

Ezekiel – Study 14

Would Ezekiel have stood a better chance of success in our churches today?

Ezekiel Chapter 38

And the Word of the Lord came unto me saying, Son of Man, set your face against Gog, the land of Magog the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal and prophesy against him and say Thus says the Lord God; behold I am against you O Gog the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

For years Bible teachers have thought that these verses and the name Gog refer to Russia and it would be Russia that would form an army of many nations and attack Israel. I am surprised that as I research this chapter and the subject of Antichrist that there are so many different views and opinions about the man called Antichrist. Some believe there are many Antichrists, and that may be so because any who oppose the teachings of Christ or who preach another doctrine is anti Christ. Some teach that Antichrist is a nation; some believe it to be a worldwide confederacy that will align itself with Edom to fight against Israel. Those from Edom are the descendants of Esau. Jacob who later became Israel and Esau were fighting with each other from the beginning when they were in their mother's womb. They have been enemies ever since and some believe that Edom will be the Antichrist. It maybe that he will only become known at the time of his rise to power. 2 nd Thessalonians 2; 8 says ...*he will be revealed.* Gog is the name of the Antichrist as the verse above tells us. God is against Gog the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

To set the scene of the later days and the revealing of the Antichrist we need to go back to Daniel's vision and the dream of king Nebuchadnezzar.

The king had a dream of a giant image of a person with a head of gold, his breast and arms of silver, his belly and thighs of brass, and legs of iron and clay. Then as the king looked a Stone was cut out without the use of hands or tools which smote the image on the feet of iron and clay and broke them to pieces.

The king called Daniel and asked if he could interpret his dream. Daniel said: "**there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets**" and this is what Daniel said:

Daniel 2.36.

This is the dream and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

Thou O king are a king of kings for the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, and strength and glory.

38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven has He given into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all. You are this head of Gold.

Then the Bible says:

After you shall arise another kingdom inferior to you and another third kingdom of brass which shall bear rule over all the earth, and a fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: for as much as iron breaks in pieces and subdues all things and as iron that breaks all these shall it break in pieces and bruise.

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Verse 41 And where as you saw the feet and toes part of potter's clay and part of iron the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, for as much as you saw the iron mixed with miry clay.

Daniel explained the head of gold represented Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian kingdom which was the grandest of them all full of spender and glory. We know from history that after the Babylon Empire came the Persian Empire then the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great and his successors, believed to be his four sons, then came the Roman Empire. These were the superpowers of their day. Rome became the biggest of them all and lasted nearly a thousand years crushing all its competitors and building the greatest empire the world had ever seen and is still powerful today.

The remaining parts of the image were the legs of part iron and part clay and the legs were not divided from the feet and the feet had ten toes. Daniel saw a Stone not made by human hands cut from a rock strike the feet of iron and clay and smashed them to pieces and that Stone, representing Christ became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. The head of gold, the breast and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of brass and the feet of part iron and clay represent kingdoms.

Daniel 7: verse 7.

After this I saw in the night visions and behold a fourth beast dreadful and terrible and exceedingly strong and it had great iron teeth. It devoured and broke in pieces and stamped the residue with the feet of it and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it and it had ten horns.

Daniel's saw in this vision these parts of the body as different beasts but they represented the similar thing as the different metals in Chapter 2. The fourth beast of chapter 7: verse 7 was seen as a beast representing Rome, dreadful and terrible and exceedingly strong and this beast had ten horns. The legs of the image had a mixture of iron and clay, the iron we are told represents the Roman Empire so the 10 toes were made of part iron (the Roman Empire) and part clay. We see that, odd as it may seem Daniel's prophecy reveals that the fourth empire- the Roman Empire will exist in some form or other to be destroyed at Christ's return to earth (the Stone not made by human hands).

We have been dealing with kingdoms from the outset that have come and gone. If you turn back to Daniel 2: verse 41, 42 we read;

Where as you saw the feet and toes part of potters' clay and part of iron the kingdom shall be divided but there shall be in it the strength of the iron for as much as you saw the iron mixed with clay.

And as the toes of the feet were part of iron and part of clay so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly broken.

This represents the introduction of the 10 nation confederation of the toes that among other things will come against the nation of Israel in the near future. These toes or the 10 nation confederation has not risen yet so it has not yet been destroyed by the Stone. With history

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proving the former part of the image having come and gone the scripture also proves that the 10 nation (toes) of the revised Roman Empire is yet to be fulfilled.

I do not propose to try and name the possible kingdoms referred to but there is a strong argument among many that Syria will be one of these nations and from that nation Antichrist will emerge.

We have hardly scratched the surface of this subject, and there may be many who do not agree with all this and have other views, so be it, what is more important is that you have surrendered your life to Jesus, accepted Him as your personal Saviour and know that your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

If you have done that you, with me and mine will be looking to the skies for the return of Jesus in the clouds and the Rapture of the Church to take us from all this earthly mess to be with Him in the skies. Then you will not have to worry who the Antichrist is, where he comes from or what he is going to do, we shall be with the Lord.

Back to Ezekiel 38; verse 4.

And I will turn you back, and put hooks into your jaws and bring you fourth and all your army, horses and horsemen all of them clothed with all sorts of armour even a great company with bucklers and shields all of them handling swords.

This refers to the Battle of Armageddon being the second invasion by the Antichrist. In this battle he will be totally destroyed. The first invasion will take place in the middle of the Great Tribulation when Antichrist will show his hand and his true colours and go back on his promise to Israel of peace. The weaponry spoken of in this verse speaks of the weapons of Ezekiel's day we can be sure he will use the most modern types of warfare known to man in this battle. God said He would put hooks into Antichrist's jaw which shows God has complete control of Antichrist and his great army. (See Study 12.)

Verse 7

Be thou prepared you and all your company that are assembled unto you...

This is a taunt given by the Holy Spirit to the Antichrist is to warn him that if he wants to come up against Very God and His chosen people he and his army's best will not be good enough.

Verse 8

After many days you shall be visited, in the latter years you shall 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 is brought forth out of the nations and they shall dwell safely all of them.