub of the three continents of Europe; of Asia; and, of Africa, and to get access to warm-water ports, and to the oil territory of the Arabian countries – we are told that that mighty military power will be joined by three other Japhetic nations.

**Russia's Allies**

The nation to the north of Israel came from Noah's son Japheth. They are the Japhetic people, and they will include East Germany; Turkey; and, Iran. They are very explicitly identified in Scripture. Furthermore, there will be two Hamite nations that will join: Libya; and, Ethiopia. It is no secret to you that Libya and Ethiopia are already in sympathy with Soviet Russia; that East Germany is already in the Soviet camp; that Turkey is waffling; and, that Iran is teetering, and an easy target for a power that can sweep down, namely Russia – once Russia doesn't have to worry about nuclear retaliation.

**Nuclear Weapons vs. Conventional Weapons**

Russia is now, I suspect, in the very process of removing all threat to her invasion of these nations like Iran to set herself up for the move on Israel. But she has to get rid of nuclear threats, because once the nuclear powers are gone, Russia is supreme in the world in conventional weapons. I mean, when you talk about the United States having 5,000 artillery pieces, Russia has 50,000. That's the kind of ratios we're talking about – an enormous military advantage. And when Russia moves, our very generals at the Pentagon have told us that, in conventional weapons, we cannot stop the Russians when they decide to move. The Russians are getting set to do that. They're getting nuclear weapons out of the way with these treaties, and they'll be free to move.

So, this is the picture that we have here in Ezekiel 38 of this great military power. And, Ezekiel, of course, is referring to people who were living during the tribulation in the territory of where modern Russia now resides – those territories which were referred to in Ezekiel's day by other names. He called the leader of this territory in the north Gog, and he called the country Magog. The names in Ezekiel cannot be identified with specific places in Russia today, though they are someplace in the country. Some have tried to do that. But that's pushing beyond what we have information and justifiable authority to do. We can certainly identify that the great country to the north as a military power can only be Soviet Russia. It was not called Russia in Ezekiel's day because the Holy Spirit is using ancient names for these same places and for the people who live there. Russia will be allied, as Ezekiel points out, with these other nations. Then, while Israel is peacefully in its land, in the middle of the tribulation, Russia will come down upon them. Russia wants that strategic place, the wealth of Israel, along with the Persian Gulf. It needs it to keep its socialism afloat, because socialism never works.

The antichrist and his allies will protest to the United Nations, we have indicated in Ezekiel, but nothing will be done. Russia will move on its own, and it will not be stopped. The United States, of course, is moving, as I've indicated, in that direction of establishing Russia in mighty military superiority through these ill-conceived peace treaties that, indeed, people will be shouting "Peace," as the Scripture says, when there comes sudden destruction.

So, in Ezekiel 38:14, Russia, which is the great power to the north of Israel, launches an all-out, full-scale attack against Israel: "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto God, 'Thus says the Lord God. In that day, when my people of Israel shall dwell safely, shall you not know it?'"

Incidentally, I should have pointed out to you that our identification of location we had in Ezekiel 38:6: "Gomer (East Germany) and all his hordes, and the house of Togarmah (Turkey) of the north quarters, and all his hordes, and many people." We're dealing with countries to the north of Israel.

So, verse 14 says that Israel is dwelling safely. Verse 15: "And you shall come from your place out of the north parts." Here again, he is identifying the direction of the attack: "You and many peoples with you, all of them riding upon horses, and a great company and a mighty army." Military forces are described in terms of the day. God moves Russia to this attack. God does this to glorify Himself by these fools who have said, "There is no God."

Verse 16: "And you shall come up against my people of Israel like a cloud to cover the land. It shall be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land." God Himself is bringing them down upon Israel: "That the nations may know Me, when I shall be sanctified in you, O Gog, before their eyes." The leader of Russia is indeed going to get a big surprise. It was Khrushchev, you remember, who came to this country, and pointed at us, and said, "We will bury you." He made a mistake as to who's going to get buried. As you will see in a moment, it isn't we, but it will be indeed the Russians who will be buried.

So, God leaves Russia with her allies to this attack. God's anger turns against the Russians, in part, of course, because of the enormous anti-Semitic attitudes that now pervades in the leadership of the Soviet Union, and of the people of that country.

Isaiah 43:5-6 point this out: "Fear not, for I am with you. I will bring your seed from the east, and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give up,' and to the south. 'Keep not back. Bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth.'" God says that He is going to regather His people from all over the world.

Jeremiah 31:8 says, "Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the farthest part of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame; the woman with child, and her who travails with child together. A great company shall return here."

Verse 11: "For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him who is stronger than he." There are Jews in Russia who want to come down from the north to the land of Israel, but the Russians will not allow them.

**An Enormous Earthquake**

So, God says, "You will bring this army against Israel." Ezekiel 38:17: "Thus says the Lord God: 'Are you he of whom I have spoken of old, by My servant, the prophet of Israel, who prophesied in those days many years that I would bring you against them? And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel,' says the Lord God, 'that My fury shall come up in My face.'" God says, "Now My wrath will come down upon this nation and this leader:" "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." There is going to be an enormous earthquake as these troops moving down upon the people of Israel. This always creates havoc and terror.

Verse 20: "So that the fish of the sea, and the fouls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. And the mountain shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every world shall fall to the ground." This is going to be a terrorizing earthquake. Buildings will fall. God is going to tear up the countryside when He turns the forces of nature loose.

Now what's this going to do? It's going to bog down the advance of the armies from the north. Verse 21: "'And I will call for a sword against him throughout all My mountain,' says the Lord God. Every man's sword shall be against his brother." In the confusion of what happens, perhaps because of darkness brought down, God is going to do again, as He did to Sennacherib, when he turned the soldiers against one another. This is also as He did with Gideon, when Gideon came into the camp, and turned loose the foxes in the pitchers and the lights, and blew the trumpets, and in the confusion, the soldiers woke up from the sleep; jumped up; and, took their swords and started slaughtering one another. So God says, "I'm going to bring this army, but I'm going to cause an earthquake. I'm going to cause such confusion on the battlefield that they will not know who the enemy is, and they will be killing each other." And that's not unusual. That's an easy thing to happen on a battlefield when things get out of alignment, and you lose contact with other troops, and you are in a condition where you have low visibility. This can happen.

"And I will enter into judgment against him with pestilence, and with blood, and will rain upon him, and upon his hordes, and upon the many people that are with him – an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone." Now God comes down and turns loose the forces of nature in rain, hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Now I don't know. Maybe this is a nuclear impact that God brings down upon Russia and her allies. But something is going to be devastating to those troops.

Why? Verse: 23: "Thus will I magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord." Isn't that ironic? These people have thumbed their nose at God and at His Word. God says, "Yes, the time will come in the middle of that tribulation. I'm going to turn this loose, and they're going to know that the God they pretended wasn't here is indeed here."

Now notice what is the result of all this. "Therefore, son of man (speaking to Ezekiel), prophesy against Gog, the leader of Russia, and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshach and Tubal, and I will turn you back, and leave but one-sixth part of you, and will cause you to come up from the north parts, and will bring you upon the mountains of Israel.'" God says that when He's through with this devastation of earthquakes and the forces of nature, five-sixths of the Russian army and its allies will be killed. One-sixth is all that will be left of that mighty military force. This is not to say what will happen to all their weapons.

Verse 3: "And I will smite your bow out of your left hand, and will cause your arrows to fall out of your right hand." This is God's way of saying, "You will not be able to continue the attack. Your weapons will be useless:" "You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes, and the people that are with you, and I will give you unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured." This is very important. I want you to notice that God says that after He destroys this vast number of Russia and her allies, that they will become bird food and animal food on the field of battle. That's how they're going to be disposed of.

"'You shall fall upon the open field, for I have spoken it,' says the Lord God. 'And I will send a fire on Magog, and among the people who dwell securely in the coast lands, and they shall know that I am the Lord." And we suspect that this, referring to "the coast lands" is a biblical reference to the homeland. So, back home in Russia, the people of Russia also will receive an enormous devastation of destruction from God. So, when the troops come dragging back to their homeland, they're going to find that God has already preceded them with destruction there as well.

"So, I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people, Israel, and I will not let them pollute My holy name anymore. And the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel." I'm taking the time to read these Scriptures to you, and point these tremendous two chapters of the Bible out to you, so that whatever you hear on nightly news, and that our government is doing toward securing peace, you will have a frame of reference, and you will not be a sitting duck like the average American who does not have the perspective of Scripture.

Now notice that God, the Holy One of Israel, is going to make Himself known to these Russian atheists as they are swept into hell by the millions.

In verses 8-10, God, thus, will have fulfilled His prophetic Word: "'Behold, it is come, and it is done,' says the Lord God. 'This is the day of which I have spoken. And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields, the bucklers, and the bows, and the arrows, and the hand spikes, and the spears. And they shall burn them with fire for seven years.'" Here Ezekiel is speaking in terms of weapons of the day. He says that the debris of the materiale that is left behind will be so large that it will take Israel seven years to burn up what has been left behind of the debris. This means, since we only have three-and-a-half years of this tribulation time, that they'll be burning this stuff up even in the first part of the millennium. It'll take them three or four years into the millennium to get all this burned up.

It says also that there'll be so much that the Jews will not have to use any other fuel during this seven-year period. The power company doesn't like to hear this, but it's true. Israel, who's on a piece of land, of all places in Arabia – they are on the one piece of land where there's no oil. But God says, "I'm going to give you fuel for seven years with one blow." Verse 10: "'So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forest, for they shall burn the weapons with fire, and they shall spoil those that spoil them, and rob those that rob them,' says the Lord God." What a God of justice. The Jews will plunder the very Russians and Arabs who sought to plunder them.

In verses 11-16, the Russians are going to be buried in a mass cemetery east of the Jordan River in the valley called "Hamongog." "Hamongog" means "the multitude of God," for this God who has made this multitude for this cemetery: "And it shall come to pass in that day that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the travelers on the east of the sea, and it shall stop the noses of the travelers, and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitudes. And they shall call it the valley of Hamongog." They will honor this big cemetery by giving it the name "Hamongog," the multitude of God. And it's going to be such a stench that you can't walk through it without throwing up unless you put a cloth over your nose, or hold your nose, and breathe through your mouth.

Verse 12: "And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying them, that they may cleanse the land." Burial parties will be going out for seven months to clean up the corpses. Can you imagine what a pile of corpses that is, that takes seven months to get them all buried – collected, and disposed of?

Verse 13: "'Yea, all the people of the land shall bury them. And it shall be to their renown on the day that I shall be glorified,' says the Lord God." This whole operation will glorify the holiness of God: "And they shall set apart men for the continual task of passing through the land to bury, with the help of the travelers, those that remained upon the face of the land, to cleanse it. After the end of the seven months shall they make their search." As people travel, they're going to keep their eyes open for corpses.

Verse 15: "And the travelers that pass through the land, when any see a man's bones, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamongog." As they find corpses, they'll mark them, and the burial teams will continue cleaning up the remains of those that they didn't get the first time. And they actually have to have a city to operate from. This cemetery is going constantly for seven months, and consequently, they have to have a city, and they build a city called "Hamonah," which means "multitude."

Verse 16: "Also, the name of the city shall be Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land." So, here's the . . . end for the Russians at the hands of the Jews. This is really ironic in view of the fact that communism originated in the mind of a Jew: Karl Marx. It is even more ironic when you realize that communism was brought to its most brutal effectiveness by a part-Jew named Lenin, and followed up by another part-Jew named Stalin. Also, most of the first 50 leaders of Russia were part-Jews. So, what an ironic term, that these who themselves were Jews, and should have had a respect for their heritage with God, have created this horrible tyranny upon the earth, and that now they are the ones who suffer at the hands of the very people of the Jewish people that they abused. So, Russia, the nation, today is now riding high as anti-God; anti-Jew; anti-mankind; and, anti-Bible – that country is headed for the dirt.

Joel 2:20: "But I will remove far off from you the northern army (this is talking about this army from the north and its allies), and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the eastern sea, and his rear toward the western sea. And his stench shall come up and, as his ill savor shall come up, because he has done great things." The prophet is referring to the same thing that Ezekiel is talking about.

Notice Joel 2:30-31: "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth; blood and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes." Jesus Himself predicted that very point.

So, Khrushchev was mistaken as to who was going to bury whom. Communism is basically a religion, and its god is Satan, and God is going to bring it down.

So, in Ezekiel 39, let's finish it up, beginning at verse 17. God's destruction of the Russians is viewed here as a sacrifice on the part of God to feed the birds and the animals: "'And you, son of man,' thus says the Lord God, 'speak until every feathered foul and to every beast of the field. Assemble yourselves and come. Gather yourselves on every side to My sacrifice, that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, of goats, and of bullock – all of them fatlings of Bashan. And you shall eat fat till you be full, and drink blood till you be drunk of My sacrifice, which I have sacrificed for you. Thus you shall be filled at My table: with horses; with chariots; with mighty men; and, with all men of war,' says the Lord. 'And I will set My glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see My judgment that I have executed in My hand that I have laid upon him. So, the House of Israel should know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward.'"

So, many Jews are going to wake up at this point in time. And here the 144,000 evangelists, who have been speaking to nobody that would listen, are suddenly going to find congregations who are paying attention. And I suspect that vast numbers of Jews are going to start turning to Jesus Christ after this experience.

The antichrist himself, however, will not be deterred by this event. He will see it as the opportunity he's been waiting for. With Russia out of the way, a political vacuum has now been created. Now the antichrist, who has only been the ruler of the Western world, will be able to establish himself as the dictator of all the world, which is what he wanted to do all the time. He will rush in to fill that vacuum. And at that point in time, the Bible tells us that he will turn against the Jews, and tell them that they must accept him as their God.

At that point, the Jews rebel and refuse, and then comes down what Jesus predicted as "the time of Jacob's trouble" – the greatest suffering that the Jewish people have ever experienced in the history of the world. The Jews are going to be regathered. Many of them receive Jesus Christ, realize that their forefathers were wrong. And God's Holy Spirit, then, is going to be poured out upon the Jews in the millennium. A new level of spirituality is going to be experienced. Joel 2:28-29, Isaiah 61:3, and Isaiah 12:3-4 tall us about that. The devil will be locked up, and people will have a great emotional expression of spirituality, and it won't be the fake thing that takes place in the condition of the charismatics today.

Ezekiel 39:23: "And the nations shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity, because they trespassed against Me. Therefore, I hid My face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemy. So, they all fell by the sword. According to their uncleanness, and according to their transgression, I have done unto them, and hidden My face from them." When a nation cuts itself off from God and His word, this is what happens to it. It may eventually expect its own destruction. That's where we are today.

In verse 25, Israel does come back to its senses. It returns to its Messiah: "Therefore, thus says the Lord God, 'Now I will bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for My Holy Name. After they have born their shame, and all their trespasses by which they have trespassed against Me; when they have dwelt safely in their land; and, none made them afraid. When I have brought them again from the peoples, and gathered them out of the enemy's lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations, then shall they know that I am the Lord their God who caused them to be led into captivity among the nations. But I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them anymore there. Neither will I hide My face anymore from them, for I have poured out My spirit upon the house of Israel,' says the Lord God." The result will be that every Jew (not just some of them, but all of them) will be returned to Israel.

**God and Magog at the End of the Millennium**

Now you have a question. Some of you have already posed this to me. So, let me deal with that, because you remember something you read in Revelation 20. You remember that, suddenly, after 1,000 years of tremendous peace upon this earth, we come to the end of this period of time when the Lord Jesus Christ has been ruling the earth. And right at the very end, near the end of this marvelous golden age upon the earth, Satan is again turned loose. Millions of children have been born during the millennium. They have been under grudging subjection to the Messiah King. Now they choose to turn against Him. And suddenly, you find that you're reading about Gog and Magog (Revelation 20:7-9). The question naturally comes up: are we putting Ezekiel's prophecy in the wrong place, or is this talking about the same Gog and Magog?

Well, of course, obviously, using the same words doesn't mean it's the same thing. I found somebody else in the world yesterday who has the name "John." I now know that when you use the name "John," they're not all talking about me. And I also noticed that he didn't even look like me. He was nice, but not very good-looking. His name was John, but it wasn't the same thing. So, just because you have the same name, that does not mean identity.

Revelation 20:7-9: "And when the 1,000 years are ended, Satan shall be turned loose out of his prison." He's in the pit of the abyss: "And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth; Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, the number of whom is as the sand of the sea." I want you to notice verse 9 carefully – what God does to these people. It's very different than what He did to them in Ezekiel's prediction: "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, the beloved city." Yes, they're attacking Jerusalem. They're attacking the Jews again: "And fire came down from God out of heaven, and incinerated them all." It devoured them – ate them all up, and reduced them to ashes.

The event we read about here in Revelation takes place at the end of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. Satan has been released to rally unbelievers to fight against God. Back in Ezekiel 38 and 39, we have a premillennial time-frame, and a very different battle. And in Ezekiel's day, there is no stress on the newly freed Satan as being the cause of leading the nations into war. He's already freed. There is no reference in the Ezekiel passage to a millennial condition in the world at the time. So, it's a different world condition.

Secondly, the nations from all over the world join Satan to fight against God in the Revelation passage. All the nations join Satan. But in Ezekiel 38 and 39, only a few nations come to fight, allied with Russia. They come from the north of Israel rather than from all over the world.

Thirdly, the expression "Gog and Magog" is not explained here in Revelation 20. We must not assume that it's referring to the same thing as in Ezekiel 38 and 39. What I suspect that we have here is a general term that's applied to leaders of nations who are in rebellion against God. Indeed, it does use the battle that will be fought in the middle of the tribulation, that Ezekiel refers to, as the point of reference. And the expression is referring back to that.

This is similar to what we say to a person who has now met disaster. We say to him, "Well, you have met your Waterloo. What in the world are we talking about? Sometimes we even say, "Well, Napoleon, you've met your Waterloo." Are we talking to Napoleon? No. Are we talking about a place in Belgium called Waterloo? No. But we are using a term that now has an implication. Yes, there was a historical man named Napoleon. Yes, he did fight a crucial battle in Belgium at the city of Waterloo. And, indeed, it was the end of the life for a mighty general that brought him to the end of his military glory. When we use the term "Napoleon, you've met your Waterloo," we are referring to the same kind of thing as a person coming to the end of the line, meeting a disaster. But the disaster of which we speak has no connection, actually, with Napoleon or Waterloo.

So, when the leaders of the nations in Revelation come out in the same spirit of rebellion and hatred of God as in Ezekiel 38 and 39, God the Holy Spirit says, "Here comes Gog and the Magogs again." Or we might say, "Here comes Napoleon and the Waterloos again." And that's a very understandable way of referring to something that has a general frame of reference.

There's something also very distinctive about these two references. The armies in revelation, when they are struck down, are not piled up in corpses to be buried. They are incinerated. They don't need any cemeteries. It's just one big cremation by God. In Ezekiel 38 and 39, the armies fall in the field, and they must be buried over a seven-month period.

In Ezekiel 38 and 39, the terms "latter years" and "latter days" refer to something that's way down the line from Ezekiel's time; namely, the middle of the tribulation.

At the end of the millennium comes the final and marvelous hope of a new heaven and a new earth that 2 Peter 3:12 talks about, which brings all this terrible time to an end.

So, whatever else the Gog and Magog of Revelation 20 may refer to (it doesn't clarify it), but it certainly is not the same as what is in Ezekiel 38 and 39. And in all likelihood, it is simply a connection because it's the same kind of destructive, climactic event.

**Real Peace**

So, we, as Christians, have a great hope for a new heaven and a new earth. And you are going to hear increasingly, if you should live to the rapture, that peace is going to become the big term. Every president of the United States is going to portray himself as an agent of peace. You're going to constantly be hearing that he wants to go down in history as the man who brought peace to the world. And the peace that will be brought without the Prince of Peace is going to be a false hope, never to be realized. But the hope that we have for the peace that Christ has promised is one that we will indeed someday enjoy. I hope with the background of Ezekiel 38 and 39, you'll be able to understand the evening news commentators and the government actions in a whole new perspective.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1977

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