

## Future Wars

The Future, Session 5

### End-time Wars

- Mt 24:3, “... what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”
- Mt 24:6, “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.” (also, Mk 13:7; Lk 21:9)
  - “war” (Gk, n, *polemos*): armed conflict against an enemy
  - “rumor” (Gk, n, *akoe*): news, report, information about an event
  - “alarmed” (Gk, v, *throeo*): be filled with apprehension or alarm; be unpleasantly surprised
- In the Book of Revelation, the first five chapters include the revelation of Jesus, the letters to the churches & the presentation in heaven of a scroll having 7 seals
- Rev 6:1-2, <sup>1</sup> “I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, ‘Come!’ <sup>2</sup> I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.”
  - What color is the horse?
  - What does that color represent?
  - “bow” (Gk, n, *toxon*): a bow, as in bow and arrows
  - What has the bow represented for most of human history?
  - “crown” (Gk, n, *stephanos*): (1) a crown or a woven garland; (2) prize; (3) a symbol of a successful activity
  - What does all this suggest about the nature and intent of the rider?
- There is a religion today that meets all these criteria
  - Can anyone tell me what that religion is?
  - Muslim clerics identify white horse & rider in Rev 6:2 as representing Islam
  - What region of the earth is Islam currently focusing on?
- The nature of Islam
  - The ultimate goal of Islam is not to convert the world to Islam, but to establish Sharia law over the entire world

### Wars Against Israel

- Likelihood of 3 major Middle East wars in the future
  - Psalm 83 war – involves Israel’s immediate Muslim neighbors; could happen any time
  - Ezekiel 38 Magog invasion – involves Israel’s more distant Muslim neighbors; before the great distress
  - During the great distress, after a peace treaty is enforced, Jerusalem will be trampled by an occupying force
  - Armageddon – involves nations worldwide during day of the Lord, after the Lord returns to earth

## Psalm 83 War

- Ps 83:1-8
  - <sup>1</sup> O God, do not keep silent;  
be not quiet, O God, be not still.
  - <sup>2</sup> See how your enemies are astir,  
how your foes rear their heads.
  - <sup>3</sup> With cunning they conspire against your people;  
they plot against those you cherish.
  - <sup>4</sup> “Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation,  
that the name of Israel be remembered no more.”
  - <sup>5</sup> With one mind they plot together;  
they form an alliance against you —
  - <sup>6</sup> the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,  
of Moab and the Hagrites,
  - <sup>7</sup> Gebal, Ammon and Amalek,  
Philistia, with the people of Tyre.
  - <sup>8</sup> Even Assyria has joined them  
to lend strength to the descendants of Lot. *Selah*
- According to verse 4, what is their goal?

## Results of the Psalm 83 War

- Ps 83:13-17
  - <sup>13</sup> Make them like tumbleweed, O my God,  
like chaff before the wind.
  - <sup>14</sup> As fire consumes the forest  
or a flame sets the mountains ablaze,
  - <sup>15</sup> so pursue them with your tempest  
and terrify them with your storm.
  - <sup>16</sup> Cover their faces with shame  
so that men will seek your name, O Lord.
  - <sup>17</sup> May they ever be ashamed and dismayed;  
may they perish in disgrace.
- Isa 11:12-14
  - <sup>12</sup> He will raise a banner for the nations  
and gather the exiles of Israel;  
he will assemble the scattered people of Judah  
from the four quarters of the earth.
  - <sup>13</sup> Ephraim’s jealousy will vanish,  
and Judah’s enemies will be cut off;  
Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah,  
nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim.
  - <sup>14</sup> They will swoop down on the slopes of Philistia to the west;  
together they will plunder the people to the east.  
They will lay hands on Edom and Moab,  
and the Ammonites will be subject to them.
- According to verse 12, when will this happen?

- Notice this lists some, not all of the nations/peoples identified in Ps 83
- Conclusions
  - There likely will be a Middle East war in which Israel destroys or neutralizes Egypt, Jordan, Palestinians (Gaza & West Bank), Lebanon, Assyria (possibly Syria and/or Iraq)
  - After eliminating the threat from her immediate neighbors, Israel would be at peace and free to remove the current security barriers, becoming a “land of unwalled villages” (Eze 38:11)
  - This war will inflame world opinion, provide motivation for the Ezekiel 38 invasion of Israel
- This is speculation, but presents intriguing explanation for Israel’s immediate neighbors not being listed in Eze 38, though currently they’re her greatest threat

### **Ezekiel 38 War**

- Eze 38:1-6

<sup>1</sup> The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; prophesy against him <sup>3</sup> and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. <sup>4</sup> I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army – your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. <sup>5</sup> Persia, Cush and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets, <sup>6</sup> also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops – the many nations with you.’”
- Key question: Who is Gog and where is Magog?
  - v 2, “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal”
  - Hebrew word “Rosh”: (1) literal head of one’s body; (2) head or leader of a group; (3) the beginning of something; example is Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year, or lit. “head of the year”); (4) the top of something; e.g., top of a hill
  - Gog’s identity
  - Magog, two options: the Scythians or Turkey
  - Gog (the person) is of Magog, he’s chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; all are regions of modern Turkey
- Notice, the Eze 38 list of nations/peoples does not include those listed in Ps 83: Palestinians, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia; maybe Syria/Iraq
- When will the Ezekiel 38-39 invasion happen?
  - Joel 2 also seems to describe the Magog Invasion (Ezekiel 38-39)
  - Joel 2:3 says invasion strips the land; Eze 38:12-13; 39:10: objective is plunder & loot
  - Joel 2:20 refers to a northern army; Eze 38:6, 15; 39:2: army from the far north
  - Joel 1:6 says not all nations of the earth are involved; Eze 38:2, 5, 6:

only specific nations

- Joel 2:28-31, <sup>28</sup> “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. <sup>29</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. <sup>30</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. <sup>31</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.
- If this interpretation is correct, this invasion occurs before God pours out his Spirit on all people & before cosmic disturbance

### **Conclusions**

- The nations listed in the Psalm 83 invasion include those that are the greatest current threat to Israel, including those that sponsor terrorism against Israel.
- Regardless of location of Magog & Gomer, it's very clear the nations listed in Psalm 83 are not included in the Ezekiel 38 Magog invasion!
- Therefore, Psalm 83 seems to describe a war in which the neighboring Muslim nations invade Israel, but are totally defeated; unable to engage in the Ezekiel 38 Magog invasion
- If the alternate interpretation is correct, then all of the nations listed in Psalm 83 & Ezekiel 38 are Muslim nations

### **“Battle of Armageddon”**

- Rev 16:14-16, <sup>14</sup> “They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. <sup>15</sup> ‘Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.’ <sup>16</sup> Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.”
  - v 14, satanic trinity gathered the world's kings for battle on Day of the Lord
  - v 15, Jesus returns, “Behold, I come like a thief!”
  - v 16, the armies gathered at Armageddon
  - The “battle of Armageddon” (a non-biblical term) actually occurs in the Valley of Jehoshaphat – Joel 3:2-3, 14-16
    - Valley of Jehoshaphat is now known as Kidron Valley; east of Jerusalem between the city and the Mount of Olives
- Jesus returns to prevent destruction of Jerusalem, will descend to Mount of Olives
  - Rev 19:19-21, Jesus destroys the invading army, has “beast” & false prophet thrown into lake of fire

## **War Against America?**

- How likely is a foreign army to invade American soil?
- What kinds of attacks might we experience in America?
  - Traditional nuclear attack by ICBM
  - EMP attack
  - Terrorist attacks
  - Cyber warfare
- Important point: Jesus said we should not be alarmed or frightened by such things (Mt 24:6; Mk 13:7; Lk 21:9)
  - How can we avoid being frightened about attacks on America?
  - How might we prepare ourselves spiritually now for such attacks?
  - How might we prepare ourselves psychologically now for such attacks?
  - Explain why we should or should not prepare ourselves now
- Why do you think God would leave us on earth while these things happen?

## **Closing**

- I see likelihood of 3 major Middle East wars in the future
  - Psalm 83 war & Ezekiel 38 invasion – before day of Lord
  - Armageddon – involves nations worldwide during day of the Lord, follows the Lord’s return to earth
- We’re already experiencing cyber warfare in America
- God is in control
- “No fear! I choose to let the peace of Christ rule in my heart.”