

## "Pure Worship of Jehovah—Restored At Last!

rr chap. 17 ¶1-8, intro video

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

rr chap. 17 ¶1-8, intro video

(Ezekiel 38:3) Say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: "Here I am against you, O Gog, head chieftain of Me'shech and Tu'bal.

## Paragraph 1

(Revelation 16:14) They are, in fact, expressions inspired by demons and they perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the entire inhabited earth, to gather them together to the war of the great day of God the Almighty.

## Paragraph 2

(Ezekiel 38:1-23) omitted due to length

(Ezekiel 39:1-29) omitted due to length

## Paragraph 3

(Ezekiel 38:1, 2) The word of Jehovah again came to me, saying: 2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog of the land of Ma'gog, the head chieftain of Me'shech and Tu'bal, and prophesy against him.

(Ezekiel 38:8) ""You will be given attention after many days. In the final part of the years you will invade the land whose people have been restored from the ravages of the sword, collected together out of many peoples onto the mountains of Israel, which had long been lying devastated. The inhabitants of this land were restored from the peoples, and all of them dwell in security.

(Ezekiel 38:18) ""On that day, the day when Gog invades the land of Israel,' declares the Sovereign Lord Jehovah, 'my great rage will flare up.

(Ezekiel 39:4) On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the peoples who will be with you. I will give you as

food to all kinds of birds of prey and the wild beasts of the field."

(Ezekiel 39:11) ""On that day I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, in the valley of those who travel east of the sea, and it will block the path of those passing through. That is where they will bury Gog and all his hordes, and they will call it the Valley of Hamon-Gog.

## Paragraph 5

(Ezekiel 39:4) On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the peoples who will be with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of birds of prey and the wild beasts of the field."

(Deuteronomy 28:26) And your carcasses will become food for every bird of the sky and animal of the ground, with no one to frighten them away.

(Jeremiah 7:33) And the dead bodies of this people will become food for the birds of the heavens and for the beasts of the earth, with no one to frighten them away.

(Ezekiel 29:3) Speak these words: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord Jehovah says: "Here I am against you, Phar'aoh king of Egypt, The great sea monster lying among the streams of his Nile, Who has said, 'My Nile River belongs to me. I made it for myself.'

(Ezekiel 29:5) I will abandon you in the desert, you and all the fish of your Nile. You will fall on the open field, and you will not be gathered up nor be collected together. I will give you as food to the wild beasts of the earth and the birds of the sky.

## Paragraph 6

(Ezekiel 39:11) ""On that day I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, in the valley of those who travel east of the sea, and it will block the path of those passing through. That

is where they will bury Gog and all his hordes, and they will call it the Valley of Hamon-Gog.

(Luke 8:31) And they kept pleading with him not to order them to go away into the abyss.

(Revelation 20:1-3) And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven with the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 He seized the dragon, the original serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for 1,000 years. 3 And he hurled him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not mislead the nations anymore until the 1,000 years were ended. After this he must be released for a little while.

(Revelation 20:10) And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet already were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

#### Paragraph 8

(Daniel 11:40-45) “In the time of the end the king of the south will engage with him in a pushing, and against him the king of the north will storm with chariots and horsemen and many ships; and he will enter into the lands and sweep through like a flood. 41 He will also enter into the land of the Decoration, and many lands will be made to stumble. But these are the ones that will escape out of his hand: E'dom and Mo'ab and the main part of the Am'mon·ites. 42 And he will keep thrusting out his hand against the lands; and as regards the land of Egypt, she will not escape. 43 And he will rule over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the desirable things of Egypt. And the Lib'y·ans and the E·thi·o'pi·ans will be at his steps. 44 “But reports out of the east and out of the north will disturb him, and he will go out in a great rage to annihilate and to devote many to destruction. 45 And he will plant his royal tents between the grand sea and the holy mountain of Decoration; and he will come all

the way to his end, and there will be no helper for him.

\*\*\*\*\*Daniel 11:45 indicates that the king of the north will target God's people, for it says that this king “will plant his royal tents between the grand sea [Mediterranean] and the holy mountain of Decoration [where God's temple once stood and where God's people worshipped].”

#### Footnote on Paragraph 4:

\*\*\* rr chap. 17 p. 182 “I Am Against You, O Gog” \*\*\*

See “Questions From Readers” in The Watchtower, May 15, 2015, pp. 29-30.

- Who is Gog of Magog mentioned in the book of Ezekiel?
- ▪ For a number of years, our publications have explained that Gog of Magog is the name given to Satan the Devil after his ouster from heaven. This explanation was based on the fact that the book of Revelation identifies Satan the Devil as the leader of the worldwide attack on God's people. (Rev. 12:1-17) So it was thought that Gog must be another prophetic name for Satan.
- However, that explanation raised some important questions. Why so? Consider this: When referring to the time that Gog is defeated, Jehovah says regarding Gog: “I will give you as food to all kinds of birds of prey and the wild beasts of the field.” (Ezek. 39:4) Then Jehovah adds: “On that day I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel . . . That is where they will bury Gog and all his hordes.” (Ezek. 39:11) But how could a

spirit creature be eaten by “birds of prey and the wild beasts of the field”? How could Satan be given “a burial place” on earth? The Bible clearly shows that Satan will be abysed for 1,000 years, not eaten or buried.—Rev. 20:1, 2.

- We are told that at the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be released from the abyss, and “he will go out to mislead those nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war.” (Rev. 20:8) But how can Satan mislead Gog if he himself is Gog? Therefore, “Gog” does not refer to Satan in either Ezekiel’s prophecy or the book of Revelation.
- Who, then, is Gog of Magog? To answer that question, we need to search the Scriptures to find out who attacks God’s people. The Bible speaks not only of the attack by ‘Gog of Magog’ but also of the attack by “the king of the north” and of the attack by “the kings of the earth.” (Ezek. 38:2, 10-13; Dan. 11:40, 44, 45; Rev. 17:14; 19:19) Do these represent separate attacks? Not likely. The Bible is no doubt referring to the same attack under different names. Why can we draw that conclusion? Because the Scriptures tell us that all the nations of the earth will be involved in this final attack that prompts the war of Armageddon.—Rev. 16:14, 16.
- When we compare all these Scriptural references about the final attack on God’s people, it becomes evident that the name Gog of Magog refers, not to Satan, but to a coalition of nations. Will this coalition be led by the figurative “king of the north”? We cannot say with any certainty. But this thought does seem to be in harmony with what Jehovah says about Gog: “You will come from your place, from the

remotest parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great assembly, a vast army.”—Ezek. 38:6, 15.

- Similarly, the prophet Daniel, who was a contemporary of Ezekiel, says of the king of the north: “Reports out of the east and out of the north will disturb him, and he will go out in a great rage to annihilate and to devote many to destruction. And he will plant his royal tents between the grand sea and the holy mountain of Decoration; and he will come all the way to his end, and there will be no helper for him.” (Dan. 11:44, 45) This clearly parallels what the book of Ezekiel says about Gog’s activities.—Ezek. 38:8-12, 16.
- What occurs next as a result of this final attack? Daniel tells us: “During that time Michael [Jesus Christ] will stand up [at Armageddon], the great prince who is standing [since 1914] in behalf of your people. And there will occur a time of distress [the great tribulation] such as has not occurred since there came to be a nation until that time. And during that time your people will escape, everyone who is found written down in the book.” (Dan. 12:1) This action on the part of God’s representative Jesus is also described at Revelation 19:11-21.
- But who is referred to as “Gog and Magog” at Revelation 20:8? During the final test at the end of the 1,000 years, those who rebel against Jehovah will manifest the same murderous attitude as ‘Gog of Magog,’ those nations that attack God’s people at the end of the great tribulation. And the outcome for both groups will be exactly the same—everlasting death! (Rev. 19:20, 21; 20:9) It seems fitting, then, that all those

rebels at the end of the Millennium be called “Gog and Magog.”

- As keen students of God’s Word, we wait with eager anticipation to see who in the near future will assume the role of “the king of the north.” But no matter who may take the lead in this coalition of nations, we are certain of two things:

(1) Gog of Magog and his armies will be defeated and destroyed; and (2) our reigning King, Jesus Christ, will save God’s people and usher them into a new world of peace and true security.—Rev. 7:14-17.

Chart on page 29]

ATTACK OF GOG OF MAGOG (EZEK. 38:2, 10-13)

GREAT TRIBULATION BEGINS

GOG OF MAGOG:

A coalition of nations that will attempt to annihilate God’s people

ARMAGEDDON:

- Jesus rides to protect God’s people
- Gog of Magog destroyed (Rev. 16:14, 16)
- Satan and the demons abyssed (Rev. 20:1-3)

THE BEGINNING OF CHRIST’S MILLENNIAL REIGN

[Chart on page 30]

ATTACK OF GOG AND MAGOG (REV. 20:8, 9)

END OF THE 1,000 YEARS

SATAN RELEASED

Incites some to rebel against Jehovah and his people

GOG AND MAGOG:

With murderous intent, rebellious humans will encircle righteous mankind

THE END OF WICKEDNESS:

- Fire from heaven destroys Gog and Magog (Rev. 20:9)
- Satan and the demons thrown into lake of fire (Rev. 20:10)