



IRAN CALLS FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL! Ezekiel chapter 38 - Here we Come!.

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Once again the Bible's prophecies are forming part of the news, and this is Paul Billington talking about it.

The headline that *really* caught my eye this week read: "IRAN LEADER CALLS FOR ISRAEL'S DESTRUCTION." This of course is because Persian Iran is one of those nations mentioned in Ezekiel chapter 38 that—as part of Gog's alliance—invades Israel with the intention of destroying it.

Verse 8 of this chapter makes it clear that this is to be in the latter years, when Israel has been gathered out of many people, and when it is no longer desolate, but resettled. That is the situation now—and in these circumstances the news that Iran's leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has called for Israel to be wiped off the map is very significant news.

Verse 16 of Ezekiel 38 addresses the leader of the Alliance (Gog), of which Persian Iran is a member, saying:

“...thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; *it shall be in the latter days*, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.”

When this happens—as it certainly will—it will be a time of severe judgement upon the nations who have rejected the God of the Bible, and who seek to destroy His witnesses, the Jewish people.

Iran of course is not the only voice calling for Israel's destruction. That is what the P.L.O. (The Palestine Liberation Organisation) has been all about. The talk of a P.L.O. State is simply putting into practical terms the destruction of Israel—and Israel's recent withdrawal from Gaza has served to encourage many in the belief that Israel can be destroyed. Speaking to thousands of students at a conference entitled A WORLD WITHOUT ZIONISM; the Iranian leader said (quote): “there is no doubt that the new wave in Palestine (of suicide bombing) will soon wipe off this disgraceful blot from the face of the Islamic world.”

But the Islamic world is not the only one that nurses the evil thought of Israel's destruction. There are many in the so-called Christian world who share that same ambition. In his book entitled “Christian Attitudes towards the State of Israel,” Paul Merkle (a professor of history) writes as follows:

“What is clear is that the Christian anti-Zionists are becoming more brutal in their indictment against Israel and Israel's friends every day. Given the magnitude of contemporary Israel's sins, the Christian anti-Zionists say, we should begin to prepare ourselves for the thought that Israel will be thrown out of the land she presently imagines that she ‘possesses.’”

Many of the other nations that appear in Ezekiel 38 are today so-called Christian nations. Not that their “Christianity” reflects Biblical Christianity of course—their corrupted form of theology is even further from the Truth than is the Koran! The nations of Ezekiel 38 generally identify with those of Genesis chapter 10:1-10 and formed part of the original Babel founded by Nimrod. Genesis chapter 11 tells us how those peoples were scattered from Babel—verses 8 and 9 tell us this:

“So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.”



Iranian Leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad wants Israel to be wiped off the map!

So Ezekiel 38 is telling us that ALL these nations will be hostile towards Israel and will seek its destruction. This is what we learn from other prophecies such as Joel 3:1-2; Zechariah 14:2 and Revelation 16:14.

In a symbolic form this alliance is represented by the great image of Daniel chapter 2. Persia is part of this and is symbolized by the chest and arms of silver.

But the structure of this image alliance is not a solid unity. We are told that “they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay” (Daniel 2:43). When the going gets tough they not only fall apart, but Ezekiel says—and it is in verse 21—“every man’s sword shall be against his brother.”

Well—when we start reading about nations who want to destroy Israel in our news—we know that time is running out FAST! A time of severe judgement *is* approaching—but so also is the follow-up. The follow-up is the vindication of God’s Name before an unbelieving and wicked world. It will also reveal His Goodness in restoring Israel and establishing the Kingdom of God upon the ruins of human mis-rule.

An age of blessing and peace will soon dawn upon this world—an age during which all nations will be blessed in Abraham and his seed, the Christ. This blessing will be channeled through the nation of Israel which will be reformed for the purpose. This is what the Good News, or Gospel is.

With *the Bible* in the news there is hope and confidence for the future. Without it there is only despair—so join us again next week when once more we look for the Bible in the events that are happening around us. Talk to you then, God willing.



An anti-Israeli and anti-American painting serves as the backdrop to an Iranian female paramilitary militias (Basiji), parade in front of supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, unseen, in Tehran, Iran. Iran's hard-line president President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, called for Israel to be 'wiped off the map' during a Tehran conference called 'The World without Zionism' and said a new wave of Palestinian attacks will destroy the Jewish state.

