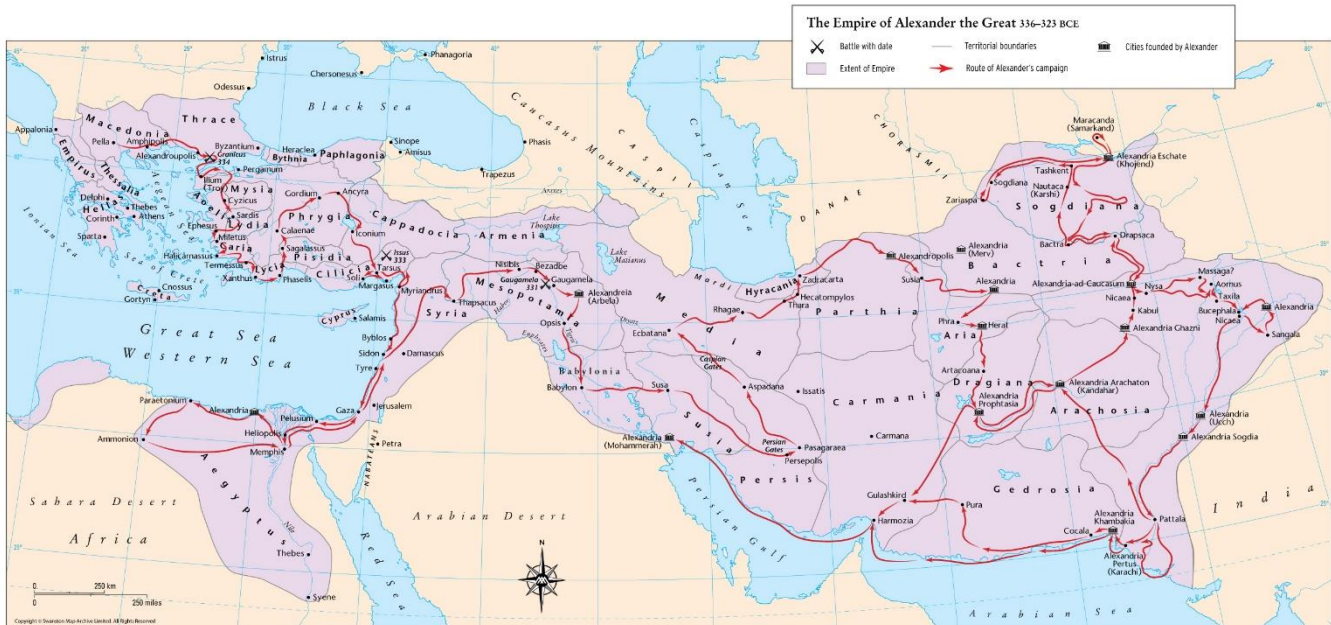


In Revelation 13, John saw the eighth antichrist kingdom established. He watched as a beast with ten horns and seven heads—undoubtedly symbolizing the antichrist—emerged out of the sea (Rev. 13:1). Of great significance are the ten diadems which crown the ten horns (Rev. 13:1). This shows the 10 kings come to power with the antichrist and are given authority at the start of the eighth kingdom.

Another stunning characteristic is the beast “was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion” (Rev. 13:1). Drawing from the beasts in Daniel 7, this vital revelation tells us the antichrist’s eighth kingdom will be a revival of the Greek, Persian, and Babylonian empires.

Of utmost importance, this reveals the domain of the eighth kingdom. Unlike what many have thought or been taught, the antichrist’s empire will not conquer every single nation on earth—from the remotest island in Fiji to the cold terrain of the Antarctica and every nation in between. In a paradigm shift from traditional evangelical eschatology, the antichrist’s domain will not include every nation. Instead, the Lord will only allow him to subdue the nations which comprised the ancient Greek, Persian, and Babylonian empires. That is, his empire will likely stretch from Greece through Turkey into the heart of the Middle East and onward into Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

By looking at a map of the ancient Greek Empire, which conquered all the territory occupied by the Persian and Babylonian empires, you get a good idea of the territory that will be under his authority. You can also click this [link to view an online map](#) of the Greek Empire or see the footnote for the online address.<sup>1</sup>



Another captivating insight is the striking similarities between the ancient Greek Empire and the territory conquered by the Islamic Caliphate. Namely, the combined domain of the Umayyad Caliphate (661–750) and the Ottoman Caliphate, also known as the Ottoman Empire (1299 -1922).

When you compare the Greek Empire to the combined landmass of the Umayyad Caliphate and the Ottoman Caliphate, both included Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Israel, Lebanon, Iraq, Persia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. The main difference is the Islamic Caliphate conquered more of Northern Africa, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Spain, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, and Hungary.

On the following pages, you can see a map of the Umayyad Caliphate, the Ottoman Caliphate, and these two caliphates combined together and compared to the Greek Empire.

Why is this important? Not only will the antichrist’s eighth kingdom be a revival of the ancient Greek, Persian, and Babylonian empires; it will also be a revival of the Islamic Caliphate, once again uniting and dominating the Middle East for a brief time.

Take a few minutes and examine the maps on the following pages.

## The Umayyad Caliphate



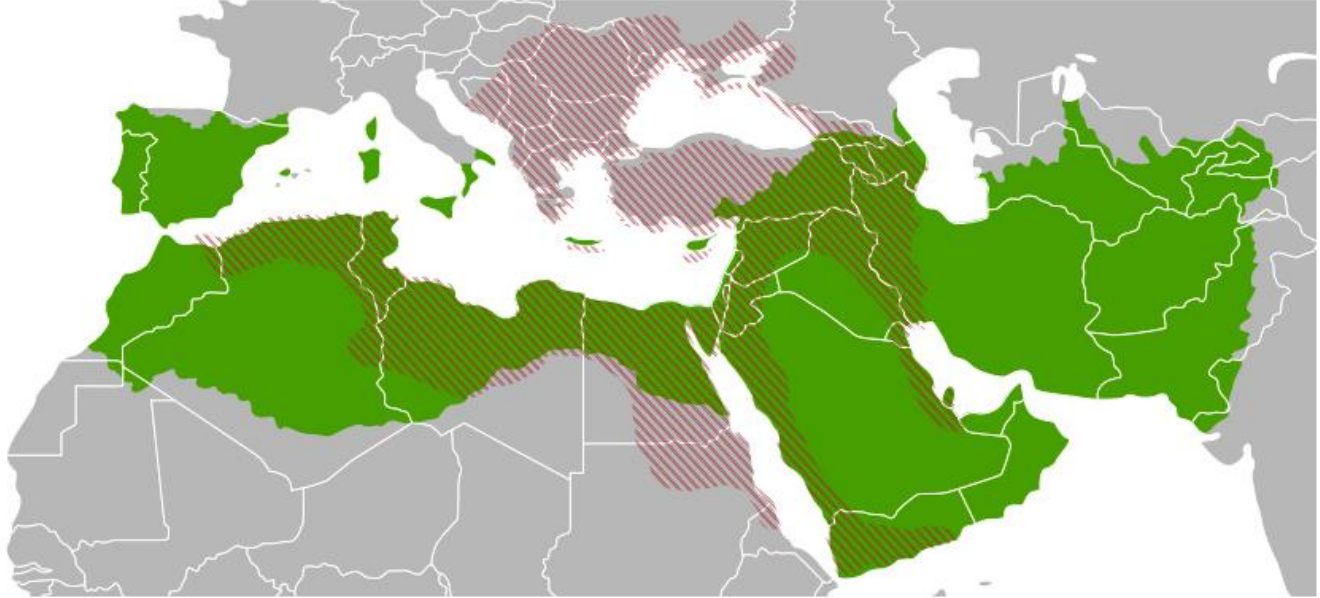
You can also click this [link to view an online map](#) of the Umayyad Caliphate or see the footnote for the online address.<sup>2</sup>

## The Ottoman Empire



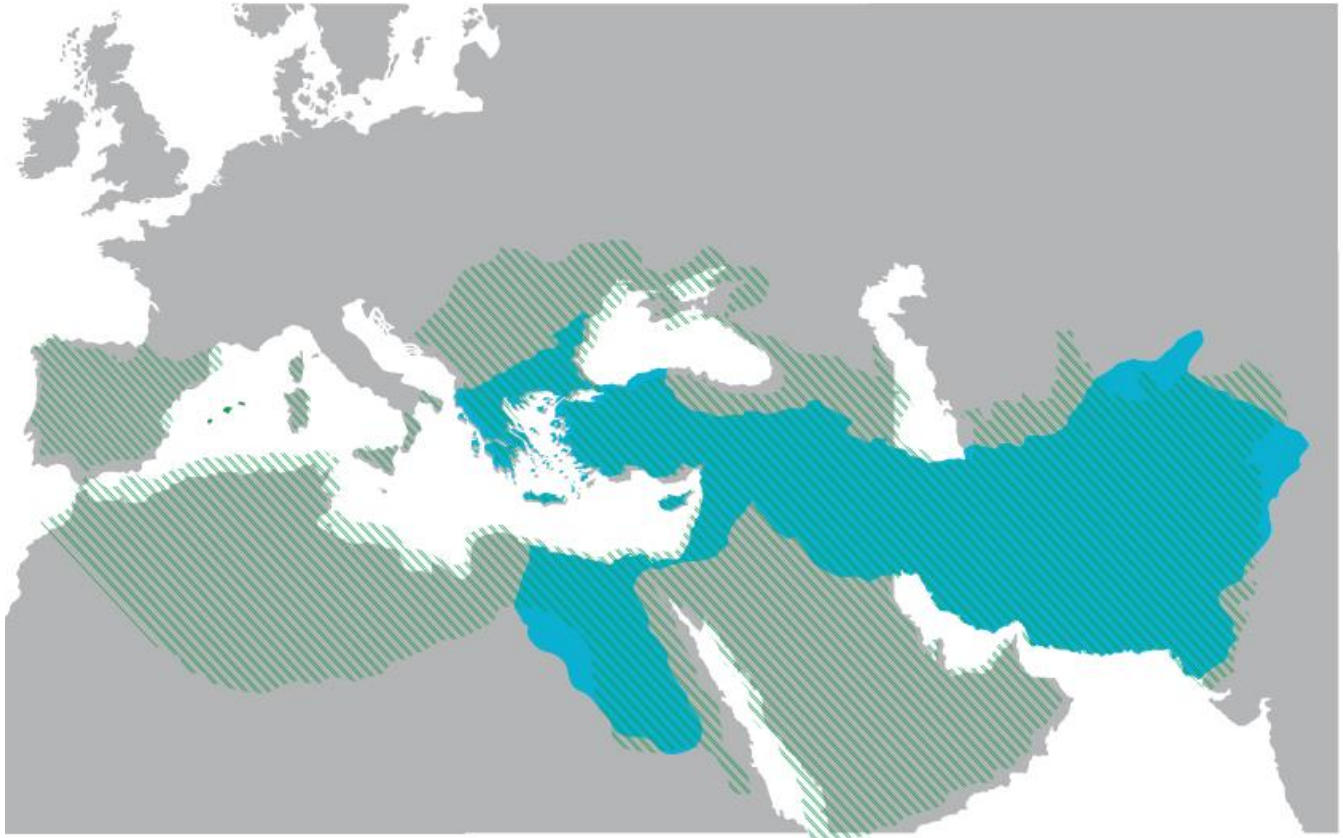
You can also click this [link to view an online map](#) of the Umayyad Caliphate or see the footnote for the online address.<sup>3</sup>

## The Islamic Caliphate (the Umayyad Caliphate Combined with the Ottoman Empire)



The Islamic Caliphate, shown here, is the combined territory of the Umayyad Caliphate (green) with the Ottoman Caliphate (red stripes).

## The Greek Empire Compared to the Islamic Caliphate



Here the Greek Empire (blue) is compared to the Islamic Caliphate (green stripes). You can clearly see the Islamic Caliphate conquered most of the territory under the domain of the Greek Empire.

Once again, here's the main point. Not only will the antichrist's eighth kingdom be a revival of the ancient Greek, Persian, and Babylonian empires; it will also be a revival of the Islamic Caliphate, once again uniting and dominating the Middle East for a brief time. More specifically, it will be a revival of the Ottoman Empire. I'll explain why I believe this in a minute by analyzing Ezekiel 38-39. Before doing this, however, I will give a quick recap of the historical Islamic Caliphates, which will help immensely if you slept through history growing up, like I did.

## The Islamic Caliphate

If you are unfamiliar with the term Islamic Caliphate, it's pretty simple. A caliphate is an Islamic state under the leadership of a caliph—the highest position in Islam. As a religious and political leader, a caliph reigns over the lands and peoples under his dominion. The rise of the caliph, which means *successor* in Arabic, began after the death of Muhammad in 632 A.D.

Historically, the caliphates were Islamic republics which developed into multi-ethnic trans-national empires. The caliphates grew rapidly through conquest during its first two centuries, dominating the Middle East and most of Southwest Asia, North Africa, and Spain.

To keep it simple, there have been four major Islamic caliphates. These are the Rashidun Caliphate (632–661 A.D.), the Umayyad Caliphate (661–750 A.D.), the Abbasid Caliphate (750–1517 A.D.), and the Ottoman Empire (1299–1922 A.D.).

Because Ezekiel 38-39 seems to predict a revival of the Ottoman Caliphate, let's look in a little more detail at the Ottoman Empire.

## A Summary of the Ottoman Empire

The Ottoman Empire was one of the strongest and longest-lasting dynasties in world history. For more than 600 years, this Islamic empire ruled large swaths of the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and North Africa. The supreme leader, known as the sultan, was given absolute religious and political authority over the people. Since Islam was the official religion of the Ottoman Empire, the sultan also became the caliphate—the highest position in Islam.

Every sultan who ruled the Ottoman Empire during its six-century existence was required to be a devout Muslim. Each of these sovereign leaders were given the literal authority of the caliph. They were somewhat like a pope of Islam. The Ottoman Empire, with its ruling caliphs, became the fourth major Islamic Caliphate.

In 1299, Osman I, a leader of the Turkish tribes in Anatolia, founded the Ottoman Empire. The term *Ottoman* is derived from Osman's name, which was *Uthman* in Arabic.

Over 150 years later, under the command of Mehmed II the Conqueror, the Ottoman Turks conquered the ancient city of Constantinople, the Byzantine Empire's capital, putting an end to the 1,000-year reign of the Byzantine Empire. Sultan Mehmed renamed the city Istanbul and made it the new capital of the Ottoman Empire.

The Ottoman Empire reached its peak of power between 1520 and 1566. During these forty-plus years, the empire obtained great power, stability, and wealth. Ruled by Suleiman the Magnificent, the empire established a uniform system of law and expanded to include areas of Eastern Europe.

Of utmost importance to biblical prophecy, the Ottoman Empire conquered Jerusalem in 1516. This gave the Ottoman Caliphate absolute authority over the Dome of the Rock, where the Prophet Muhammed supposedly ascended to heaven. This is the same place where the Jewish Temple once stood when Jesus walked the earth. The Ottoman Turks ruled Jerusalem and Israel for four centuries, until they were defeated in World War 1.

Beginning in the 1600s, the Ottoman Empire began a steady decline, losing its economic and military dominance. As the empire weakened, it lost both status as an indomitable empire and key regions of land. During the Balkan Wars, fought between 1912 and 1913, the empire lost nearly all its territories in Europe.

At the start of World War I, the Ottoman army joined forces with the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary. After they were defeated in October 1918, most Ottoman territories were divided between Britain, France, Greece, and Russia.

Then, in 1922, the Ottoman Empire officially ended, when the title of Ottoman Sultan was eliminated. Following this, on October 29, 1923, Turkey was declared a republic and Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938)

became Turkey's first president. He implemented sweeping reforms, shifting it from an Islamic Caliphate to a secular, westernized country.

## An Overview Ezekiel 38-39

With this historical background in mind, let's take a detailed look at Ezekiel 38-39. When understood properly, these two prophetic chapters shed tremendous light upon the mystery of the antichrist, including where he will emerge from, the nations who will align with him, and the type of empire he will establish.

As you will see, this prophecy reveals the antichrist will likely emerge from Turkey and several of the nations who align with him were formerly part of the Ottoman Empire. Together, this Islamic federation will attack Israel in the last days to reclaim Jerusalem for Allah, especially the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which reside on the Temple Mount. This demonically-energized coalition will seek to reestablish the Ottoman Empire—an Islamic Caliphate that dominates the entire Middle East, Southwest Asia, Northern Africa, and parts of Europe.

If you want an excellent and detailed commentary on Ezekiel 38-39, I highly recommend Joel Richardson's book, *The Mideast Beast*. In this book, Joel devotes three chapters to this prophecy, and in my opinion, it's the best analysis of Ezekiel 38-39 I have ever read.

Let's take some time now and investigate this prophecy by asking the typical forensic investigative questions of *who*, *what*, *why*, and *when*.

## The *Who* of Ezekiel 38-39

Let's begin our analysis of *who* attacks Israel in the last days with Ezekiel 38:3, where the Lord instructed Ezekiel to "set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him" (Ezek. 38:3).

*Gog* is the leader of this coalition. Specifically, he is "the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal" and is from the land of Magog (Ezek. 38:3, ESV).

Where, exactly, is *the land of Magog*? According to numerous reputable Bible atlases, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and commentaries, Magog refers to Asia Minor in modern-day Turkey, perhaps the territory of Lydia in western Anatolia.<sup>4</sup>

Next, let's look at the word *Rosh*, for Ezekiel states *Gog* is the *prince of Rosh*. Many modern-day prophecy scholars believe this refers to modern-day Russia. However, if you look at the meaning of the Hebrew word and how it is used throughout the Old Testament, *Rosh* is not a nation. Rather, it means "head, top, summit, upper part, chief."<sup>5</sup> This is why the KJV, NLT, NIV, ESV, CSB, NASB 2020, and RSV translations use the phrase "the chief prince," or something similar, rather than "prince of Rosh."

Not only is *Gog* from Turkey, but as chief prince, he also has authority over *Meshech* and *Tubal*, both located in modern-day Turkey according to numerous reputable Bible atlases, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and commentaries.<sup>6</sup>

Let's pause for a moment, and taking what we have learned so far, paraphrase Ezekiel 38:2-3. Here's my paraphrase: "Son of man, set your face toward Gog, the supreme leader of Turkey, and prophesy against him." Keep this translation in mind as we continue analyzing this prophecy.

Ezekiel continues, stating, "I will bring you out, and all your army . . . a great company . . . Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops—many peoples with you" (Ezek. 38:4-6).

The nations who join with Turkey in this end-time jihad against Israel are *Persia*, *Ethiopia*, *Put*, *Gomer*, and *Beth-togarmah*. Most scholars and historians usually agree on the identities of Persia, Ethiopia, and Put. Persia clearly refers to modern-day Iran. Ethiopia is actually ancient Cush and refers to Sudan. And Put refers to Libya and possibly other portions of Northern Africa. Gomer and Beth-togarmah, once again, both refer to modern-day Turkey.<sup>7</sup>

The table below summarizes what we have learned so far.

Ancient Name	Modern Nation
Magog	Turkey
Meshech	Turkey
Tubal	Turkey
Persia	Iran
Cush	Sudan
Put	Libya
Gomer	Turkey
Beth-togarmah	Turkey

## The *What* of Ezekiel 38-39

When you consider the nations who will attack Israel in the last days, one thing is clear. All of these nations are driven by a common hatred of Israel fueled by Islam—the only religion tolerated in these nations. Just to confirm with actual numbers, in Turkey, Iran, and Libya, 99% of the population are Muslim. In Sudan, 97% are Muslim.

The *what* of Ezekiel 38-39 is obvious. This is an Islamic federation of nations who are dead set on recapturing Jerusalem and Israel for Allah. The mere thought of Jews occupying the city ruled by Muslims for centuries is appalling. The intense hatred these nations have for Israel is indescribable.

Not only is this an Islamic federation, but Turkey, Libya, and Iran were once part of the Islamic Caliphate. In the last days, these nations will unite to restore the glory of the Islamic Caliphate.

In addition, recall what Gabriel told Daniel. When describing the religion of the antichrist, he said, “He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god” (Dan. 11:39). From what we learned in the last session, the foreign god who empowers the antichrist in his military conquests is the god of forces or the god of war. Therefore, the antichrist’s military campaigns are driven by his religion. The wars he will wage will be religious wars.

The *what* of Ezekiel 38-39 is a religious war fueled by Islam to reestablish the Islamic Caliphate in Israel and the Middle East.

## The *Why* of Ezekiel 38-39

Why does Turkey, Iran, Libya, and Sudan want to destroy Israel? Why is the Jewish nation so crucial to the Islamic cause? To answer these questions, look at what Randall Price, a noted Ph.D in Middle Eastern Studies, states in his book, *Unholy War*:

There is yet another reason that Jerusalem has become so important in the present conflict: It is territory that has come under the control of Islam but which has been “occupied” by non-Muslims (the Jews). According to Islamic law, once a place has been conquered by Allah through Islam, it must remain Allah’s property in perpetuity. Otherwise, the command of Allah to conquer the world would be negated and the Muslim religion would be repudiated as inferior. Therefore, regardless of the city’s spiritual significance, it has now become Islamic property that cannot be relinquished to the infidel or dhimmi without the honor of Allah being affected.<sup>8</sup>

Since Muslims occupied Jerusalem for hundreds of years, they view the beloved city as Islamic property that must be reoccupied for the glory of Allah. Otherwise, the Jews dishonor and besmear Allah's name. In addition, Jerusalem is considered the third holiest Islamic city because this is where Muhammad supposedly ascended into heaven. These reasons explain why the Arab world has declared a permanent jihad against Israel.

In addition, if you have been following Recep Erdogan, the current president of Turkey, you know he's obsessed with restoring the former glory of the Ottoman Empire. Under his leadership, Erdogan has quickly transitioned Turkey from a secular, westernized nation into an Islamic nation. Though not yet an official Islamic republic, Turkey is moving swiftly in this direction.

Since 2016, after a failed coup attempt against the Erdogan administration, Turkey has experienced a great purge. Specifically, Erdogan's administration has purged its political opponents from the military, judicial system, media, business, and government. Some estimate about 10% of Turkey's public employees were removed because of this crackdown against Erdogan's political adversaries. All who oppose Erdogan's push to become the sultan of Turkey—and of a restored Ottoman Empire—are being canceled by his totalitarian government.

In his quest to restore the former glory of the Ottoman Empire, Erdogan has repeatedly said Jerusalem belongs to Turkey, referring to the empire's control over the city for four-hundred years. "In this city that we had to leave in tears during the First World War," Erdogan said, "it is still possible to come across traces of the Ottoman resistance. So Jerusalem is our city, a city from us."<sup>9</sup>

After President Trump recognized Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel on December 6, 2017, Erdogan launched a blistering attack on the Jewish state, saying, "Israel is an occupying and terror state."<sup>10</sup> He then called on all countries to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. Going further, Erdogan said Jerusalem is "our red line," meaning if you take this city out of Muslim control, it is like drawing a line in the sand—you will have reached a point of no return.<sup>11</sup>

In summary, when you factor in Islam's hatred of Israel, its occupation of the beloved city for hundreds of years, and Turkey's intense desire to restore the former glory of the Ottoman Empire, it makes perfect sense *why* the antichrist will launch his attack against Israel, and more specifically, against Jerusalem.

## The *When* of Ezekiel 38-39

Determining the *when* of Ezekiel 38-39 has been the subject of intense debate among scholars and Bible prophecy teachers. The debate is basically split between two schools of thought.

Before distinguishing the two views, I will first explain what both perspectives agree on. Namely, prior to this invasion, there must be temporary peace between the Jews and the Arabs. Why? Because Ezekiel prophesied,

After many days you will be summoned [an Islamic coalition who will invade Israel]; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and *they are living securely, all of them.* (Ezek. 38:8, emphasis mine)

This unfulfilled prophecy will take place "in the latter years" after the Jewish people "have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel." This clearly describes the modern-day restoration of Israel. But notice something interesting. Ezekiel declared Israel will be "living securely, all of them."

Describing the same event, Ezekiel said, "And you will say [the Islamic coalition], 'I will go up against the land of unwalled villages. I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls and having no bars or gates'" (Ezek. 38:11, emphasis mine). Ezekiel declared Israel will have peace prior to this end-time jihad.

If you have studied the Arab-Israeli conflict, you know what a miracle this peace will be, for immediately after the birth of Israel in 1948, the Arabs declared a jihad ("holy war") against the Jewish nation.

This decades-long war is a classic match between David and Goliath. The Arab League is composed of twenty-two independent Arab states, has a population exceeding forty million, and has a combined landmass spanning more than five-million square miles. This is in stark contrast to Israel, which has a



population of six million and covers less than thirteen-thousand square miles. For over sixty years, one constant cry has resonated from mosques throughout the Middle East—“Drive the Jews into the sea.”

During Israel’s brief modern-day history, she has already been involved in several wars with the Arabs, including the 1948 War of Independence, the Six-Day War of 1967, the Yom Kippur War of 1973, and most recently, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Make no mistake about it—the Arabs do not want peace with Israel; they want to wipe out the Jewish nation and recapture Jerusalem for Allah.

Nevertheless, temporary peace will come between the Jews and the Arabs, setting the stage for the great jihad articulated by Ezekiel. This in mind, let’s look quickly at the two main interpretations of *when* this prophecy will take place.

One group believes this prophecy will be fulfilled prior to the emergence of the antichrist and the tribulation. This view was made popular by the *Left Behind* books and movies. This is the belief I held and taught for numerous years. I even published this in my now out-of-print book about praying for the prophetic destiny of Israel called *The Zion Mandate*.

This interpretation views Gog and the antichrist as two distinct individuals. According to this perspective, Gog leads a Russian-Arab coalition against Israel, and the moment this army crosses the border into Israel, God releases a great earthquake, supernaturally destroying this invading army on the mountains of Israel. This Russian-Islamic alliance will be instantly buried under an ash heap of heavenly hailstones; fire and brimstone will incinerate them. Not only will this army be annihilated in the blink of an eye, but this event will mark the end of Islam, for God will destroy this false religion in a moment of judgment, leading to the salvation of millions of Muslims.

Like I said, this was the view I held and taught for several years. But after reading Joel Richardson’s book *Mideast Beast*, my view shifted. Richardson laid out irrefutable reasons, which I couldn’t argue against, why this prophecy describes the antichrist’s invasion of Israel.

This brings me to the second school of thought regarding this prophecy, which I now believe is true. That is, Ezekiel 38-39 will take place 3.5 years before Jesus returns, at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. After the antichrist breaks his peace treaty with Israel and is revealed as a man of lawlessness, he will assemble a coalition of Islamic nations and launch an attack against Israel.

Ezekiel 38-39 is basically telling the same story revealed in Zechariah 12 and Zechariah 14, when a coalition of nations attacks Jerusalem, conquers the beloved city, and takes many Jews captive. Then, after this fiery ordeal has purified a remnant in Israel, the Messiah will return and His presence will trigger a massive earthquake, leading to the defeat of this army. In essence, Ezekiel 38-39 is the same narrative but from a different perspective.

Let me now explain why I believe Ezekiel 38-39 describes a military campaign launched by the antichrist 3.5 years prior to Christ’s return.

## 1. Gog was foretold by other Old Testament prophets.

Ezekiel 38:17 says the leader of this coalition, known as Gog, was foretold by other Old Testament prophets. Notice what this verse states about Gog, the leader of this coalition: “Are you the one of whom I spoke in former days through My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for many years that I would bring you against them?” This verse, from the NASB translation, seems to be asking the question if Gog was foretold by other Old Testament prophets. This vague language seems to indicate the Gog-led attack might have been foretold by the prophets but perhaps not. Maybe God used this non-committal verbiage to merely foreshadow the antichrist’s attack some years later.

However, when you actually examine the Hebrew, the statement is much more clear, unambiguous, and dogmatic. The phrase *are you the one of whom* is not even in the original Hebrew text. This was inserted by translators. This in mind, here is my paraphrase of what this verse is actually saying: “Thus says the Lord God, ‘I spoke in former days through My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for many years that *I would bring you against them.*’” In my opinion, the NIV translation accurately captures what is being said here: “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: You are the one I spoke of in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel. At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them.”

When you remove the question inserted by some translations, this is not some type of passive-aggressive question God is asking, as if the Lord is abstaining from a clear, precise, and absolute declaration of who Gog is. Rather, this is God emphatically unveiling Gog’s identity. That is, if we want to know more

about Gog of the last days, we can analyze other Old Testament prophecies from Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah.

Proponents of the *Left Behind* interpretation of Ezekiel 38-39 are hard pressed to find a leader foretold by the prophets, other than the antichrist, who would assemble a coalition of nations to attack Israel in the last days. In fact, this is one of the main reasons my view of this prophecy shifted. There's simply not another verse in the Old Testament that remotely describes a leader, who is not the antichrist, mustering together an army of nations to attack Israel.

But there are several verses in the Old Testament describing the antichrist attacking Israel in the last days (Dan. 9:24-27; Dan. 11:31, 41-45; Isa. 14; Zech. 12, 14). Therefore, the leader of this coalition is most likely the antichrist.

## 2. The Jewish captives are delivered once-and-for all after this invasion.

Following the destruction of this Islamic army, God vows, "Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob. . . 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*" (Ezek. 38:25-28, NKJV, emphasis mine).

Notice carefully this is not a temporary deliverance. The Lord expressly states He will leave "none of them captive any longer." This is a once-and-for-all deliverance for the Jewish captives and exiles. This in mind, the popular interpretation of this prophecy doesn't make any sense. If the leader of this coalition is not the antichrist, but some other leader prior to the antichrist, how do you reconcile the Lord's final and complete deliverance of the Jewish captives?

Zechariah made it clear, when the antichrist and his coalition of nations attack Jerusalem, "half of the city will be exiled" (Zech. 14:2). Joel indicated a similar scenario will take place in the last days, stating, "For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations . . . and I will enter into judgment with them there" (Joel 3:1-2, NKJV). Joel is clearly referring to the Messiah's return and the subsequent judgment of the nations. These two verses, along with several more I could have listed, reveal the antichrist's regime will take many Jews captive and send them into exile in the nations.

It's impossible to reconcile a final and ultimate deliverance of the Jewish captives after this invasion if the leader is not the antichrist. It simply makes no sense at all. It would make the phrase "left none of them captive any longer" completely irrelevant. That's another reason why I believe Gog is the antichrist and this event takes place at the start of the Great Tribulation.

## 3. Israel will dwell securely in their land without ever battling fear again.

After the Lord decimates Gog and his army on the mountains of Israel, the Lord promised, "They [will] live securely on their own land with *no one to make them afraid*" (Ezek. 39:26, emphasis mine). Think about this for a second. If Gog is not the antichrist, but some other leader prior to the tribulation, this promise would be meaningless. Why? Because the Lord promised, after this supernatural victory, "no one [will] make them afraid."

But the last 3.5 years of the age are described by the prophets as a time of dread, distress, and terror. Describing this time period, Jeremiah said, "For thus says the Lord, 'I have heard a sound of terror, of dread, and there is no peace. . . . Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of Jacob's distress, but he will be saved from it'" (Jer. 30:5-7). Daniel called it a "time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time" (Dan. 12:1).

Again, when you really think this through, Gog has to be the antichrist, for only after he and his army are defeated, will Israel ever have permanent peace and security.

## 4. John uses Ezekiel's exact language to describe the final battle of Armageddon.

The Lord told Ezekiel to prophesy to every beast of the field, calling them to feast upon all of the slain soldiers God decimates in Israel. Ezekiel prophesied to them,

Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. You will eat the

flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, as though they were rams, lambs, goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. So you will eat fat until you are glutted, and drink blood until you are drunk, from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. You will be glutted at My table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war. (Ezek. 39:17-20)

Now notice what John wrote, when he watched the battle of Armageddon unfold at the time of Christ's return:

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great." (Rev. 19:17-18)

Notice the similarities below between what Ezekiel said and what John said.

Ezekiel	John
Assemble and come . . . to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you.	Come, assemble for the great supper of God.
A great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood.	So that you may eat . . . the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.
You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth.	So that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men.
You will be glutted at My table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war.	So that you may eat . . . the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them.

Revelation 19:17-18 is undoubtedly a direct quote of Ezekiel 39:17-20, proving Ezekiel 38-39 is connected to the Lord's return and the battle of Armageddon. Therefore, Gog is the antichrist who leads this Islamic coalition against Israel at the start of the Great Tribulation.

## A Summary of Ezekiel 38-39

Having covered much ground, let me quickly summarize what I have presented. At the start of the Great Tribulation, after the antichrist and 10 kings destroy the beloved city Rome and her one-world religion, this coalition, along with their formidable military, will go forth conquering and to conquer. One of their first targets will be the nation of Israel, and more specifically, the city of Jerusalem. They will be laser-focused on conquering this beloved city for Allah and establishing the antichrist's global worship platform on the Temple Mount.

Ezekiel 38-39 reveals this military campaign in great detail, which is the same narrative of Zechariah 12 and 14 but from a different perspective. The antichrist is the leader of this Islamic coalition and he emerges from Turkey. Several of the nations who align with him, formerly part of the Ottoman Empire, demonstrate the antichrist's quest to restore the former glory of the Islamic Caliphate.

## The Abraham Accords

When this Islamic federation attacks Israel, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Lebanon will protest. How do we know this? Because Ezekiel stated, “Sheba [modern-day Yemen] and Dedan [modern-day Saudi Arabia] and the merchants of Tarshish [modern-day Lebanon] with all its villages will say to you, ‘Have you come to capture spoil? Have you assembled your company to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to capture great spoil?’” (Ezek. 38:13, emphasis mine).

This prophetic statement reveals a future split between fundamentalist Islam (practiced in Turkey and Iran) and moderate Islam (practiced in the United Arab Emirates and Jordan).

We witnessed the beginning of this split on August 13, 2020, when the United States helped broker a peace deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.). Known as the Abraham Accords, named after the father of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, the U.A.E. became the third Arab nation to make peace with Israel. Prior to this deal, the only other Muslim nations to make peace with Israel were Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994.

Following the Abraham Accords, like dominoes falling one after another, Morocco, Oman, Bahrain, and Sudan each made peace with Israel. Though Sudan’s peace deal will be broken, since this nation will be part of the future Islamic coalition who attacks Israel.

Based on Ezekiel 38:13, we can expect Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Lebanon to make peace with Israel sometime in the future.

## The Ethnicity of the Antichrist

From Session 13, we learned the *religion* of the antichrist is Islam. After analyzing Ezekiel 38-39, we also learned the *nation* from which the antichrist emerges is most likely Turkey. This in mind, let’s discuss the antichrist’s *ethnicity*.

Speaking of the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in 70 A.D., at the hands of the Roman Emperor Titus, the angel Gabriel said, “The people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary” (Dan. 9:26).

Many end-time prophecy scholars immediately look at this verse and use it to prove the antichrist will be from Rome or at least be European. After all, it says *the people of the prince* will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The *prince who is to come* is the antichrist and *the people* who destroyed the Jerusalem temple and the city of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. was the Roman army.

At first glance, this seems to destroy the argument the antichrist is a Muslim from the Middle East. This looks like undeniable proof the antichrist is Italian or European. However, upon closer examination, this argument does not hold up. Let me explain.

I’ll start by examining the Hebrew word for *people*, from the phrase “the people of the prince who is to come.” This word is *am* and it means a *nation, people, persons, members of one’s people, compatriots, country-men, kinsmen, or kindred*.<sup>12</sup> This word doesn’t refer to an empire, meaning whatever empire the people belonged to will be the empire from which the antichrist emerges. Rather, *am* refers to an ethnicity, meaning whatever ethnicities comprised the Roman army will be the ethnicity of the antichrist.

Hebrew scholar Arnold Fruchtenbaum, commenting on this verse, states, “We are dealing here with a bloodline, and not a country.”<sup>13</sup> This is confirmed by the KJV, which translates *am* as *people* 98% of the 1,862 times it’s used in the Old Testament. The importance of this can’t be overstated. If Gabriel wanted to define the empire the antichrist would emerge from, he would have undoubtedly used the Hebrew word *mamlakah*. This word is translated by the KJV as *kingdom* 94% of the 117 times it’s used in the Old Testament.

This in mind, Gabriel is pointing to the *ethnicity* of the people who comprised the Roman legions not to the *empire* they served under. A great example of this is Paul, who was a citizen of Rome but was ethnically a Jew. In other words, Paul belonged to the *mamlakah* of Rome but his *am* was Jewish. Therefore, to discover the ethnicity of the antichrist, we need to deconstruct the ethnicity of the Roman legions in 70 A.D.

I will not repeat the excellent research Joel Richardson documented in his book, *The Mideast Beast*, where he devoted an entire chapter to this discussion. Richardson shows, through in-depth research, why it’s more likely the people enlisted in the Roman army in 70 A.D. were from the Middle East rather than Italy.

Richardson states, “After examining a broad sampling of evidence from both ancient historians as well as the most up-to-date modern scholarship, we may very confidently conclude that the ‘Roman’ soldiers in the Eastern provinces that destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple were in fact Eastern peoples—the inhabitants of Asia Minor, Syria, Arabia, and Egypt. Again, they were the ancestors of the modern-day inhabitants of the Middle East.”<sup>14</sup> Joel proves his point with extensive research and documentation.

Therefore, seeing that the people who destroyed the temple and the city of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. were from Asia Minor, Syria, Arabia, and Egypt, this gives further evidence the antichrist is a Muslim from the Middle East.

## The Rock Which Becomes a Mountain

In summary, the antichrist, likely a Muslim who emerges from Turkey, will lead an Islamic coalition to attack Israel as he attempts to restore the former glory of the Ottoman Empire and reestablish the Islamic Caliphate.

That said, let’s look at the ultimate good news. Namely, Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, will return, crush the antichrist, 10 kings, and the eighth empire, and will establish His kingdom in Jerusalem, from where He will rule the nations for 1,000 years. In the next session, we will look at the coming kingdom of God and the reign of Christ from Jerusalem.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://radicalpursuit.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/GreekEmpire.jpg>

<sup>2</sup> <https://radicalpursuit.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/TheUmayyadCaliphate-scaled.jpg>

<sup>3</sup> <https://radicalpursuit.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/TheOttomanEmpire.jpg>

<sup>4</sup> Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast* (Washington, D.C.: WND Books, 2012), p. 205 in the Kindle App.

<sup>5</sup> *Outline of Bible Usage*, see <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H7218&t=NASB95>, referenced on 4/12/2021.

<sup>6</sup> Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast* (Washington, D.C.: WND Books, 2012), p. 215 in the Kindle App.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 217-218.

<sup>8</sup> Price, *Unholy War*, p. 100.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/jerusalem-is-our-city-turkeys-erdogan-declares>, referenced on 3/24/2021.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2017/12/13/turkey-calls-israel-a-terror-state-says-jerusalem-our-red-line.html>, referenced on 3/24/2021.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> *Outline of Bible Usage*, see <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H5971&t=NASB95>, referenced on 4/12/2021.

<sup>13</sup> Joel Richardson, *Mideast Beast* (Washington, D.C.: WND Books, 2012), p. 98 in the Kindle App.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 97.