

The Arab Revolution & Ezekiel 38

"You say you want a revolution, Well you know; we all want to change the world" 1968

Intro: Let's open our Bibles to Ezekiel 38.

Have you been watching the world news & wondering, what's going on in Arab?

Lawlessness is on the rise.

Immorality is rampant, even President Obama wants to redefine marriage.

Killing of policemen. Annually 59 police killed each year; 16 this year already.

Knowledge increases daily, but to what end? My wife Sue is in college & she tells me "Virtual Reality" is here & it's going to change our lives completely. Nanobots, robots the size of a red blood cells. These are injected into people with diabetes & they periodically emit insulin. That's a good thing.

But these same Nanobots can be injected into the brain as "thought inhibitors."

These block 1 thought and exchange it for another. For instance, we could all stay at home and through virtual reality, participate, as if we're all here in this room!

RISING FOOD PRICES: WASHINGTON (Reuters) Tue Feb 15, 2011 5:21pm EST

"World Bank chief Robert Zoellick said global food prices have reached "dangerous levels," and warned that their impact could complicate fragile political and social conditions in the Middle East and Central Asia. These higher food prices -- mainly for wheat, maize, sugars and edible oils - have pushed 44 million more people in developing countries into extreme poverty since June 2010. "There is no room for complacency." "Global food prices are now at dangerous levels & it is clear that recent food price rises are causing pain and suffering for poor people around the globe."

And what about the Revolutions throughout the Arab World?

It began in Tunisia when a corrupt police officer abused her authority & humiliated a street vendor by making him buy her tea 1 too many times.

When he complained to other officers they beat him & confiscated his fruit stand.

Later, stripped of his dignity, he set himself on fire in protest. Before it was over the government toppled & the president fled with millions of dollars.

Protests broke out in every Arab nation. In response some governments sought to improve the plight of the people, but others like Bahrain & Libya gunned down their own citizens in the streets.

As the revolutions unfolded I received numerous phone calls & emails wondering if this was **an Islamic revolution** that would quickly lead to **war with Israel**.

The answer is unequivocally NO, although many Radical Muslims would like it to be.

This was a cry for democracy just like we had in America in 1776.

Think of the Bill of Rights & imagine life without these freedoms we all hold dear.

Almost every home in the Arab world has satellite TV, Internet, FB, where everyday they see the freedoms enjoyed by people living in true democracies.

Jan 25th the people raised their voices in Egypt, symbolically in the center of Cairo at a place called **Liberation Square**. In 1982 I lived right down the street from it. In Egypt >10% of the people are Christian; the people came together, despite their differences in religion, & worked together to remove the corrupt politicians. Several of my Christian friends were there & they used the occasion to share the love of Christ in word & deed. One Sunday morning a nearby Evangelical church took its services outside & preached the Gospel openly. Other Believers took water & food to protestors & soldiers alike. Campus Crusade loaned computers to the police who had been looted days earlier. And 1 of my closest friends organized trash removal. CNN Reported: *"For the first time, we see people make a revolution and then clean the streets afterwards."*

Nor were people looking for an outside scapegoat like Israel – that's what the corrupt leaders have been doing for years. The Muslim Brotherhood tried to rally people with threats against Israel, but the people did not accept that smokescreen. The vast majority of Egyptians appreciate the peace with Israel. After all, 70 percent of Egyptians were **born after** the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt & Israel was signed, and they know *nothing but* peace with Israel. If anything, they want democracy like they see in Israel.

The Egyptian army, now in power until free elections, will maintain excellent relations with the U.S. They've all been trained by the US Military; most have brought their kids to Disneyworld. *They want to be like America*. They also want to continue to receive the more than \$1 billion dollars in annual military aid.

Christians are asking if the current revolutions are leading to the end time battle described in EZ 38-39. It's a good question to ask because I think we live in an age that will actually see this take place; let's take a look.

The 1st thing we see in the text is a warning from God

I. THE WARNING 38:1-6;

God begins with a warning & a hope: Don't worry Israel this won't last forever. King David fought many battles. He knew that battles & sorrows don't last forever. He wrote in PS 30:5, **For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.** Today you may be going through a battle with enemies encroached about you, and yes its difficult, but God is faithful, **JOY WILL COME IN THE MORNING.**

II. WHO ARE THE WARRING NATIONS 38:1-6

As we attempt to identify these nations, we have to keep in mind that God revealed this prophecy to Ezekiel during the late 6th century BC using the names of that day. Here's a map of the names as they appear in GEN 10. **PUT UP SLIDE 2 GEN 10 Map** This is fairly accurate but I would put Gomer at Azerbaijan.

So let's look at the actual list. Slide 3

The first one named is **Gog of the land of Magog**. So who or what is Gog? Ch 39:1 clarifies this *"And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.'"*

Gog means high or elevated so Gog is a person leading others, probably Satan.

A side note: the Quran also mentions Gog & Magog (Sura 18:94) as a *"People that do great mischief on earth."* And would need to be held by *"an iron gate"* that one day the *"Lord would make as dust"* (destroy it) as it was time to bring them south.

Magog = Southern portion of Russia

Meshech = Turkey

Tubal = Kazakhstan

Persia = Iran

Cush = Sudan and/or Ethiopia – probably northern Sudan

Put = Libya

Gomer = Azerbaijan

Togarmah = Turkmenistan

With the exception of Russia all these nations are Muslim!

Even Russia has 16 million Muslims living within her borders; that's very influential.

Slide 4 shows the countries with their modern names. (Modern Map)

Notice 1st of all, the countries that are conspicuously absent: Egypt & Iraq.

Egypt is still at peace with Israel & will not jeopardize that, even though they won't defend Israel. As for Iraq, before the recent war Sunni Muslims ruled it.

Now the Shiites rule it. Iran is a Shiites nation. It could become a democracy. Or it could be that Iraq will be annexed to Iran like in the days of Daniel & King Darius.

For a while there was one nation on the list: still friendly with Israel: Turkey.

Last year Turkey turned against Israel.

This just came in March 1, 2011; World Tribune.com INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

Turkey has offered to spearhead a NATO effort to overthrow the regime of Col.

*Moammar Gadhafi by **invading Libya**, but with strings attached. Diplomatic sources said Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan relayed a plan in which the Turkish Navy*

*would send ships and troops to Libya. They said the plan called for the **European***

***Union** to immediately accept Turkey as a member after the downfall of Gadhafi, Middle East Newslite reported.*

The sources said President Barack Obama, supported the Turkish proposal. Obama, regarded as a close ally of Erdogan, said Turkey deserves membership in the EU."

Iran is the one to really keep an eye on. They want to bring about this battle as soon as possible. Their leader Ahmadinajab believes that if he initiates a war with Israel & the West (that's us) then he will bring back their Messiah, the 12th Mahdi.

According to Shiites, the 12th imam after Muhammad disappeared as a child in the year 941AD. When he returns, they believe, he will reign on earth for seven years, before bringing about a final judgment and the end of the world.

Just last week 2 Iranian war ships were permitted to enter the Suez Canal for the 1st time since 1979 Revolution.

And listen to this - RUSSIA & IRAN ARE ALLIED ALREADY

In 2009 Russia & Iran signed a nuclear fuel supply contract for a term of at least 10 years. Iran has agreed to return the nuclear fuel waste to Russia.

Yet according to the AP, Britain's defense secretary Liam Fox told lawmakers on Jan 31st Iran may be capable of developing a nuclear weapon by next year.

A nuclear weapon in the hands of a man that wants to usher in the end of the world?
If I didn't have faith in Jesus, I couldn't sleep at night.

Take a look at the countries surrounding the Caspian Sea. Now go to slide #5

Oct. 17, 2007 Leaders of states bordering the Caspian Sea agreed never to attack or invade each other. Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan were the five states participating in the summit.

Do you understand the significance of that treaty in light of EZ 38? 5 of the 7 nations already have a military treaty to protect one another's political+economic interests. If Turkey invades & controls Libya the only missing piece to this puzzle is Cush!

Any day now... **Next slide please (Title page slide)**

III. WHEN WILL THIS WAR OCCUR? 38:7-17;

In the book of Matthew chapter 24 we read this, 36 *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."*

So when it will occur? There are several clues within the text.

V8 After many days... In the latter years... V16 In the latter days...

This was NOT a prophesy for Ezekiel's time. These verses speak of the "end of days."

For instance, when Daniel received his prophesy, which is universally received as the end of the world the angel said to him, *"Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."* DAN 10:14

V8-9 speaks of Jewish people coming back into the land. This is our time marker for we know, without a shred of doubt that Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948.

This invasion described in EZ 38, can occur at any time, & I believe it will be shortly.

IV. WHY START THIS WAR AT ALL? 38:10-17;

1ST Spiritual Reasons: God Said it would be so it will; God will prove Himself v16

2nd Perhaps personal reasons – pride of Islam losing ground to Jews

3rd Certainly, material reasons – Israel just discovered the largest natural gas reserves ever discovered in the Mediterranean Sea.

Israel no longer needs to be dependent on Arab or Russian gas or oil.

Friends have you heard of "Peak Oil?" It's a proven theory that oil production will not be able to keep up with growing demand & will in fact, run out altogether.

Optimists say this will occur after the year 2020. The International Energy Agency (IEA) says production of conventional crude oil already peaked in 2006.

This could be the beginning of the "Oil Wars" that will define & reshape our future.

What about the statement of verse 15, "Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army."

I believe that Israel will experience an EMP attack – Electro Magnetic Pulse.

Setting off a nuclear bomb One thing that prevents these radicals from attacking Israel is the fear of Israel's nuclear arsenal.

Electro Magnetic Pulse will knock out all electric that will kill all computers, batteries, planes, truck, and vehicles. The nations will use the old means of transportation along with their modern forms because they were outside the range of the EMP bomb. The nation of Israel will be defenseless.

V. WHAT WILL HAPPEN? 38: 18-23; 39:1-9 Next Slide

1. Israel will stand alone

And the odds are staggering: According to the UN in 2009, Israel has a population of 7, 424, 400 people & over 1 million of those are Palestinians living as Israeli citizens. The total population of the nations attacking Israel is 513, 581, 706 people. If 1/10th of that population were soldiers it would be over 51 million troops, or a ratio of 70 to 1.

Will America help? The rise of Islam and our need for oil drilled in Arab nations, will keep us & countries once formerly allied with Israel out of the fight. Our present Government is not for the Israel and about the only thing we will offer is our opinion, not military assistance when this all goes down.

2. God will intervene supernaturally to protect Israel – Slide #6

Ezekiel describes 4 different ways God will intervene:

- a) a great earthquake – v19
- b) Infighting – confused attackers will turn on one another – v21
- c) Pestilence – The 1918 Spanish flu killed more soldiers than WWI fighting. Most victims were healthy young adults, in contrast to other influenza outbreaks that predominantly affect infant & elderly patients. Between 50 and 100 million died, making it one of the deadliest disasters in human history.
- d) Rain, hailstones, fire and brimstone, or sulfur rocks.

This will not be restricted to the battlefield in Israel but also back in the very nations that gathered to attack Israel – see 39:5-6

3. As a result, many nations will know that God is the Lord.

VI. CONCLUSION: HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE? Last slide

1. Realize that soon this battle will come just as God foretold.

The Last Days is not something to fear, but something to embrace. God is proving that He can be trusted, that His word is true, that He will come again, just as He said.

We do not need to fear the future because God is sovereign

I don't know what my future holds but I do know Who holds my future.

2. Determine to stand together & fight the temptation to bring division

Are we going to sit here arguing with each other over the doctrines of man?
Or are we obeying the Great Commandment & the Great Commission?
Are we loving our enemies or creating more enemies with our *inability* to love.
While none of us can sacrifice what we believe as an individual, we must stand together with those who believe in God and that God endows each individual with the right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
And the greatest degree of life & liberty is found in loving Jesus. Stand together.

3. Realize this is an optimal time to share Christ with non-believers

Prophecy is one of the best ways to win people to Christ. Fulfilled prophecy proves that the Bible is true and Jesus is different from all other spiritual leaders.
My sister in-law gave her heart to the Lord during the 1st Gulf War.
Many Muslims will see the power of God defeating the enemies of Israel, the Apple of His Eye, and they will turn from Islam & recognize that Jesus is the Son of God.
The day of salvation is at hand. Preach Christ to everyone you meet.

4. For those of you that have not made a decision for Christ, understand this: Time is running out!

Very soon the trumpet of God will sound & His church will rise to meet Him.
Only those who have loved Him will be saved; all others will go through the great & horrible tribulation. Evil will be unrestrained & there will be hell on earth.
Make your eternity certain by giving your heart to Jesus today. Don't ignore the signs of the times.
Let's stand & pray