

Timing of the Gog Magog Invasion Ezekiel 38,39

Three aspects of the Abrahamic covenant were fulfilled when Israel returned.

LAND, SEED and BLESSING

Ezekiel 39:25, 28-29 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob... I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there...Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel."

EZEKIEL 39:17-20 is quoted in REVELATION 19:17-21 when Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation and destroys Anti-Christ and his armies.

Bible prophecy teachers have disagreed through the years on the timing of these chapters. The placement of these chapters ranges from before the Tribulation period to the end of the Millennium. Before we look at the details of these chapters a survey of the different positions, and why they are held, will be helpful. There are at least 7 different positions on the timing of the Gog and Magog battle.

Several details in these chapters lead to the different views. For example, the burying of the dead for 7 months, the burning of the weapons for 7 years, the dwelling in security and peace, the pouring out of God's spirit on the nation of Israel, are some of the details that produce the different viewpoints.

In chronological order, the positions are:

1. Took place in the past.

Preterist Gary DeMar says, "The battle in Ezekiel 38 and 39 is clearly an ancient one..." DeMar and only a handful of commentators insist that Ezekiel 38 and 39 were fulfilled by the events described in Esther 9, occurring in about 473 B.C. in the days of Queen Esther of Persia.ⁱ Wow!!! Amazing!!! The lengths some will go to deny future prophecy. The second past fulfillment or preterist view of this passage believes that the prophecy "was fulfilled in the 2nd century B.C. at the defeat of the Assyrian invaders of Palestine by Judas Maccabeus." This view as well, in many ways, does not line up with the details of Ezekiel 38-39.

2. Before the Tribulation

Most who hold this view believe it will take place AFTER the rapture, but BEFORE the Tribulation. This view is becoming more and more popular. "I [Thomas Ice] would say that today the most widely held view among prophecy teachers today would be the pretribulation view of Gog and Magog. Some who hold this view include Chuck Smith, Chuck Missler, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Randall Price, Tim LaHaye, and Joel Rosenberg."

Two of the primary arguments for this view is the burning of weapons for 7 years and the needed destruction of the Islamic influence in the world today. Ezekiel 39:9, "And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years." "This view also accounts for the 7 years of Ezekiel 39:9. I have always thought that one of the strengths of this view is the way in which it could set the stage for the Biblical scenario of the tribulation. If the tribulation is closely preceded by a failed regional invasion of Israel, in other words Russia and her Muslim allies, then this would remove much of the Russian and Muslim influence currently in the world today and allow a Euro-centric orientation to arise. So the tribulation is preceded by a failed regional attack on Israel and this is why the tribulation ends with all the peoples of the world attacking Israel at Armageddon. It could also set the stage for the rebuilding of the Temple as a result of Islamic humiliation."ⁱⁱ

“This view is the one that I think makes the best sense, even though I think there are a few problems with this view that I have not yet found satisfactory answers. In fact, the timing of this prophetic event is one that I am least confident about when compared with the timing of other events within God’s prophetic plan. I am not one hundred percent satisfied with any of the possible positions regarding the time of fulfillment of this battle. However, at this point in my studies I am firmly in the pre-tribulational camp, even though I still have questions.” Thomas Ice, Ezekiel 38 & 39 Part 25, Pre-Trib Research Center, Articles “Putting this invasion in the beginning of the Tribulation presents no real problem with the seven months, but it does have problems with the seven years. This would put it at a time when Israel would be in flight and would not have time to finish the burning of the weapons. . . . the before the Tribulation view is the only one which has no problems with either the seven months or the seven years. The Jews continue to dwell in the Land after this invasion and remain there until the middle of the Tribulation. Hence, the seven months of burial is no problem. The seven years also create no problem since they would begin before the Tribulation and can extend as far as the middle of the Tribulation if at all necessary. According to this view, this invasion must take place at least 3½ years or more before the Tribulation starts.”ⁱⁱⁱ

It is clear from scripture that the Gog invasion includes the Tribulation period.

One consideration that removes the likelihood of these events being relegated *solely* to the end of the Tribulation is “*And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwallled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,*” Ezekiel 38:11.

3. At the beginning of the Tribulation Some believe it is before the middle of the Tribulation and some believe it is right after the middle of the Tribulation. This view is that Israel is dwelling in peace, as a result of the peace treaty of the Antichrist.

“After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.” Ezekiel 38:8

Ken Overby – “For this to happen there has to be a time gap between the Rapture and the Tribulation. With all due respect to some well-known eschatology scholars, this position seems to attempt to accommodate the theological aversion to weapons burning during the first few years of the Millennium. Some attempt to force a gap before the Tribulation to resolve this “burning” issue. The only scriptural gap is at the end of the Tribulation and not the beginning. The gap at the end of the Tribulation is the difference between the 1260 days + 30 + 45 days = 1335 days of Daniel 12:11,12; Revelation 11:3 and the 1290 days of both Daniel and Revelation. The maximum length of the “gap” derived from exegesis of these texts is probably for the Judgment of the Gentile nations and the complete regathering of the remnant of Israel.”

4. At the middle of the Tribulation This view has probably been the most widely held view. This view appeals to Daniel 11:40-45 as well as the statement of Ezekiel 38:8 that Israel will be dwelling safely. I (Mark Robinson) believe this view is correct (just prior to the middle of the Tribulation). The kings of the North and South in Daniel 11:1–35 clearly refers to the conflict between the Ptolemies and the Seleucids (11:5-20). The Ptolemies who ruled over Egypt, were called the “kings of the South.” The Seleucids, ruling over Syria, north of Israel, were called the “kings of the North.” Daniel 11:36-45 describes Tribulation events and deals primarily with the Antichrist and his protection of Israel in the first 3½ years of the Tribulation. Thomas Ice has a problem with this view because: “The main problem with this view is that the King of the North is not the same as Ezekiel’s Gog.” I agree!!! They are not the same!!! This removes the primary problem with using Daniel 11:40-45 as the chronology of events.

5. At the end of the Tribulation This view has merit based on a couple of passages found in Ezekiel 39.

Ezekiel 39:17-20 “And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.” Israel is certainly not dwelling safely and at rest at the end of the Tribulation, actually from the middle of the Tribulation until the end.

This passage is quoted in Revelation 19:17-18 at the return of Jesus at the end of the Tribulation.

“And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.”

The second passage is Ezekiel 39:27-29, where the Abrahamic Covenant is fulfilled as God pours His spirit upon the nation of Israel.

“When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.”

The earth will be populated by saved Jews and Gentiles at the beginning of this period. What will they be doing? How about cleaning up the earth of its dead by burial, cleaning out its weapons by burning them, and rebuilding cities for people to inhabit. It does mention in Isaiah 65:21 that in the Messianic kingdom,

“And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.” And, there will be the beating of weapons into farm implements...”

Isaiah 11:4 As for the Islamic influence today, they will be removed through the battle of Daniel 11:40-45 AND the Ezekiel 38 battle, paving the way for the Antichrist to establish his world rule at the middle of the Tribulation.

Summary – by Ken Overby, Executive Director, Jewish Awareness Ministries

I believe the Battle of Gog Magog against Israel happens at the middle of the Tribulation for the reasons stated below.

1. The key weakness of the pre-Rapture view of the timing of this battle is that it discards the imminency of the Rapture. According to the Gog Magog pre-Rapture timed view, the Rapture can only take place after that Battle. Therefore, the Rapture cannot take place until it happens thus turning the imminent “Blessed Hope,” into a false hope for believers over the last 200 years.

2. A second key weakness of the theory of the Battle taking place at the very beginning of the Tribulation is that Israel would have to get saved at the beginning of the Tribulation according to Ezekiel 39:22,23 “the house of Israel shall know from that day forward, that I am the Lord their God.” According to Zechariah 12:9,10 it is at the point of the divine defeat of their enemies from all nations not just the northern invading nations, that they will “look on me whom they have pierced.” If this Gog Magog battle happens soon after the beginning of the Tribulation, then Israel gets saved at the start of the Tribulation. But according to Zechariah 13:8,9 “I will bring the third part through the fire...they shall call upon my name, and I will hear them : I will say, It is my people; and they shall say, The LORD is my God.” This salvation does not precede the refiners fire of the Tribulation. Jesus placed Israel’s conversion at the end of the Great Tribulation in Matthew 24:29-31, after the abomination of Desolation based on the prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27. At the beginning of this Olivet Discourse sermon, in Matthew 23:39, Jesus quoted Psalm 118:26 “Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.” Clearly their conversion follows the Battle of Armageddon and does not precede the Tribulation. Therefore, the battle of Gog Magog cannot be before nor at the beginning of the Tribulation.
3. Furthermore, this interpretation confuses Armageddon with the Battle of Gog Magog. Revelation 19:17-19 referencing Ezekiel 39:17-19 describes the Battle of Armageddon. Ezekiel 38 is prophesying the divine defeat of Gog Magog prior to that battle. I say that the Gog Magog battle is the first battle in a Campaign of War that ends at the Battle of Armageddon.
4. The timing of the salvation of Israel - The result of the defeat of Gog Magog is that God makes His name known “in the midst of my people,” and in contrast the result of the defeat of all the nations of the world in Ezekiel 39:22 is that the house of Israel will know from Him “from that day forward.” The Gog Magog defeat awakens the nation of Israel that Jehovah God is “in their midst” (Ezekiel 39:7) whereas the deliverance of Israel at Armageddon regenerates every surviving Jew and Israeli to the recognition that Messiah Jesus is Lord and that His New covenant will be written “in their hearts.” (Zechariah 13:9; Ezekiel 39:29; Jeremiah 31:31-33). It is clear from Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Jesus and John in Revelation that this national salvation happens after the Battle of Armageddon.
5. Another flaw with the early Tribulation timing is the assumption that the burning of the weapons for 7 years must precede the beginning of the Messianic 1000 year Kingdom. Where is it written that burning weapons would somehow defile the purity of the kingdom? A thorough study of the Kingdom rules out this assumption. **Planet earth will be a “fixer upper.”** Therefore, burning weapons for 7 years starting after the Gog Magog battle at the mid-point of the Tribulation for 3.5 years then continuing to burn the weapons for 3.5 years into the Millennial kingdom is not a problem. If Christ spent 3.5 years to perform the ministry and finalize the means and message of salvation, certainly it would not be problematic to take 3.5 years to renew or “save the planet.” As we saw in the Garden of Eden, God always gives man responsibility of gainful employment - “tend the garden” without the thorns and sweat of the brow. It would not be difficult taxing labor to clean the place up for those saints who could have no sweat on their glorified brows. The mortal “sheep” saints who enter the kingdom will count it a joy to participate in the restoration of all things under their loving Lord Jesus Christ in an environment free of evil doers and the evil one. Jesus promised that those who were faithful before their death over a few things would rule with Him over many things. What is it that we will rule over. Earth will be under new management with unlimited means and pure motivations.
6. There is much confusion that the Millennial Kingdom happens on the “New Earth”. This is a wrong interpretation based on 2 Peter 3:12. that the old earth will be burned up at the conclusion of the Tribulation. “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements

shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth” This error is that the Day of the Lord concludes with God’s wrath in those 7 years. This is a misinterpretation of the components that make up the Day of the LORD, which like every day has two parts, darkness then light. The Jewish day ordained in the 6 days of Creation establishes that the day begins with the darkness and concludes in 24 hours with the sun setting to begin the next day. A proper understanding of the Day of The lord is that The Tribulation is the darkest hour that is soon dawned upon by a lengthy 1000 year day. The dissolving of the earth by fire follows the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the 1000 years (Dan. 7:9-10; 12:1-3; Rev. 20:11-15). As the daylight of the Millennium dawns, the current planet Earth will have just undergone the wrath of God resulting in massive depopulation. Jesus will rule/govern this Earth and not only fulfill the “restoration” of a newly redeemed Israel as the chief nation, He will perform the restoration of all things. “And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:20,22). The restoration is back to Edenic conditions in which man in his innocence was told to “subdue the earth” or in this case to re-subdue the broken earth. Christ could perform this instantly. But then why is there still sickness, death and crime requiring the implementing of His “rod of Iron” justice (Rev. 19:15) upon the sin-natured mortals that are born to mortal believers that enter the kingdom? There has to be time for the process of renewing the creation. It may be as brief as either the 7 months required to bury the bones and as long as the period of 7 years to burn the weapons (Ezek. 39:9-15). There will also need to be a period in which nations will convert weaponry into agricultural equipment (Isaiah 2:4). Study my free course THY KINGDOM COME, # CW 104 available on JAM’s Online School of Biblical and Jewish Studies.^{iv} Regarding the issue with the defilement of the peaceful character of the Millennium by weapon’s burning, I see the burning of weapons of the nations poised to annihilate Israel as a victory celebration of the conquest of the enemies of God and His people. It is in fact an “Arch de Triumph” befitting the King of Kings who has just vanquished all kings.

7. Another reason that I hold to the mid Tribulation timing of this battle is the cause and effect that triggers the Abomination of desolation. I believe the Israel’s false Messiah The Anti-Christ will take credit for the destruction of the northern armies upon the mountains of Israel, prompting his satanic possession and declaration of himself as God thus defiling the Tribulation Temple. Triggered by this power vacuum The Anti-Christ who is satanically possessed will only dominate all the kingdoms of the earth for 3.5 final years. This time-period is not randomly coincidental to the length of Jesus’ 3.5 year ministry. I believe the defeat of the northern enemies of the western revived Roman Empire at a battle at the mid-Tribulation mark is the trigger for the unveiling or “revelation” of Satan’s false Christ.

ⁱ Gary DeMar, “Ezekiel’s Magog Invasion: Future or Fulfilled?” Biblical Worldview Magazine, vol. 22 (Dec. 2006), p. 5.

Gary DeMar, End Times Fiction: A Biblical Consideration of the Left Behind Theology, Thomas Nelson, 2001, pp. 12–15.

ⁱⁱ Thomas Ice, Ezekiel 38 & 39 Part 1, Pre-Trib Research Center, Articles

ⁱⁱⁱ Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, The Footsteps of the Messiah: A Study of the Sequence of Prophetic Events, Rev. ed., Ariel Ministries, 2003, p. 122-23

Main Source The Timing of the Gog Magog Invasion, Mark Robinson, Jewish Awareness Ministries (Abridged

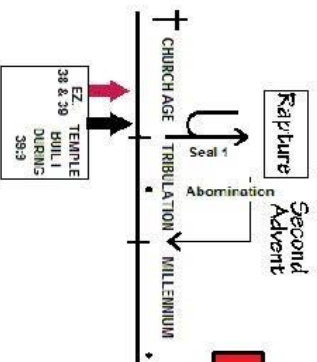
^{iv} <https://www.jewishawareness.org/wp-content/uploads/SBJS-Kingdom-Come-Notes.pdf>

Chart of different views <https://1.bp.blogspot.com/->

RtYcw87AZKI/YSvwnw4RHsl/AAAAAAAFws/jsLAK807FoAgEVDxKJ22k6ngyFzvAf9VQCLcBGAsYHQ/s1392/22382332_10210014853268698_5509674368131084736_o.jpg

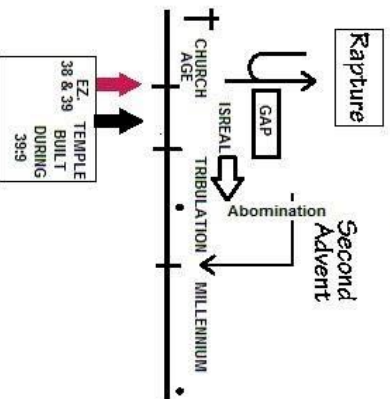
1 BEFORE THE RAPTURE WITH IMMEDIATE TRIBULATION

Tim Lelley, Jerry Jenkins

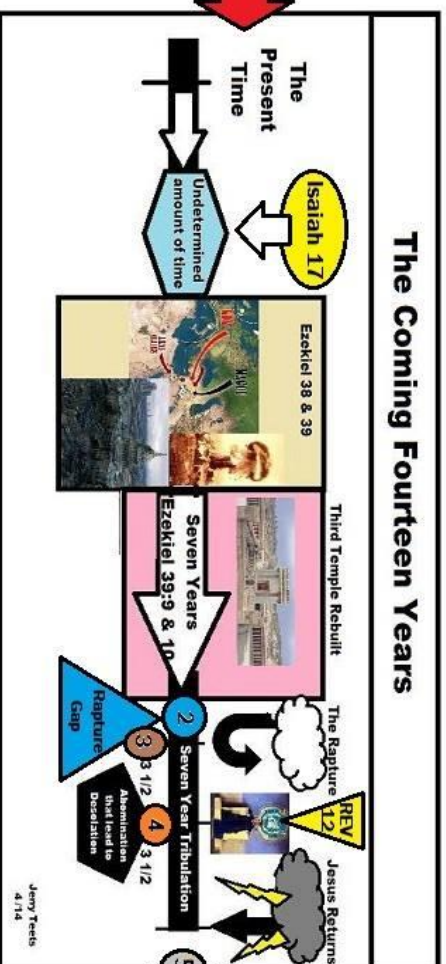


2 AFTER THE RAPTURE WITH LATER TRIBULATION

DR. THOMAS ICE, DR. FRUTCHENBAUM

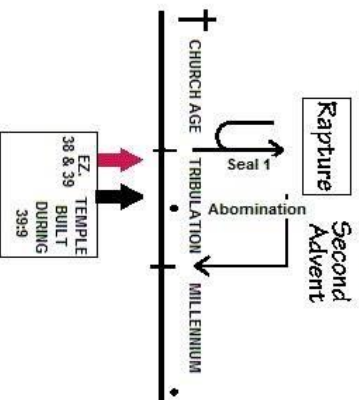


The Coming Fourteen Years



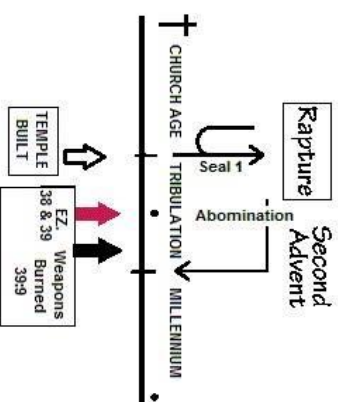
3 AFTER THE RAPTURE AND AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIBULATION

DR. JIMMY DEYOUNG, DR. REGINALD SHOWERS

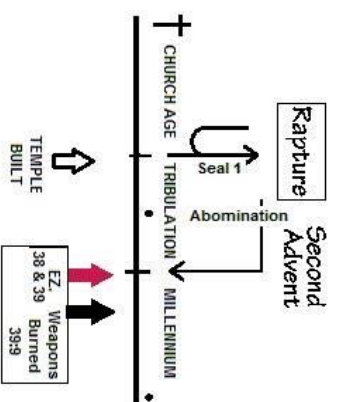


4 MID-TRIBULATION

DAVID HUNT



5 POST-TRIBULATION



But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. 2 Peter 3:10

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. Rev 21:1 & 2

75 DAYS

MILLENNIUM