**Gog, the Land of Magog**

*Contextual Interpretation*

*The Lord’s Own Interpretation*

*Comparing Scripture with Scripture*

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*“And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,*

*Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him”* ([Ezekiel 38:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.1-2&t=NKJV)).

*“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

*And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea”* ([Revelation 20:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.7-8&t=NKJV)).

“The words “Gog and Magog” are only used together two places in all Scripture — once in [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV), and once in [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV). And both refer *to exactly the same thing, seen in two separate battles, separated by 1,000 years.*

One battle occurs *immediately before the Millennium*, and the other occurs *immediately following the Millennium*. Both battles have to do with *Satanic-led Gentile armies, originating from the nations of the earth.*  And both battles have to do with *these armies being led against the Jewish people, beginning at Jerusalem.*

As well, as will be shown, both battles occur when “the whole house of Israel” (all Jews) *has been restored to their land, with their Messiah present, in the nation’s midst.*

One battle occurs *immediately before the Jewish people, with their Messiah, occupy the nation’s proper position relative to all the Gentile nations of the earth* (at the head of the nations, with the nations being reached by and blessed through Israel). And the other occurs *immediately following the Jewish people, with their Messiah, occupying this position for 1,000 years.*

Both battles have to do with *EXACTLY THE SAME THING — final attempts by Satan to destroy the Jewish people, along with their Messiah.*

*The first* will be led by a man seated on Satan’s “throne,” to whom Satan will have given his “power” and “great authority”; and *the second* will be led by Satan himself ([Revelation 13:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+13.2&t=NKJV); [19:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.19&t=NKJV); [20:7-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.7-9&t=NKJV)).

**Interpretation — Two Verses**

Scripture is to be interpreted *in the light of itself* — contextual and comparing Scripture with Scripture, recognizing the different ways God has structured His Word ([I Corinthians 2:9-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=I+Corinthians+2.9-14&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.1&t=NKJV)).

To begin, note that there is nothing in the New Testament which is not seen after some fashion in the Old Testament. In that respect, *the Old Testament is COMPLETE in and of itself, apart from the New Testament.* The New Testament can do no more than open up and further explain that which already exists in some form or fashion in the Old Testament, which is exactly what God designed it to do.

If the preceding were not true, the Word made flesh ([John 1:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.1-2&t=NKJV), [14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.14&t=NKJV)) following the completion of the Old Testament but before a single word of the New Testament had been written would be *incomplete*.

And viewing both Testaments after this fashion, which is the only possible way that they can be properly viewed, the reference to and explanation of “Gog and Magog” in [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV) can only be seen as inseparably connected with “Gog, the land of Magog” in [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV). Strictly from a Biblical standpoint, *there can be no other possible way to view the matter.*

Then, viewing matters in this manner, it could only be said that [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV) has been designed to help explain and shed further light on [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV), and vice versa. The two references are parallel, inseparable references.

Thus, “Gog and Magog” in [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV) forms an expression *which could only have been derived from and have a connection with ONE Old Testament verse —* [*Ezekiel 38:2*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV)*.* And when [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV) and [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV) are viewed together in this respect, *it all becomes relatively simple and quite clear.* Another way to say this would be, *when Scripture is compared with Scripture, it all becomes relatively simple and quite clear.*

In [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV), the expression is used in a synonymous respect, or a parallelism, to the two parts of the statement immediately preceding — “*nations* [Gog] *which are in the four quarters of the earth* [Magog].” And with the expression used this way in Scripture’s own interpretation of the Scripture from which it was derived, strictly from a Biblical standpoint, it would not be possible to see [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV) refer *to other than the interpretation, to other than the nations of the earth as well.*

The preceding, of course, has to do with contextual interpretation added to comparing Scripture with Scripture, further explaining [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV) and [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV).

(Note in [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) that the name “Gog” is used to reference not only the nations but, at times, it is used as *a synonym for the nations’ leader* as well [*cf.* [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV), [14-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.14-15&t=NKJV); [39:1-5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.1-5&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.11&t=NKJV)].)

**Interpretation — The Nations**

To describe these nations in [Ezekiel 38:2-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2-6&t=NKJV), five descendants of Japheth are listed — four sons and one grandson (“Magog,” “Meshech,” “Tubal,” “Gomer,” and “Togarmah” [Gomer’s son]). Then three countries are mentioned (one Middle East, and two North African), forming a *trilogy* in relation to the descendants of Noah’s three sons (evidently referencing *ALL nations, as in* [*Ezekiel 38:2*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV)) — “Persia” (Iran [descendants of Japheth]), “Ethiopia” (descendants of Ham) and “Libya” (descendants of Shem).

*Japheth*, the eldest of Noah’s three sons, was to be “enlarged” ([Genesis. 9:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis.+9.27&t=NKJV)). His descendants populated countries in the area north of Israel in the Black, Caspian, and Baltic Sea areas, extending into other surrounding countries (centrally, Europe, Russia, and the surrounding countries).

And a heavy emphasis on the descendants of Japheth in the prophecy would only be natural. They were the ones who would populate a large part of the globe, with armies from a global population in view in Ezekiel’s prophecy.

But there is far more to the matter than just the preceding, pointing to armies from the four points of the compass, as seen in the counterpart to [Ezekiel 38:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2&t=NKJV), in [Revelation 20:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.8&t=NKJV). There are surrounding Scriptures to [Ezekiel 38:2-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.2-6&t=NKJV) which shed light on the matter as well.

(Note that when nations are mentioned with respect to the battle seen in [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) [often referred to by individuals as “Armageddon,” a battle referenced over and over in Scripture (*cf*. [Isaiah 63:1-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+63.1-6&t=NKJV); [Revelation 14:14-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+14.14-20&t=NKJV); [16:14-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.14-16&t=NKJV); [19:17-21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19.17-21&t=NKJV))], there is always either one nation or several nations listed, *representing ALL NATIONS.*

[Ezekiel 35](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35&t=NKJV) and [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) are parellel sections, with the latter two chapters forming *commentary* on that previously seen in chapter 35. “Mount Seir” is referenced beginning chapter 35, which was t*he home of the Edomites* [*cf.* [Ezekiel 35:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.2&t=NKJV), [15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+35.15&t=NKJV); *cf.* [Deuteronomy 2:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+2.5&t=NKJV)]. And, comparing Scripture with Scripture, note in [Isaiah 34:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.1ff&t=NKJV) that “Edom” is used in a parallel text to represent all of the Gentile nations [[Isaiah 34:1-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+34.1-8&t=NKJV)], which come under God’s judgment “in the day of the Lord’s vengeance,” which has to do with *that coming day* seen in [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV).

And the same thing is seen in [Psalm 83](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+83&t=NKJV), where ten named nations seeking to do away with Israel [“ten,” *showing completion*, *as well as Antichrist’s ten-kingdom confederation of nations*] represent *all the Gentile nations in that coming day.*)

**Interpretation — Context**

In the chapter preceding chapters 38, 39 in Ezekiel ([Ezekiel 37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV)), one finds the account of *the valley of dry bones* ([Ezekiel 37:1-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.1-10&t=NKJV)), *followed by the Lord’s Own interpretation* ([Ezekiel 37:11-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.11-14&t=NKJV)), with the remainder of the chapter taken up with millennial conditions once the Jewish people have been restored to their land ([Ezekiel 37:15-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.15-28&t=NKJV)).

*The valley of dry bones*, in its entirety, has to do with “the whole house of Israel,” *clearly seen in the interpretation*. And, since a restoration of “the whole house of Israel” is involved, the matter not only has to do with events following Messiah’s return at the end of the Tribulation but with events following Israel’s national conversion as well. *Scripture ALWAYS places Israel’s restoration, as seen in* [*Ezekiel 37*](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV)(*e.g.*, [Deuteronomy 30:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Deuteronomy+30.1-3&t=NKJV); [Matthew 24:29-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+24.29-31&t=NKJV)), at a time *FOLLOWING the nation’s national conversion.*

According to both *typology* on the subject and *the order seen in the seven Jewish festivals* ([Exodus 12:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12.1ff&t=NKJV); [Leviticus 23:1ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Leviticus+23.1ff&t=NKJV)), *the national conversion of Israel occurs while the Jewish people are still scattered among the nations*.

*In typology*, the application of the blood of dead paschal lambs *preceded* the Israelites’ departure from “Egypt” (a type of *the world*) under Moses, with a view to an inheritance in a theocracy in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

*The antitype* has to do with the Israelites still scattered among the nations (still in Egypt) when they apply the blood (by faith) of the Paschal Lamb which they slew 2,000 years ago. *ONLY THEN* will they be led out by the One greater than Moses, with a view to an inheritance in a theocracy in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Relative to *the seven Jewish festivals* showing exactly the same thing in their orderly structure, the first festival is *the Passover.* Again, Israel has slain the Lamb, but they must still apply the blood. And this must be done *FIRST, BEFORE* anything else can occur (*e.g*., their being regathered from the nations, shown in the fifth festival — the feast of trumpets).

*A major, two-fold mistake* is often made in the interpretation of [Ezekiel 37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV), which carries over into [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV). Individuals look at an Israeli nation in the land today and attempt to interpret the Lord’s interpretation of the valley of dry bones, reading current events into Biblical prophecy. And, because of the inseparable nature of these three chapters, *this mistake will negatively affect the interpretation of all three, presenting a completely wrong understanding of practically everything.*

A restoration of the Jewish people is mentioned several places in [Ezekiel 38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV), a people dwelling safely and at rest ([Ezekiel 38:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.8&t=NKJV), [11-12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.11-12&t=NKJV), [14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.14&t=NKJV); [39:7ff](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.7ff&t=NKJV)). And, to properly understand these two chapters, a person *MUST* see this restoration as *THE SAME RESTORATION* *carried over from the previous chapter* ([Ezekiel 37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV)). Actually, to see this restoration any other way, and remain Scriptural, would *NOT* be possible.

Then, Israel’s Messiah is seen as *PRESENT* with His people, in the land, when these Gentile armies come against Israel ([Ezekiel 38:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.20&t=NKJV)), *which necessitates a time following Christ’s return at the end of the Tribulation*.

Then, beyond the preceding, the account itself tells the reader *EXACTLY* when this battle will occur. It will occur “in that day” ([Ezekiel 38:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.14&t=NKJV), [18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.18&t=NKJV); [39:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.8&t=NKJV), [11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.11&t=NKJV)) — an expression which must be understood contextually, but more often than not refers to events in the Lord’s Day, which *CAN’T* begin until Man’s Day is over.

(For more information on the preceding, refer to the author’s articles, “In That Day: [Bible One – Charles Strong’s In That Day by Arlen Chitwood pdf](http://bibleone.net/In-That-Day.pdf),” “A Lesson from History: [Bible One – Charles Strong’s A Lesson from History by Arlen Chitwood pdf](http://bibleone.net/A-Lesson-in-History.pdf),,” “The Whole House of Israel: [Bible One – Charles Strong’s The Whole House of Israel by Arlen Chitwood pdf](http://bibleone.net/The-Whole-house-of-Israel.pdf),” “Ezekiel-38-39: [Bible One – Charles Strong’s Ezekiel 38, 39 by Arlen Chitwood pdf](http://bibleone.net/Ezekiel%2038,%2039.pdf),” and “God Honors His Word: [Bible One – Charles Strong’s God Honors His Word by Arlen Chitwood pdf](http://bibleone.net/God-Honors-His-Word.pdf).”)

**Interpretation —Additional Thoughts**

Note a comparison of the valley of dry bones in [Ezekiel 37](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV) and the harlot woman in [Revelation 17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+17&t=NKJV); [19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19&t=NKJV) [19a]. *Metaphors* are used in both instances, *the interpretation* is given in both instances ([Ezekiel 37:11-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37.11-14&t=NKJV); [Revelation 17:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+17.18&t=NKJV)), and both present *two different pictures of exactly the same thing* — Israel’s current condition, a condition which will persist and reach its apex during the Tribulation, with restoration occurring following the Tribulation.

Remain with *the context;* you will come out ahead every time!

Remain with *comparing Scripture with Scripture;* you will come out ahead every time!

Remain with the *Lord’s Own interpretation; DON’T attempt to interpret the interpretation;* you will come out ahead every time on the former and end up in a sea of misinterpretation every time on the latter!

And *DON’T attempt to interpret Scripture in the light of current events;* you can only end up in a sea of misinterpretation every time!