

*Daniel, Ezekiel, and
End Times Prophecy*

Daniel

- *Why did God wait until Daniel's day to reveal his redemptive plan?*
- *Daniel was God's prophet during Israel's captivity (also when 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles were written).*
- *Until the captivity, they believed God had a special purpose for Israel.*

Daniel

- *They were now in captivity, the walls of Jerusalem were down, the Temple was destroyed, they were in a pagan culture.*
- *They must have wondered if God had forsaken them.*
- *God wanted them to know that He was not finished with them.*

Dreams of Daniel

- *God gave a dream to Nebuchadnezzar which Daniel interpreted (chapter 2).*
- *This gave them hope they were still in God's future.*
- *Then God gave Daniel a dream that was more detailed (chapter 7).*

Daniel 2
Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

- *Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and commanded the wise men to tell him his dream before they interpreted it (1-11).*
- *Since they could not, he commanded that all would be killed (12-16).*
- *Daniel and his companions prayed, God revealed the dream to Daniel (17-30).*

Daniel 2

- *Daniel first tells Nebuchadnezzar what his dream is (31-35).*
- *He sees an image: head of gold, chest and arms of silver, thighs of bronze, legs of iron, feet of iron and clay.*
- *Daniel then interprets his dream (36-45).*

Daniel 7
Daniel's Dream

Daniel 7

- *Daniel's dream takes place after Nebuchadnezzar is dead.*
- *Nebuchadnezzar was the first ruler in Babylon to have contact with Daniel.*
- *He apparently appreciated him and his friends and came to faith.*

Daniel 7

- *Belshazzar's rise to power inaugurated a new age for Babylon.*
- *Belshazzar is now the king during Daniel's dream. He was an evil man.*
- *They probably were concerned about their future and whether God would save them from this evil king.*

Daniel's Prophecies

Babylonian Empire		Medo-Persian Empire	
Nebuchadnezzar	Belshazzar	Darius	Cyrus
<i>Daniel 1-4</i>	<i>Daniel 5</i>	<i>Daniel 6</i>	
<i>Daniel 12</i>	<i>Daniel 7-8</i>	<i>Daniel 9</i>	<i>Daniel 11-12</i>

Daniel 7

- *There are some common elements in the dreams of Daniel 2 and Daniel 7.*
- *There are four world empires that are described either as an image or beasts.*
- *The same message, but different figures, different signs, different symbols.*

Daniel 7

- *Daniel has a vision of four beasts (1-8).*
- *The Ancient of Days reigns (9-12).*
- *Son of Man given dominion (13-14).*
- *Daniel's vision is interpreted (15-18).*
- *Daniel desires to know the truth about the fourth beast (19-28).*

Four World Empires

Chapter Two	Chapter Seven
<i>Head of gold</i>	<i>The winged lion</i>
<i>Breast/arms of silver</i>	<i>The devoured bear</i>
<i>Belly/thighs of bronze</i>	<i>The winged leopard</i>
<i>Legs/feet of iron/clay</i>	<i>Indescribable beast</i>

<p>DANIEL 2</p>		<p>DANIEL 7</p>
<p>GOLD</p>	<p>BABYLON</p>	
<p>SILVER</p>	<p>MEDO-PERSIA</p>	
<p>BRASS</p>	<p>GREECE</p>	
<p>IRON</p>	<p>ROME</p>	
<p>IRON AND CLAY</p>	<p>DIVIDED KINGDOMS</p>	
<p>STONE CUT OUT WITHOUT MAN'S HANDS</p>	<p>JUDGMENT</p>	
<p>STONE FILLS WHOLE EARTH</p>	<p>CHRIST'S KINGDOM</p>	<p>KINGDOM GIVEN TO SAINTS</p>

Similarities

<i>Four-part statue</i>	<i>Four beasts</i>
<i>Statue = kingdoms</i>	<i>Beasts = kingdoms</i>
<i>Deterioration to clay</i>	<i>Deterioration to beast</i>
<i>Statue destroyed</i>	<i>Beasts destroyed</i>
<i>Eternal kingdom</i>	<i>Eternal kingdom</i>

Contrasts

Nebuchadnezzar's vision	Daniel's vision
<i>Daniel's interpretation</i>	<i>Angel's interpretation</i>
<i>Glorious statue</i>	<i>Horrible beasts</i>
<i>Human - four parts</i>	<i>Four beasts</i>
<i>Destroyed by stone</i>	<i>Destroyed by God</i>

Four Beasts

- *The four beasts arise from the sea (similar to Revelation 13).*
- *First beast represents the Babylon empire and king Nebuchadnezzar, who is also the head of gold.*
- *He goes from bad to good (starts out as a beast and ends as a man).*

Babylonian Empire



Second Beast - Medo-Persia

- *The bear was an apt symbol of that kingdom - size & fierceness in battle.*
- *“Raised up on one of its sides” - bear consisted of two parts (Media/Persia).*
- *Three ribs - represents the three major conquests (Babylon, Lydia, and Egypt).*

Medo-Persian Empire



Third Beast - Greece

- *The leopard is Alexander the Great who invaded Asia Minor in 334 B.C.*
- *Within ten short years (by the age 32) had conquered the entire Medo-Persian Empire to the borders of India.*
- *Four heads - Alexander died in 323 B.C, generals carved kingdom into four parts.*

Greek Empire



Fourth Beast

- *The fourth beast (Roman empire) receives Daniel's greatest attention.*
- *He asks for more interpretation (7:19) because it was different from all the rest.*
- *Beast has ten horns, one horn emerges as three are plucked out.*

Roman Empire



Fourth Beast

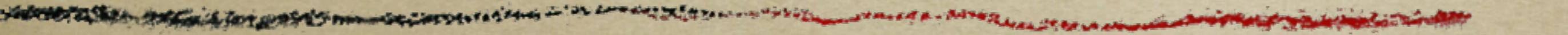
- *The little horn (ruler) has yet to appear on the world stage.*
- *This evil, future king is described in the Bible (Daniel 11:36–37; 2 Thessalonians 2:3–12; Revelation 13:5–6).*
- *He is known as the Antichrist and will be judged by the Ancient of Days (7:9-14).*

Daniel and Empires

Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Empire
<i>Head of gold</i>	<i>Winged lion</i>	<i>Babylonian</i>
<i>Arms of silver</i>	<i>Devoured bear</i>	<i>Medo-Persian</i>
<i>Thighs of bronze</i>	<i>Winged leopard</i>	<i>Greek</i>
<i>Leg of iron</i>	<i>Beast</i>	<i>Roman</i>
<i>Feet of clay</i>	<i>Ten horns</i>	<i>Antichrist</i>

Daniel 11

Kings of the North and South



Panorama in Daniel

- *The angel of the Lord gives Daniel a Panorama of World Leaders.*
- *The chapter begins with the Kings of Persia, then moves to the Kings of the South, and then Antiochus Epiphanes.*
- *The vision eventually finishes with a description of the Antichrist.*

Panorama in Daniel

Kings of Medo-Persia	11:1-2
Alexander the Great	11:3-4
Ptolemy Soter	11:5
Ptolemy Euergetes	11:7-9
Seleucus vs. Antiochus	11:10-19
Antiochus Epiphanes	11:21-31
Persecutions of Israel	11:32-35
King of the End Time	11:38-45

The End Times

- *The king shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods (Daniel 11:36).*
- *This king is the Antichrist.*
- *The next few verses (11:37-39) predict a final world religion ushered in by him.*

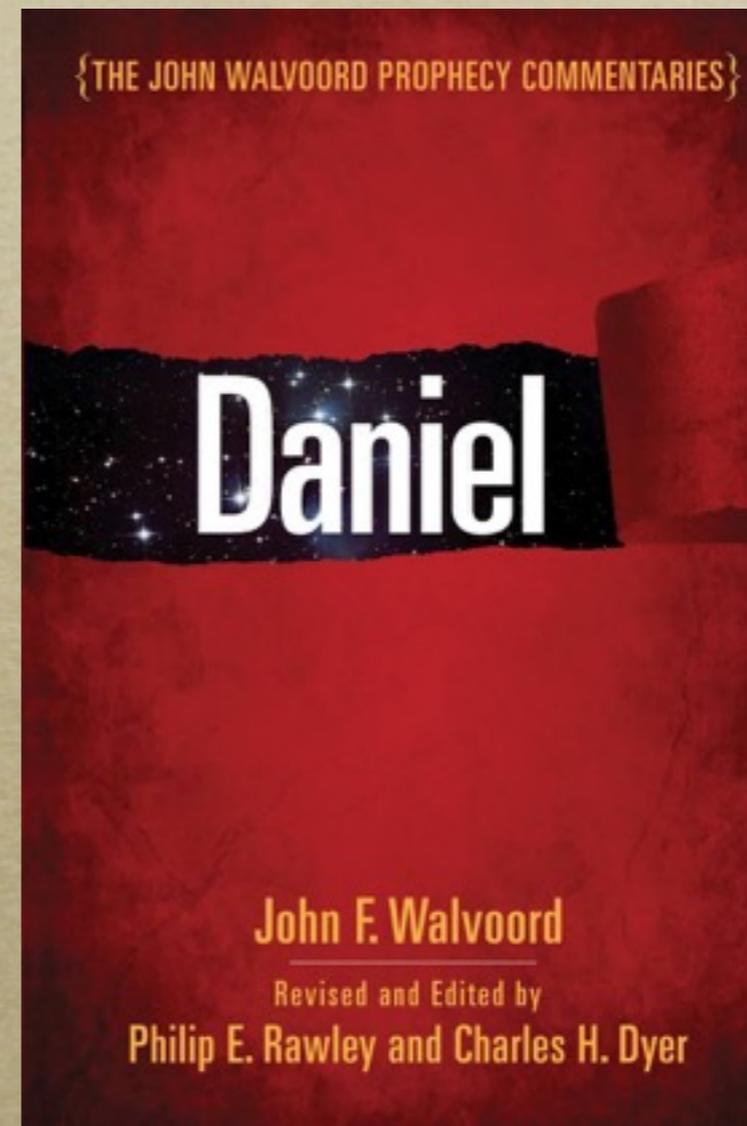
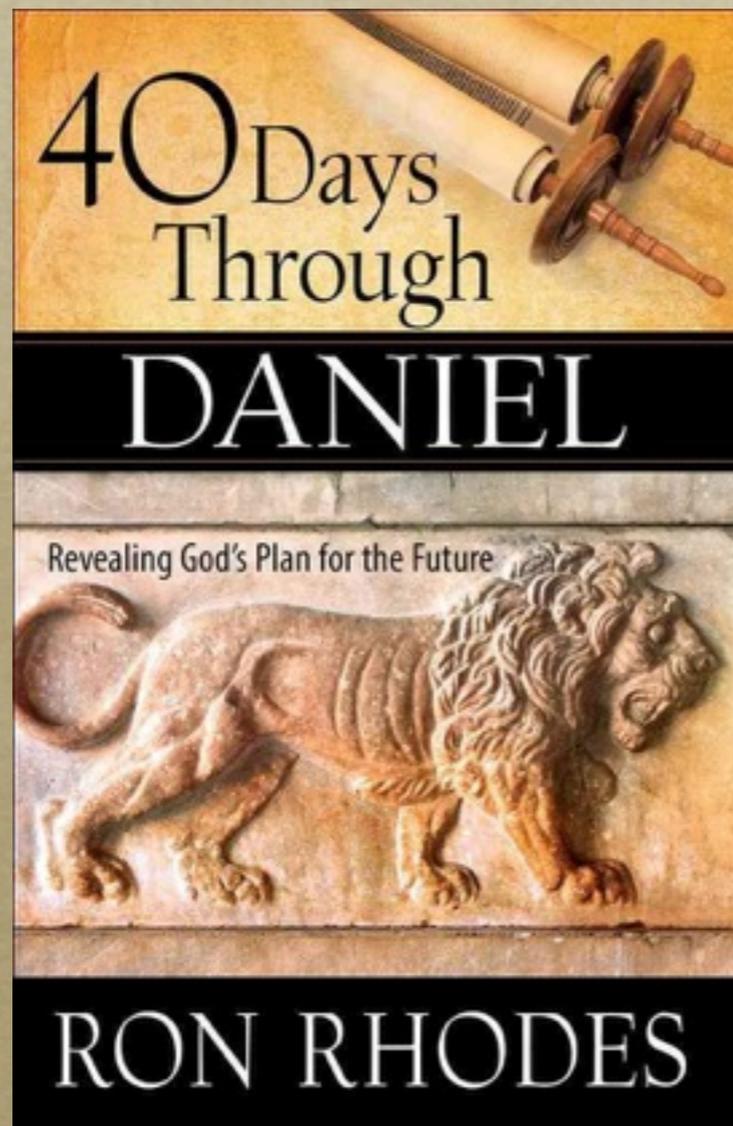
The End Times

- *In the end times, the King of the South will attack, but the King of the North shall rush upon him like a whirlwind (Daniel 11:40-43).*
- *The King of the South includes a coalition of nations that includes Egypt and Persia (probably many other countries as well).*

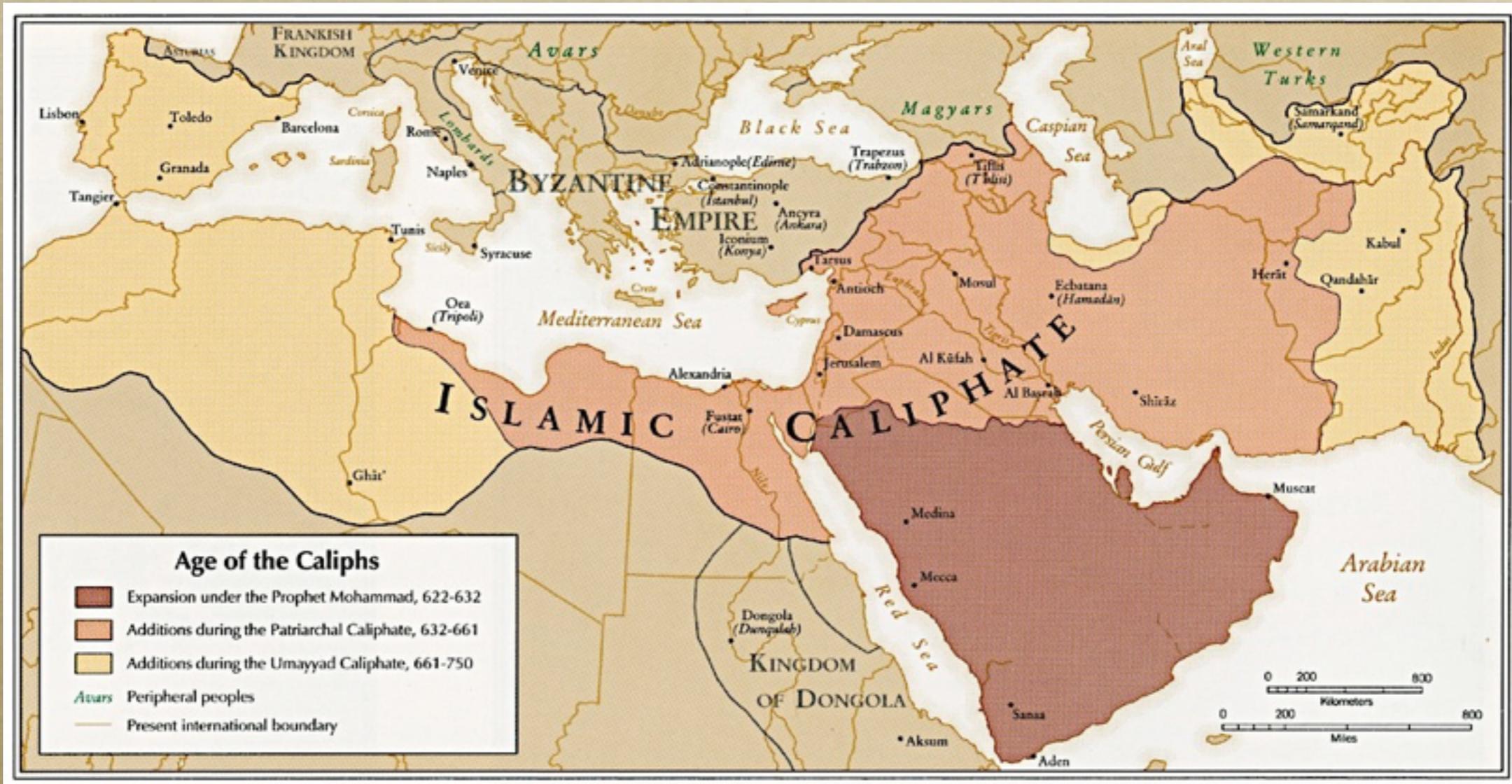
The End Times

- *The King of the North was previously identified (Daniel 11:3-4) with the Seleucid empire, which originally stretched from Turkey to India.*
- *We find a better description of this coalition of nations in Ezekiel 38.*
- *It is led by an absolute ruler: the Antichrist.*

Resources



What About Islam?



Ezekiel 38
Battle of Gog and Magog

Who: Ezekiel 38:1-7

Rosh	Russia
Magog	Central Asia
Meshech & Tubal	Turkey
Persia	Iran
Cush (Ethiopia)	Sudan
Put	Libya
Gomer	Turkey/Europe
Beth-togarmah	Eastern Europe

Who: Ezekiel 38:1-7



When: Ezekiel 38:8

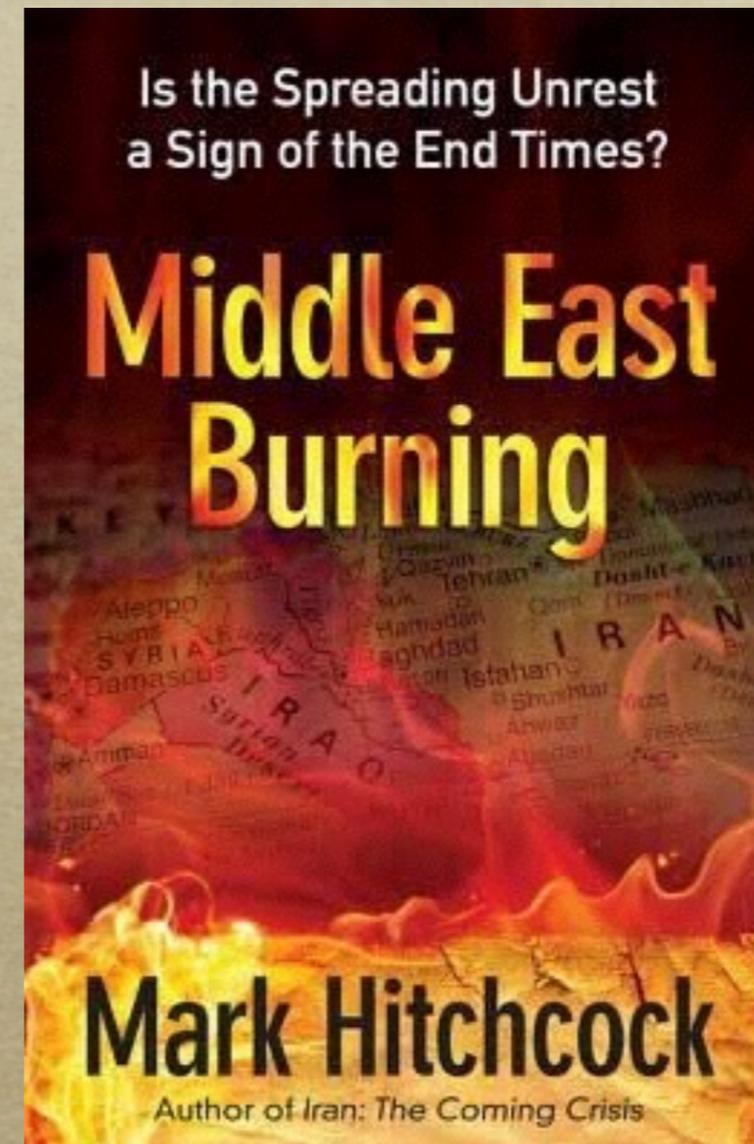
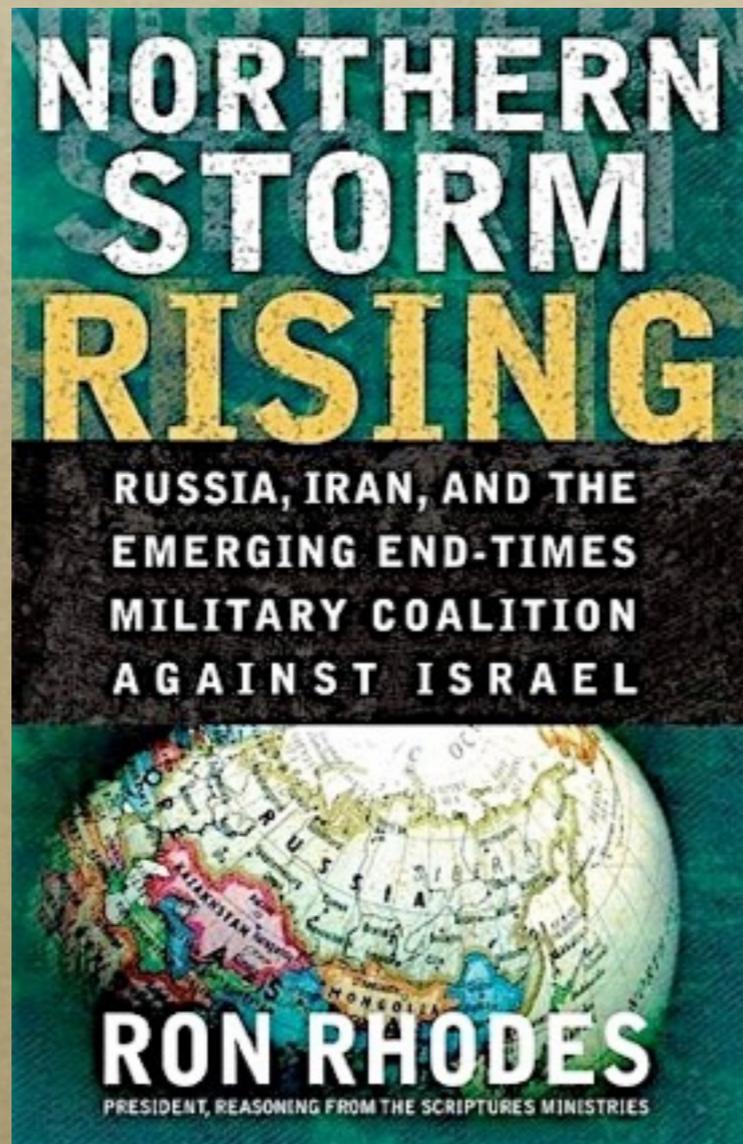
- Left Behind books: between the rapture and beginning of Tribulation.
- Others: during Tribulation or at the battle of Armageddon.



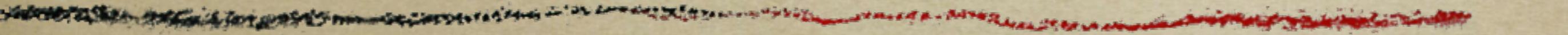
What: Ezekiel 38:13-23

- Ten world leaders build a coalition from the territory held by the Roman Empire.
- They destroy the Muslim armies.
- Out of that group comes the Antichrist: “the prince who is to come” (Daniel 9:26).
- If these Muslim nations are wiped out, he could easily fill the vacuum in this region.

Resources



Will Christians
Go Through the Tribulation?



1. Doctrine of Imminency

- *The apostles anticipated the coming of Christ could occur at any time.*
- *Early in his ministry, Paul exhorted the Thessalonians “to wait for his Son from heaven” (1 Thessalonians 1:10).*
- *They were told to “comfort one another with these words” (2 Thessalonians 4:18) when their loved ones died.*

1. Doctrine of Imminency

- *Later Paul wrote Titus that Christians should be “looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).*
- *The early church fathers believed the Scriptures taught the coming of the Lord could occur any hour.*

1. Doctrine of Imminency

- *Serious Bible students understand that if Christ's coming is after the tribulation, then His coming cannot be imminent.*
- *Exhortations to the church to "wait" and to "look" for His appearing don't make much sense if other signs must be fulfilled first.*

2. Doctrine of the Church

- *There is a difference between the purpose of God for Israel and God's purpose for believers in this present age.*
- *With the beginning of the tribulation period, God resumes His program for Israel in preparation for His millennium.*
- *The church is absent in Revelation 4-19, which describe the tribulation.*

3. Doctrine of the Tribulation

- *Daniel describes it as “a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation ...” (Daniel 12:1).*
- *Christ spoke of it as “great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21).*

3. Doctrine of the Tribulation

- *The Book of Revelation describes it as an outpouring of the wrath of God upon an unbelieving world (Revelation 6:17).*
- *It is a time when apostasy and sin reach unprecedented blasphemy.*
- *Are there any promises that God would rescue His people from all of this?*

4. Specific Promises

- *In John 14:1-3, Jesus promises that: “I will come again,” so that He can take believers to “my Father’s house.”*
- *Believers are promised that: “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:9).*

5. Removal of Holy Spirit

- *According to 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12, the one now restraining sin in the world will be removed from earth before the beginning of the Day of the Lord.*
- *The Day of the Lord includes the day of wrath (tribulation).*

