

The Coming War

Isaiah 34:1-10, Zephaniah 2:4-15

3/29/2015

Paul has asked me to come and bring a message to you today out of Isaiah 34 because it connects to a study I have been doing for some time on an end times war that is not the Gog/Magog war in Ezekiel 38-39 nor Armageddon. I believe that this particular war may occur in our lifetimes. As we go through this study I hope that you will begin to see the world events, **particularly with ISIS**, that appear to be setting up the exact situations that bring about this war.

We will begin with Isaiah 34 and then jump to Psalm 83 and many other Scriptures. This war is difficult to pick up on because the information about it is scattered in several locations in the Bible.

We are going to quickly go through verses 1-10 because I want you to understand one of the really tricky and often confusing aspects of prophecy:

Isa 34:1-4

34 Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention, you peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world, and all that comes out of it! 2 The Lord is angry with **all nations**; his wrath is upon **all their armies**. **He will totally destroy them, he will give them over to slaughter**. 3 Their slain will be thrown out, their dead bodies will send up a stench; the mountains will be soaked with their blood. 4 **All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree.** NIV

Here we have a prophecy of the tribulation and the final battle, Armageddon, where Christ destroys all His enemies on the earth. Only the righteous, born again, will survive this battle that occurs at His second coming. Those who survive will enter into the millennial kingdom on earth.

Notice that this passage is to all the nations and that God will totally destroy them. These are a couple of the clues that tell us that this describes Armageddon. Another very specific clue is that the stars of the heavens will be dissolved the sky rolled up like a scroll, the starry host will fall. All of this language is identical to other passages in places like Daniel, Revelation and others.

Yet in the next passage we find that the prophecy suddenly becomes very specific to a single nation: Edom **(modern day Jordan)**:

Isa 34:5-10

5 My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens; see, it descends in judgment on Edom, **the people I have totally destroyed**. 6 The sword of the Lord is bathed in blood, it is covered with fat — the blood of lambs and goats, fat from the kidneys of rams. For the Lord has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in Edom. 7 And the wild oxen will fall with them, the bull calves and the great bulls. Their land will be drenched with blood, and the dust will be soaked with fat. 8 For the Lord has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause. 9 Edom's streams will be turned into pitch, her dust into burning sulfur; her land will become blazing pitch! 10 It will not be quenched night and day; its smoke will rise forever. From generation to generation it will lie desolate; no one will ever pass through it again. NIV

Notice that in verse 5 God tells us that He has already destroyed Edom. This passage gives the sense that this occurred before the battle in verses 1- 4 and as we look at it we find it describes a very different war.

The key in this passage that links it to the other passages describing the Psalm 83 war is the naming of Edom as the primary nation to be destroyed, that it will be utterly destroyed and that one of the primary weapons will be fire. The whole land appears to be burned to the ground and even the rivers flow with pitch (oil) that burns and never stops.

Slide - Nations that Attack Israel with Gog

Attackers:

Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Gomer (all these countries are now Turkey),
Persia (Iran),
Cush (Sudan/Ethiopia),
Put (Libya),
Beth Togarmah (Russia?) Far north of Israel and of Magog (Turkey)

Slide - Map Showing Nations that Attack Israel

These nations attack Israel and are completely destroyed by God. Israel's forces are not involved in the fight at all because they are caught totally off guard. God fights these nations and completely destroys their armies and then also destroys all their sea ports back in their homelands. If you destroy their sea ports you destroy their economies. Most people are not aware that over 90% of imports/exports of a nation go by sea. It is by far the cheapest mode of transportation.

There are three key points that separate this war from the Psalm 83 war: **motive, participating nations and who does the fighting on Israel's side.**

Gog/Magog is a war of plunder. They want the wealth of Israel and the nations don't include any of the nations that border Israel. So you have to ask yourself, **What happened to the border nations?** God fights for Israel.

Psalm 83 war is a war of total annihilation of Israel, it is between the bordering nations and Israel and the IDF (Israeli Defense Force) destroys its enemies not by God's direct intervention. Israel takes control of the land of all these nations, (including their resources) which probably makes them wealthy enough to cause the war of Gog/Magog.

Slide - War of Psalm 83 - War of Annihilation

In Psalm 83 we find a coalition of bordering nations that is created with the intent of completely destroying Israel as a nation so that its name be remembered no more. This is exactly what all of the Islamic extremists have stated is their end goal. These are the same people that are currently taking over all of the nations that border Israel.

Ps 83:1-8 (2 slides change at verse 5)

3 O God, do not keep silent; be not quiet, O God, be not still. 2 See how your enemies are astir, how your foes rear their heads. 3 With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish. (Muslim brotherhood, ISIS)

4 **"Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more."** (Clearly stated by the Muslim Brotherhood, Palestinians)

5 With one mind (Muslim Brotherhood/ISIS) they plot together; they form an alliance against you — 6 the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites, 7 Gebal, Ammon

and Amalek, Philistia, with the people of Tyre. 8 Even Assyria has joined them to lend strength to the descendants of Lot. NIV (Parenthetical sections are my notes)

This last statement (**lend strength to the descendants of Lot**) gives the sense that Ammon and Moab (modern Jordan) will be the leaders/instigators of the coalition and attack.

The key to all of this is the motive: "let us destroy them as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more."

Slide - Modern Nations that make up the coalition

Attackers:

Amalekites -	Egyptians and Arabs in the Sinai Peninsula.
Edom, Moab, Ammon -	Jordan, Palestinians (Arabs)
Ishmaelites -	Arabs - Saudi Arabia
Hagrites -	Arabs in Syria
Gebal -	Northern Lebanon
Philistia -	Palestinians in Gaza strip
Tyre -	Southern Lebanon
Assyria -	Syrians and Iraqis
Descendants of Lot:	Moab/Ammon - Modern Jordan

Slide - Map of the Modern Nations Named in the Coalition of Psalm 83

Other Scriptures that speak to this same coalition and the IDF defeating them

Jer 49:2

2 But the days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will sound the battle cry against Rabbah of the Ammonites; (Jordan) it will become a mound of ruins, and its surrounding villages will be set on fire.

Then Israel will drive out those who drove her out," says the Lord. NIV

Here we are told that Israel will drive Ammonites out of their land, their capital will be a mound of ruins and they will burn their villages to the ground.

Notice the theme of fire throughout these passages and that the fighting is done by the IDF (Israel) not directly by God as in the war of Gog and Magog.

Ezek 25:12-14 (Southern Jordan)

12 "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: 'Because Edom (Esau) took revenge on the house of Judah and became very guilty by doing so, 13 therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will stretch out my hand against Edom and **kill its men and their animals**. I will lay it waste, and from Teman to Dedan they will fall by the sword. 14 **I will take vengeance on Edom by the hand of my people Israel**, and they will deal with Edom in accordance with my anger and my wrath; they will know my vengeance, declares the Sovereign Lord.'" NIV

Here we are told that the IDF will kill the men and the animals the killing of the animals is also mentioned in Isaiah 34:5-10

Obad 17-18

17 But on Mount Zion will be deliverance;
it will be holy,
and the house of Jacob
will possess its inheritance.

**18 The house of Jacob will be a fire
and the house of Joseph a flame;
the house of Esau will be stubble,
and they will set it on fire and consume it.**

There will be no survivors
from the house of Esau."
The Lord has spoken. NIV

Here we have the mention of destruction by fire and this connects us back to Isaiah 34:5-10.

We also have the prophecy that Israel will gain back all of its land to the original borders set out in Exodus.

Ammon, Moab, Edom are all part of the nation of Jordan today.

Slide - Outline of Jordan Overlaid on the Ancient Kingdoms

The key in all these passages is that Israel's military (the IDF) will destroy these nations, not direct action from God. This must be placed into the time-line of the last days or end times.

It seems that prior to the tribulation or Armageddon Jordan creates this coalition of extremist Islamic states to try to completely destroy Israel or as they have said: **push her into the sea**. But the IDF defeats all these nations and takes over their lands and wealth. This causes Israel to have peace and great wealth for a time.

This battle could be what causes the anti-Christ to sign a treaty with Israel for the whole world would be in awe and fear of this tiny nation. Plus a very large portion of those who hate Israel will be gone.

Israel ends up creating a large buffer zone between her and the rest of her enemies:

Zeph 2:4-15 (Look up in their Bibles)

4 Gaza will be abandoned and Ashkelon left in ruins. At midday Ashdod will be emptied and Ekron uprooted. 5 Woe to you who live by the sea, O Kerethite people; the word of the Lord is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines. "I will destroy you, **and none will be left.**" 6 The land by the sea, where the Kerethites dwell, will be a place for shepherds and sheep pens. 7 It will belong to the remnant of the house of Judah; there they will find pasture. In the evening they will lie down in the houses of Ashkelon. The Lord their God will care for them; he will restore their fortunes. 8 "I have heard the insults of Moab and the taunts of the Ammonites, who insulted my people and made threats against their land. 9 Therefore, as surely as I live, "declares the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, "surely Moab will become like Sodom, the Ammonites like Gomorrah — a place of weeds and salt pits, a wasteland forever **(very similar to Isaiah 34:9-10)**. **The remnant of my people will plunder them;** the survivors of my nation will inherit their land." 10 This is what they will get in return

for their pride, for insulting and mocking the people of the Lord Almighty. 11 The Lord will be awesome to them when he destroys all the gods of the land. The nations on every shore will worship him, every one in its own land.

12 "You too, O Cushites, will be slain by my sword." 13 He will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria (**Syria, Iraq**), leaving Nineveh utterly desolate and dry as the desert. 14 Flocks and herds will lie down there, creatures of every kind. The desert owl and the screech owl will roost on her columns. Their calls will echo through the windows, rubble will be in the doorways, the beams of cedar will be exposed. 15 This is the carefree city that lived in safety. She said to herself, "I am, and there is none besides me." What a ruin she has become, a lair for wild beasts! All who pass by her scoff and shake their fists. NIV

Zephaniah gives us more information on this war.

The cities of Ashdod, Ekron and Ashkelon - **Gaza Strip**

Moab and Ammon - **Jordan**

Cushites - **Sudan**

Assyria - **Iraq and Syria**

Again we find that it is the people of Israel who plunder them and not a direct act from God. Zephaniah also gives us the sense that the Israelites take control of all these conquered lands but they do not populate them. They use them as pasture land and I believe as a buffer zone that will give them a sense of safety for there will be a large zone that has to be crossed in order for Israel to be attacked, thus giving them ample warning. It would also make it extremely difficult for an enemy to fire missiles into Israel as they do today.

Slide - Israel's Buffer Zone

Notice the size of the land that Israel conquers and takes possession. They also get all the economic resources of these lands, especially oil and other mineral wealth. Also imagine what the Jews could do with all this extra land to grow crops. They will now control the entire length of the Jordan river. As of today both Lebanon and Syria take water out of the Jordan and there is a water rights battle going on over the Jordan for it is the primary supply of fresh water for the entire area. They will have destroyed all the population of these nations so Israel will be able to take advantage of all the water in the Jordan.

Israel already has 2 very large natural gas reserves and will soon be energy independent. They also have enough gas to begin exporting to other countries. They could easily take Putin's club away from him that he uses to keep Europe in line. They get most of their natural gas from Russia. Israel is much closer with great Mediterranean ports so it would be easy for them to ship LNG to Europe and cut Russia out of the picture or at least take away a substantial portion of their market. Oil has been discovered off the coast of Ashdod and Israel has oil shale (like up in Williston ND).

If we put this all together it is easily conceivable that very soon Israel could be fabulously wealthy. Thus setting up the conditions for the Gog/Magog war that seeks plunder.

Slide - ISIS Land

I believe ISIS is the group that may bring about this war.

The only missing link is Jordan. When it falls to ISIS watch out.

Why do I tell you all this? So you will understand what is going on in the world and why. God has not left us ignorant but has clearly spelled out what is to come in the days ahead. This is so we will live our lives with great security, peace and hope. It also gives us a great tool to evangelize others because right now we can show how the Bible predicted what is happening in the Middle East. Then when Israel does destroy her neighbors people will be amazed and full of questions and we have the answers.

The greatest reason is found in:

1 Peter 3:15-16

15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. NIV