



Recognizing the Times: Israel's Coming Invasion

Pastor Jon Duncan

Kick Start:

How did God speak to you through this message?

Main Point:

There's a future invasion of Israel where God will intervene in judgement by destroying the coalition of nations against Israel as the world watches His display of holiness, leaving no doubt to the unbelieving world that He alone is God. Let us, then, live each day in eager anticipation of our coming judgement, striving to build with what lasts, knowing that our labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Introduction:

From the beginning of human history, God wanted to be known. He wanted His people to live in a way that pleased God so He could bless them and draw other nations to Himself. God dealt with Israel's disobedience throughout the OT, then grafted in the believing Gentiles during the church age so they could draw unbelievers to Himself. We're no better than the Israelites. He will soon take His bride home at the rapture and begin once again dealing with Israel throughout the Tribulation Period and the Millennium.

Message Outline:

I. Judgement on Gog

The war of Gog and Magog is an end-times prophecy detailing a war where a Russian-led coalition including Iran, Turkey, and others attacks a restful and peaceful Israel. "Gog" is a tyrant from "Magog" (Russia) who creates an "evil plan" to invade Israel, ultimately leading to divine intervention and a global recognition of God.

Ezekiel 38:1-23

- **The Players:** "Magog" = Russia, "Persia" = Iran, and includes Turkey (Meshech and Tubal/Beth-Togarmah/Gomer), "Put" = Libya, and "Cush" Ethiopia = Sudan.
- **The Scenario:** a Russian dictator "Gog" will build a diplomatic and military coalition to surround and attack the State of Israel in the End Times.
- **The Purpose:** The invading forces desire to acquire more territory (v.8), seek to gain more wealth (v.12), intend to wipe Israel off the face of the earth (v.10, 16), and perhaps to challenge the Antichrist who will be Israel's ally as a result of a peace treaty (Daniel 9:27).
- **The Timing:** The war most likely occurs in the first half of the tribulation after Israel is regathered and established as a secure, prosperous nation, and at peace.
- **Current Events:** Russia and Iran are strengthening ties. Sudan is a radical Islamic Sunni state closely allied with Iran and Russia and deeply anti-Semitic and anti-Israel. Libya and Algeria, interestingly are deeply hostile to Israel and closely allied with Russia. Turkey, a former NATO ally, and a friend of Israel, the U.S. and the European Union, has swung dramatically away from the West, towards Russia and Iran, and become deeply hostile towards the State of Israel. Current conflicts in the Middle East—specifically, the destruction of Israel's enemies like Hamas, Hezbollah, and a weakened Iran—could lead to the "secure", undefended state (Ezekiel 38:11) necessary for the invasion to begin.
- **The Outcome:** The Jewish people will be unable to overcome this enemy coalition in their own strength and ingenuity. However, the invasion will not succeed; instead, God will destroy these armies on the mountains of Israel, causing a major spiritual awakening worldwide. God makes His greatness and holiness known in the eyes of many nations.

Talk About It:

1. What lessons from Ezekiel 38:3-4 can be applied to current world events?
2. From vv. 11-13, How should Christians respond to materialism, considering the "plunder and loot" theme?
3. From v. 18, what does God's "fury shone of His face" reveal about Him?
4. How can understanding the biblical perspectives on Israel's role in God's plan influence today's attitudes towards Jews and antisemitism?
5. Gog and Magog reveal Satan's plan to destroy Israel. God cares about Israel. He formed her and brought the Messiah through her. He promised to bless all the nations through her. How can we have the same heart as God for the nation of Israel and for the world to live for God?
6. How does the Gog and Magog war warn us of the importance of turning to God?

II. Judgement on Believers

Understanding God is holy and just reminds believers that we too must face judgement. Many people believe that Christians are not subject to any kind of judgment because all their sins have been covered by the blood of Christ, which is true. However, the Bible declares that Christians will indeed be judged at what is called the bema seat, of Christ. The judgment seat of Christ is where believers will give an account of their lives, not for condemnation, but for rewards based on their faithfulness.

2 Corinthians 5:10

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Talk About It:

1. How does the reality of the judgment seat of Christ impact the way you live out your faith each day? [Have I](#)
2. In what areas of your life are you building with eternal value (gold, silver, precious stones), and where might you be focusing on temporary things (wood, hay, stubble)?
3. What motivates your service to Christ, and how can you ensure your actions reflect a heart of faithfulness (see Luke 19.12-27)?
4. What are some practical ways we can live in light of the truth that our works will be tested by fire before Christ?

Conclusion:

In anticipation of the judgment seat of Christ, we must be careful in what we say and do in this life. James gives this advice: “Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom” (James 2:12). Opposition to God, His will and His people are foolish and can make us His enemy. Instead, we want to give our account with joy on that day, and that is why we strive to serve the Lord faithfully today.

Make It Practical:

Rest in His Character

Many have attempted to explain God based upon their own human reasoning, conjecture, or personal experiences. Fortunately for us, God has spoken and explained Himself and His attributes throughout His inspired written word in the Bible. God’s word reveals some of His most notable attributes including His love, mercy, patience and kindness. It also records His righteousness, holiness, justice and wrath.

- God is the Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1, 24:1-2).
- God is eternal (Deuteronomy 33:27, Psalm 90:2).
- God never changes (Malachi 3:6; Numbers 23:19; Psalm 102:26-27).
- God is unique and the only true God (Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 45:6, Psalm 95:3).
- God is sovereign (Job 9:12, Psalm 68:20, Jeremiah 23:20).
- God is truth and trustworthy (Psalm 117:2, 1 Samuel 15:29).
- God is just and righteous (Deuteronomy 32:4, Psalm 18:30, 111:7).
- God is omnipotent (Psalm 115:3; Job 42:2), omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-12), and omniscient (Isaiah 46:9-10, Psalm 147:5).
- God is good (Psalm 116:5).
- God is jealous for us (Deuteronomy 4:24).
- God is merciful (Deuteronomy 4:31).
- God is our helper and refuge (Psalm 54:4, 62:8, 94:22).
- God is spirit (John 4:24).
- God is love and light (1 John 1:5, 4:8).
- God is holy (1 Peter 1:15).
- God is eternal (1 Timothy 1:17).
- God is patient, kind and good (2 Peter 3:9, Romans 2:4, Mark 10:18, James 1:17).
- God is our Savior (John 4:42, Titus 3:4-5, Jude 1:25).
- God is faithful (1 Corinthians 1:9, 10:13, 2 Timothy 2:13).
- God is a devouring fire and righteous judge (Hebrews 12:29, 2 Timothy 4:1).

God made humanity in His own image and likeness. Our response to the love, mercy, and patience we received from God is a life of praise, worship and dedication to serve Him. (Romans 12:1-2)

Prayer Points:

- Thank you for your Word and for the life and benefits it bring us.
- Thank you for the “heads up” to future events and the implications for us today.
- We are secure knowing you have all things in your firm control.
- Help us live a life that is pleasing to you. Help us to be faithful in our service to you.
- Help us to build on Your foundation, not ours, aligning our service with eternal impact.
- Pray for the needs of the group.