

## Prophecy Update

### What are the Prophetic Implications of Russia Invading Ukraine?

For Russia, Israel, America, The world, The Church

#### Note: The Purpose of Studying Bible Prophecy is not to freak us out

A) Oh Things are getting crazy – go hide in the Desert of remote Idaho

B) Not to create an escapist mentality in us – Jesus is coming back YAY

1) Get us out of here Lord this world is a mess!

C) The study of Bible Prophecy if done right should evoke in us an activism - Missional mindset

1) Time is short we need to make the most of our time – Sharing the gospel – impacting our culture

D) We read that the early church in the book of Acts turned their world upside down

1) Part of the reason for that – was they believed in the imminent return of Jesus

E) Imminent means – Jesus could come back at any moment

#### That belief motivated them to share the gospel and impact their culture

A) God used them in a powerful way – maybe unlike the world has ever seen before

B) The purpose of these prophecy updates and our upcoming conference is twofold – #1 to make us away of the times and the seasons

1) To stir us up to be active for the Cause of Christ and the kingdom of God

C) Now I want to say a few things by way of disclaimer before we jump into our study tonight

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Is we have to be careful not to over sensationalize world events.

A) We don't use world events to interpret the Bible – but we use the Bible to interpret world events

#### B) Some people can go overboard on that – everything becomes a sign of the times

1) Major Earthquake – Sign of the times – Well always been earthquakes

And it is debatable – whether increasing

C) Wars and rumors of war – Always been wars

#### Sometimes Christians can take events and over inflate their significance to the point where nothing seems significant anymore.

A) That is one of the reasons – I quit doing prophecy updates for a few years

B) When I looked at what was going on in the world – it just didn't seem that there wasn't anything new that was significant

1) Saying the same thing every time

C) So I stopped for a little while – consider – what God was doing in our world.

D) However in the last few years – things have been changing at such a rapid pace - CRAZY!

E) There is so much that is significant to talk about

1) View the events in our world through the lens of the God's word

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> thing: When we are looking at world events there are certain nations that should always catch our attention

A) Because they are nations that are mentioned in the end times scenario that the Bible talks about

B) For example: If some radical thing happens in NZ or Australia – I don't pay a lot of attention to that –

1) Biblically not significant – those countries are not mentioned in the Bible in the last days scenario

C) But when nations like Russia, Israel, Iran – pop up – our radar should go up because –

1) those nations are major players – End Times scenario

#### D) Pay attention to those countries – Pay attention to what the EU is doing and saying

1) The Kingdom of the Antichrist is going to be connected to a confederation of European nations – Pay attention

#### So we are currently watching Russia – a major player in the world invading Ukraine – Russia is significant – pay attention

A) Now what is happening in this war is horrible – loss of life – people being displaced – War is always horrible.

B) But because Russia is involved – We pay extra close attention

C) What Russia is doing right now has some interesting POTENTIAL prophetic implications  
1) That word Potential is key – not saying – this is leading to XYZ

D) But I am saying it has the POTENTIAL to be leading to XYZ and that is why we need to pay attention to it

Last disclaimer – If I say anything funny or silly tonight it is in no way meant to make light of what the Ukrainian or Russian people are going through.

A) It is simply to bring a little brevity – to a very serious situation

B) Bring a little emotional relief – perhaps

C) So tonight we are going to talk about – what are the POTENTIAL prophetic implications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine – Many

#### For Russia

A) Russia is a major player in the End times Scenario – Because of what we read in Ezekiel 38

B) Ezekiel 38 describes a coalition of nations that will come against Israel in the last days.

Bb) Note: Ezekiel 36-37 sets up the stage for Ezekiel 38 – because Ezekiel 36-37 talk about a time when the nation of Israel is re-established in their land

C) Note 5 things we have seen fulfilled about Israel in modern History

#1 The Rebirth of the nation of Israel in the end times -

D) So 1948 – saw the rebirth of the nation of Israel

1) Something that has never happened before – a nation that had ceased to exist for roughly 2,000 yrs

E) Suddenly miraculously comes back to life – Ezekiel the prophet prophesied in Ezekiel 36-37 that would be the case in the last days

#### #2 The return of the Jewish people to the Holy Land after centuries in Exile – Ezekiel 36-37

A) Israel's Population in 2022 has risen to 9.5 million people and almost 75% of those people are of Jewish decent

B) In recent history Jewish people have been returning in record numbers to live in Israel

#### #3 The Rebuilding of the Ancient ruins in Israel – Ezekiel 36

#4 The Re-blossoming of desolate and desert lands – Ezekiel 36

A) Israel was a wasteland – but it has in many ways become an Oasis

B) Leading producer of Agriculture in the world

C) Israel has become the 8<sup>th</sup> most powerful country in the world – crazy the size of NJ

D) Israel is a world leader in Agriculture, technology, medicine, water management – just to name a few

#### #5 The Creation of an exceedingly great army – Ezekiel 37:11

A) Israel has one of the most sophisticated armies in the World

B) So we have been watching the prophecy of Ezekiel 36-37 happen right before our eyes.

C) So we have seen the prophecies of Ezekiel 36-37 coming to pass right in our life time.

D) Why wouldn't it be possible to see the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 also happen in our lifetime?

#### Consider Ezekiel 38

Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, <sup>3</sup> and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. <sup>4</sup> I will turn you around,

put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company *with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. <sup>5</sup> Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet; <sup>6</sup> Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah *from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.*

### **Now this is an amazing Prophecy:**

A) Ezekiel prophesied approximately 2500 years ago events that would occur in Russia's future

B) He begins Ezekiel 38 with a long list of nations that will attack Israel

C) Now none of these nations are called Russia – and there isn't any place in the Bible where the name Russia is mentioned

D) Rosh = Russia – this can be determined both linguistically and geographically

1) **V.15 Coming from the Far North** – Russia is located directly to the far north of Jerusalem

### **Ezekiel 38 describes an alliance of nations coming against Israel – led by Gog – the leader of this Alliance**

A) Daniel chapter 11 used the term **the King of the north** to describe the commander of this alliance

### **B) Notice V.3 Rosh is led by Gog who is described as the Prince of Rosh- Russia Meshech, and Tubal**

1) Gog is a person, a leader – could Putin be Gog? – I don't know maybe –

If Putin is taken out who will take his place?

C) Some of the guys in his inner circle are worse than he is

### **Many people are wondering if Putin has gone mad**

A) Heavy isolation during Covid - He is not in his right mind.

B) Others say he is calculated tyrant and war monger

C) Rosh is led by Gog who is described as the Prince of Rosh- Russia Meshech, and Tubal

D) Meshech could be Moscow – Tubal – Tobolsk – another major Russian city

### **Who will Join this Russia Alliance?**

A) **Magog** was the name of one of Noah's grandsons (Genesis 10:2; 1 Chronicles 1:5), and many scholars believe his descendants settled around the Black and Caspian Seas on Russia's southern border.

B) Today this region makes up the **"stan countries"** (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and perhaps even Afghanistan),  
1) all former constituents of the Soviet Union.

C) What unites the sixty million residents of this region today is their religion: Islam."

### **Which is an interesting thing to note when you consider the other nations mentioned here in Ezekiel 38**

- **Persia:** This is the land of modern Iran.
- **Ethiopia:** This is not the same as modern Ethiopia. It represented the land south of Egypt. **Today, this nation is Sudan.**
- **Libya,** this land is still known as Libya today.
- **Gomer:** Crimea – others believe Part of modern Turkey.
- **Togarmah = Turkey.**

### **What is significant about all those nations?**

A) Like all the **"stan countries"** I mentioned before – they are all heavily Muslim in their religion and belief's

<sup>4</sup> I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company *with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.

### **God is going to draw this alliance of nations into an invasion of Israel – but God is also going to intervene..... destroy these nations**

A) Give Israel a great victory

B) What is the hook in the Jaw of Russia? - Russia's motivation in invading Israel would be twofold – Resources and Power

## Headline this week- Can Israel become Europe's natural gas supplier?

C) Israel has Huge Oil and natural gas reserves – supplies gas and oil to a lot of the middle East.

D) Russia currently supplies gas and oil to much of Europe

## Imagine if Russia could get possession of the gas and oil resources that belong to Israel – Potential to control most of the world.

A) They would become incredibly rich and powerful in the world

## B) Now The motivation of all those other Muslim nations Led by Iran – is a hatred for Israel –

1) Iran refuses to even acknowledge Israel as a real nation – absent on their maps

C) Threatened to wipe Israel off the face of the earth!

## So here is the Question what does Ezekiel 38 have to do with Russia's invasion of Ukraine?

A) Nothing directly – but a lot indirectly

B) Two potential scenarios – If Russia is successful in this Invasion of Ukraine they will become stronger Militarily and Economically

C) It will only increase Russia's position as a super power

## What's the goal of Russia's invasion into Ukraine?

A) According to Russia expert Paul B. Stephan, a University of Virginia School of Law professor

- Putin wants to restore the former glory of the Soviet Union
- Putin's secondary objective is to create discord within Europe, and particularly between Europe and the United States.
- Putin's third objective is to embarrass the United States and to make it seem ineffectual.

## Pic #6 Headline - Putin wants to Dominate Europe

B) Germany's chancellor Olaf Scholz declared last week - This goes beyond Nato, Russia's leader "wants to take over Europe according to his world view".

C) The Foreign Minister of Lithuania echoed that sentiment when he warned this week - "The battle for Ukraine is a battle for Europe." **If Putin is not stopped there, he will go further."**

**Source: ABCNEWS.Com**

## If he is Successful – Russia becomes the most Powerful force in the world

A) Putin is making strides in that direction – Did you see this headline

B) **Pic # 7** Russian forces seize Europe's largest Nuclear power station – "HL Russian troops aiming to mine the Nuke plant in order to Blackmail the whole of Europe."

C) UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the "reckless" attack could "directly threaten the safety of all of Europe".

Ukrainian President Zelensky, meanwhile, said the attack could have caused destruction equal to six Chernobyls, the site of the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986.

**"If there is an explosion, it is the end of everything. The end of Europe," he said.**

## So what does this invasion mean for Russia? If Russia is successful in taking over Ukraine – Russia only becomes more powerful

A) Where does it stop ? Oil pipelines

B) Anyone see this Headline: **Pic # 8** - While the Russian army invades Ukraine, Putin has already quietly taken over another European country

## Last week Russian forces poured into Ukraine from three directions.

A) From the east and south, they entered from Russia itself, or Russian-claimed territory.

B) But from the north, the Russian army came through Belarus.

C) Russian troops and military hardware have been trickling into Belarus since Jan. 17, for what were called **joint military drills.**

D)By February, NATO officials estimated that [Russian forces in the country numbered as high as 30,000](#).

**Now some NATO officials are warning that the troops may never leave.**

A)Before the invasion, Putin claimed Russian forces in Belarus were there for [coordinated military drills](#),

B)and then maintained his troops in Ukraine were there for a [“special military exercise.”](#)

C)The reality, experts say, is that Putin is occupying more and more areas of Eastern Europe.

**But what if Russia is not successful?**

A)Do they make a nuclear strike ? Threats - Devastation that would cause

B)What if it loses the war and folds under the sanctions – Putin is taken out – assassinated –

C)Here is another potential scenario – Could Russia in Desperation and in an attempt to gain power back – attack Israel?

D)Potential to unleash the Ezekiel 38 scenario – Some are calling the Invasion into Ukraine a dress rehearsal for Israel

**What are the Prophetic implications of Russian invading Ukraine – For Israel**

A)Here is something that a lot of people are not talking about at all!

C)Russia currently has 16-18 Warships off the coast of Syria –

1)Tartus Port – 423 miles from Israel

D)The fastest fighter Jet still in service today is the Soviet-built MiG-25. ... it can fly at a top speed of 3,017 miles per hour, ...

**E)IN OTHER WORDS a Russian fighter Jet flying off one of those Ships off the Coast of Syria could be over Israel in a matter of minutes.**

**How would you feel if 16 armed Russian Warships were off the coast of Santa Cruz – 400 plus miles for here**

A)Fire missiles and Jets that could hit Oceanside in a matter of minutes – Crazy

B)That is life in Israel right now – on guard

**And did you know that the Russian Navy and Iran’s Revolutionary Guard navy have recently been conducting joint military exercises in the Mediterranean Sea – near Israel.**

**Hey lets train together just for fun!!!! – Do it near Syria and Israel**

**Russia for years has been supplying the Iranian armed forces with weapons, rockets, and military training. Why?**

A)Russia has had its eye on that part of the world for a long time.

B)Did you see this:

Russia denounced Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights at a meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday, **hours before it launched its invasion of Ukraine. Source:– Jewish News Syndicate- February 24, 2022**

C)Hours before it invaded Ukraine – Russia’s focus is on Israel

**This was another interesting headline this week Jerusalem Journal:**

**What Israel Must Learn from Ukraine’s War**

“Israelis recognize that no outside power, not even the U.S., can be relied on to guarantee survival in the face of a powerful threat.”

A)Here is what is interesting about that – notice V.13 **Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?’ ”**

**What Ezekiel is describing here is the reaction of other nations to this Invasion – Protesting By-Standers – what are you doing?**

A)Sheba = Yemen | Dedan = Saudi Arabia

B)Tarshish is great Britain

C)And their young lions – the young Lions of Tarshish – those who have come out of Tarshish – USA or Australia

D)All they are doing is protesting – not getting involved

**What are the nations of the world doing right now. – Protesting**

A)Long list of Sanctions that are meant to weaken Russia's economy

B)Putin had amazed a **360 Billion dollar War chest** that reports say he is unable to touch because of these sanctions

1)Don't know if that is true

C)The nations of the world are watching Ukraine get invaded and decimated and no one is doing anything =- why? NUKES

1)No one trust Putin

D)We will issue – “Tough Sanctions” – Biden said we will wait about a month to see if they are working

1)Ukraine might not even be standing a month from now

**So Companies here in the states - Not going to Buy Russian Vodka**

A)Ok -More for us they say

B)True the Russian people are hurting because of this war – most are completely against it

C)Are the sanctions really doing anything to deter Putin and Russia ?

D)But of all the sanctions I think I found the one that hurt the Most

**Question: What do Bully's do when no one steps in – they hassle more kids – they get emboldened**

A)A Victory in Ukraine would embolden Russia to take more territory and possibly – aim their sites at Israel

B)Which is very much on it's Radar

**Question: Could Ezekiel 38 happen before the rapture?**

A)Remember – This alliance of nations led by Russia and Iran launch this invasion into Israel – but they are destroyed

B)Here is what is significant about that - In order for the Antichrist to come into power – there are 3 groups that would oppose him –

1)And his One world GOVT – ONE World Religion

C)One world religion- biggest opposition today ? Christians and Islam

1)Both are exclusive

D)Don't see Christians or Muslims driving around with CO-exist stickers on their cars

E)Well the Rapture would take Christian's out of the way – Those who are restraining

**F)Ezekiel 38 would take Muslims out – Death blow – Muslims around the world will reconsider this faith**

**One world GOVT?**

A)Russia has Never been one to Unite – Not a part of Nato or the EU – don't want their neighbors to be either.

B)Ezekiel 38 takes care of Russia - Open door for the Antichrist to come into Power

C)So for those reasons I believe that Ezekiel 38 could happen before the rapture –

1)if not it will happen before the Antichrist comes into power

**Leads me to the next thing I want to discuss tonight What Potential Prophetic implications does Russia's invasion of Ukraine have**

**For The World**

A)What did we see during COVID – the world united like never before

B)What are we seeing right now – the World uniting again

1)Unification of Europe -

EU's foreign policy Chief Josef Borrell was quoted with saying this week

"With this war on Ukraine, the world will never be the same again

"It is now, more than ever, the time for societies and alliances to come together to build our future on trust, justice and freedom. It is the moment to stand up and to speak out. Might does not make right. Never did. Never will," he said. – Source: EU's foreign policy chief Josef Borrell Reuters Feb 27

C)The Nations of the world are working together and uniting like never before in modern History – Covid and now this

D)Fire Drills for when the greatest catastrophe the world has ever witnessed occurs - Rapture

Consider the numbers the population of the world today is 7.7 billion people.

A)Of that 7.7 billion 2.3 billion identify as Christians – almost 30% of the world's population identifies as Christian

B)That is Huge -Now that is probably too high – probably not 2.3 billion Christians in the world –  
1)the world would be a much different place

C)So let's be ultra conservative and cut it in ½ say there are only there are only 1.2 actual Christians in the world

1)16% of the earth's Population is suddenly gone

D)Can you imagine the Chaos –

So the world will be in massive upheaval –

A)Consider – CDC and other world health organizations estimate that about 3.4% of the population died in the last 22mths from Covid

B)Now I don't want to get into all the argument of false reporting – that happened – every death was attributed to covid

1)We know that happened – a lot

C)But lets just go with that number – well if there are only 1.2 billion true Christians in the world –

1)The rapture takes out – 4x the amount of people as Covid did –but it is in an instant

D)If there are really 2.3 Billion Christians that number jumps to 10x the amount of people who "died from Covid"

As Christians we get excited about the rapture but we often forget the devastation that event will have on the planet

A)What happens during a riot – Mass Chaos – rioting looting – people tend to take advantage of the defenseless

B)After the rapture – The rapture is going to provide an opportunity for a Bully like Putin to rise up

1)To take advantage the mess and Chaos

C)However It is also going to provide the perfect opportunity for a leader like the Antichrist to rise up

1)and bring everyone together in a time of Crisis

D)The world has been getting a lot of practice at that lately – getting better and unification

That is not a bad thing: Applaud Nato and the UN and the EU for coming down on Russia

A)I think they could do more than issue threats and sanctions

B)But things are coming together for that time when the Antichrist pulls everyone together –

C)But he has false motivates – He will aim to establish a dictatorship that is unlike the world has ever seen!

D)Subtle at first – Socialism and Bible prophecy

So what Potential prophetic implications does the Russian invasion of Ukraine have on the World – and Europe?

A)Another move in the direction of Globalism

What Potential prophetic implications does the Russian invasion of Ukraine have for America?

A)One of the biggest mysteries for any student of the Bible and of Bible prophecy is this: Why does America seem to be absent from the End times scenario?

B) America is not mentioned in End times Bible prophecies and even the obscure passages that people like to use to point to America  
1) We are not significant at all in the end times picture.

C) But we are a SUPER POWER – the SUPER POWER

**That means that something has to happen to us – something weakens us**

A) What is it? - Rapture –

B) America's population is 329 million

1) 230-250 million identify as Christian

C) Again probably too high – cut it in half 125 million that means about 35% of the population of the USA vanishes – rapture

**That is going to cause our nation to go into great chaos and upheaval**

**A) The rapture could be the thing that weakens us**

B) However we could become weakened Economically –

Bb) If Russia wins and ceases control of more oil pipelines and resources it will surely result in economic problems for the USA

1) Biden opens the Key stone pipeline

C) Headed in that direction – Rising cost of gas – food – headed toward some form of inflation

1) Current way we are living doesn't seem sustainable

**So are we headed for a moral and economic collapse – collapse internally like Rome**

A) Familiar with the History of Rome – Rome was destroyed internally

B) Is that the direction we are going – Moral Decay – Disunity – Lawlessness – Economic turmoil – America is unraveling at the seams

**Our own problems could cause us to become very self-focused**

A) **Tone deaf** to the rest of the world – in many ways we already are

B) Did you hear – John Kerry's remarks about the invasion –

1) Russian invasion of Ukraine ... distraction for climate Change

C) Another possibility – Why America is not mentioned we get nuked

**Lastly what Potential prophetic implications does the Russian invasion of Ukraine for The Church**

A) A 300 year old prophecy from a 18<sup>th</sup> century Jewish Rabbi-

B) Rabbi – Vilna Gaon - **“When you see Russia invade Ukraine, know this the Messiah is coming.”**

C) So when we see these things happening – it reminds us – we are getting closer to the return of Jesus for his Bride

<sup>15</sup> “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, <sup>16</sup> redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Ephesians 5:16

<sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Ephesians 5:16 NLT

Ready? – Saved

**Making the most of the time?**

A) How? Salt and light - Salt – preserving healing flavor enhancing effect on culture

B) Salt has to permeate to be effective – can't go into hiding –

1) Christian clubs –

C) Rub shoulders with unbelievers – befriend – serve

D) Get involved in School boards, run for office - vote

**Most importantly SHARE THE LIFE CHANGING GOSPEL OF JESUS – as often as possible!**