



ADVANCING
THE
GOSPEL

Colossians 3:5-17

Introduction

- Paul has spent a great deal of time emphasizing theological truths descriptive of the Christian life.
- Paul now addresses the way their lives should look as a result of their new identity in Christ.
- Paul describes the process of embracing the believer's way of life as putting on new clothes.
- Being one of God's children is more than a way of thinking and believing, it's a way of living.

Colossians 3:5-11

Gospel Message

- Paul wrote to the Colossians concerning their theology.
- He laid out in depth the Gospel message and all that the Gospel does for them. Believers are forgiven of sin.
- All people, including non-Jews, are included into God's family because of Christ. Christ is central and supreme to creation and total earthly and spiritual redemption.
- Now, Paul wants to address the Colossians on what their lives look like practically because of these truths.

Gospel Message

- Paul lists behaviors that must not characterize believers anymore.
- The list includes sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and covetousness. Within the present culture for the Colossians, “there was a very tolerant attitude surrounding sexual activity outside marriage.”
- These first four descriptions are sexual in nature. The last descriptor, “covetousness,” is simply wanting what you don’t have.
- The need to gain more and more, fulfill every desire, is idolatry, Paul says.

Gospel Message

- The list of behaviors in verse 5 included sins that destroyed the personal purity of believers. Paul moves to a different list in verse 8, exhorting the Colossians to put off these habits just as one would take discard old clothes.
- The list in verses 8–9 deals with specifically interpersonal sins, sinful habits of relating to others. The believer should never seek to harm another one of God's children, whether in word or in deed.
- While sexual impurity destroys the heart of the believer, destructive words and behavior toward another fragments the community of faith.

Gospel Message

- Through the Spirit of Christ at work in the body, believers are renewed and restored to the image of true creation.
- Christ is the image of the new man, Adam is the image of the old. Within this body of believers, Christ is the unifying factor that is above all other physical descriptions that divided before: race, nationality, language, family origin.
- It was amazing to see the people brought together through the means of the Gospel. This kind of unity doesn't make sense to the world. But this is what the new life seeks to achieve: true unity.

Colossians 3:12-15

Put On

- Paul now transitions in verse 12 to describe the “clothes” which the Colossians must put on, now that they have discarded their old way of life.
- In verse 12 that Paul uses the phrase “chosen ones.” This is a reminder that the Gentiles are included in God’s redemptive plan and that they, too, have God’s Spirit inside them, at work to achieve spiritual renewal.
- Just as the previous lists fostered division within the community of faith, Paul’s list in verses 12–15 seeks to promote unity and cohesion within Christ’s body.

Put On

- Paul's descriptors in verse 12 describe the way of Jesus. Jesus was compassionate, kind, gentle, meek and, most importantly, humble.
- One commentator: "These attributes aren't associated with the false teaching previously dealt with. They are general Christian characteristics that mark them as the children of God."
- The point Paul makes is simple: Christians are to act like Christ toward one another.

Put On

- Christians should seek to bring one another together and offer grace and acceptance and love to those they come into contact with.
- Sin will still occur. But that's why Paul says they must continue to forgive (verse 13). They must now remember the forgiveness they have received in Christ. This forgiveness empowers them as they relate to other human beings that are in a state of progress as well.
- Salvation has come, but the renewal begun by the Spirit has not produced sinless men and women.

Put On

- In verse 14, Paul says to put on love, which binds everything together. This love is the love that Christ prayed for in John 17:26.
- Christ asked the Father that the love between the Father and Son would be the same love that resided in the hearts of God's children.
- This is unifying love. This is divine love. This is kingdom love.
- This love that Paul mentions in verse 14 is connected in verse 15 with the peace of Christ.

Colossians 3:16-17

Word of Christ

- Paul ends this section with a call to corporate encouragement and godly faithfulness.
- It's within the community of faith where this way of life is empowered and renewed by God and is built up. The call isn't one of isolation.
- The way we teach one another and the way we sing with one another matters.
- The church's teaching, as well as the church's singing, confesses great truth about Christ.

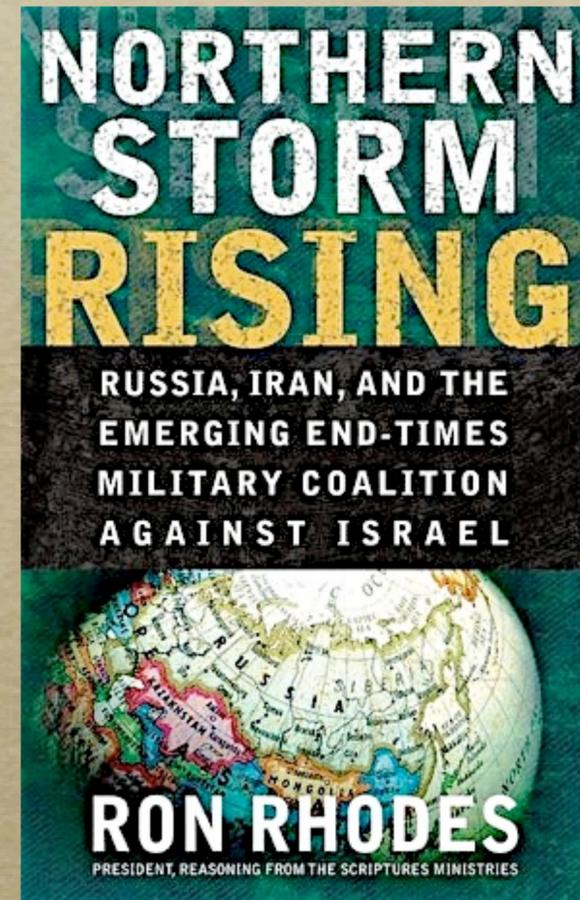
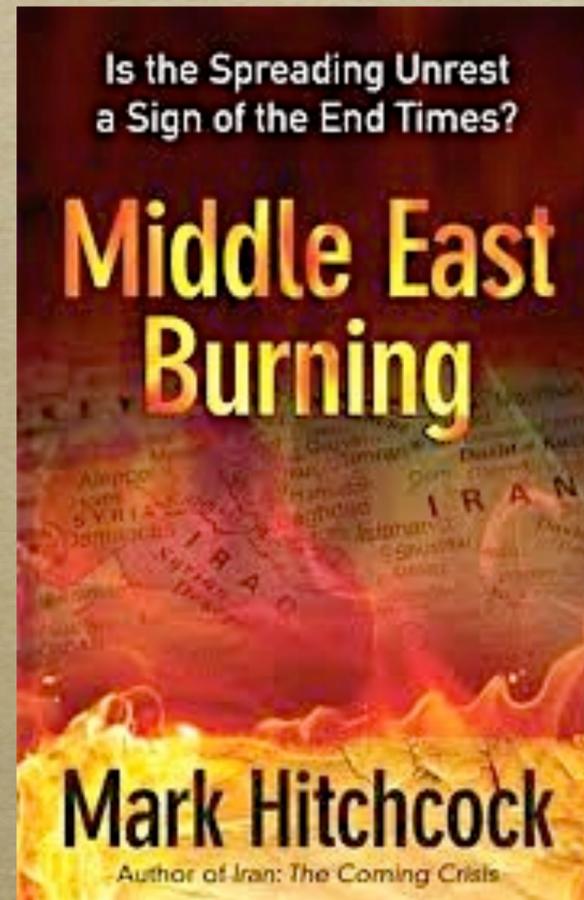
Word of Christ

- But Paul doesn't just stay within the gathering of the church.
- He explains worship as a way of life.
- Paul tells the Colossians in verse 17 that Christ must be a part of everything they do.
- Having Christ infused to everything one says and does is the path to understanding what it means to be truly human.
- This is the life of the new man.

Ask Kerby

Iran in Biblical Perspective

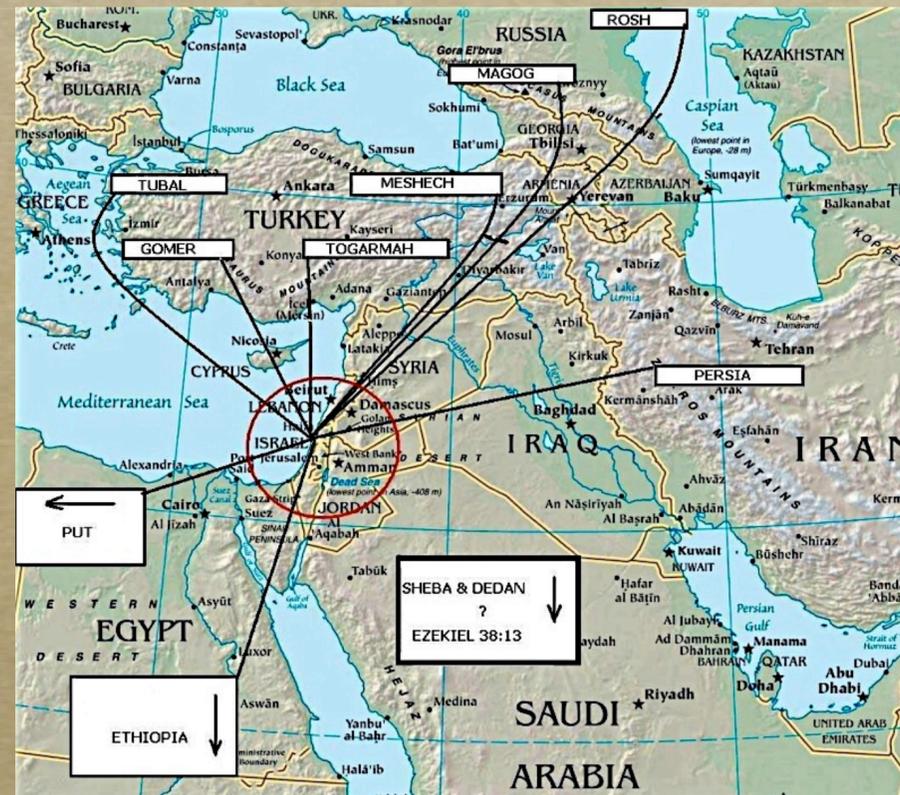
Resources



Ezekiel 38

Who	The Participants
When	The Period
Why	The Purpose
What	The Product
How	Prophetic Significance

Who: The Participants (Ezekiel 38:1-7)



The Participants

- The prophecy about the battle of Gog and Magog begins with a list of ten proper names in Ezekiel 38:1-7.
- This is God's "most wanted list" and includes lots of unfamiliar names: Gog, Magog, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.

Ezekiel 38:1-3

“And the word of the LORD came to me saying,
“Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the
land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and
Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, ‘Thus
says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am against you,
O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.”’”

Ezekiel 38:4-7

“I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen . . . Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops—many peoples with you.”

Gog

- The name *Gog* occurs 11 times in Ezekiel 38-39, and it is the title of a leader.
- It refers to an individual, because several times God refers to him directly, and he is also called a prince.
- He is the military leader of a coalition of Islamic nations and Russia.

The Participants

- The other nine proper names in Ezekiel 38 are specific geographical locations: Magog, Rosh, Meschah, Tubal, Persia, Cush, Put, Gomer, and Beth-togarmah.
- None of these place names mentioned in Ezekiel exist on any modern map.
- Ezekiel used ancient place names familiar to people of his day.

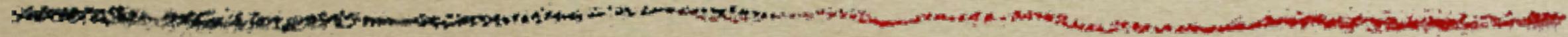
The Coalition

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

The Participants

- Most of these nations are hotbeds of militant Islam, and many have ties to one another.
- It doesn't take much imagination to see why these countries would want to invade Israel.
- Yet this prophecy was predicted 2500 years ago when such an assault seemed unlikely.

When: The Period (Ezekiel 38:8)



The Period

- This event did not take place in the past.
- One option: will occur between the time of the rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation (*Left Behind* series).
- Another option: takes place in connection with the battle of Armageddon at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Armageddon?

<i>Passage</i>	<i>Nations</i>	<i>Leader</i>
Ezekiel 38	Specific Nations	Gog
Revelation 16	All Nations	Antichrist

The Period

- Ten world leaders will build a coalition that comprises the same general territory held by the ancient Roman Empire.
- Out of that group comes the Antichrist, who is “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.

Why: The Purpose (Ezekiel 38:9-12)



The Purpose

- First, the invading force desires to acquire more territory (Ezekiel 38:8).
- Second, they will come to plunder Israel and amass wealth (Ezekiel 38:12).
- Recent discovered of vast gas reserves off the coast of Israel (valued at least \$150 billion) might be one reason.

The Purpose

- Third, the invading army has come to destroy the people of Israel and wipe them off the face of the earth (Ezekiel 38:10,16).
- Fourth, these nations will attack to confront and challenge the Antichrist who will be Israel's ally as a result of the treaty mentioned in Daniel 9:27.

What: The Product
(Ezekiel 38:13-23)



The Product

- When the invading army comes, there will be no stopping them. They are bent on war and destruction.
- The Jewish people will be completely surrounded and outmatched.
- It says that Gog and his army will cover Israel like a cloud (Ezekiel 38:9).

The Product

- According to the Bible, it is at this time that God will come to the rescue of His people.
- Ezekiel 38-39 describes what might be called “the One-Day War” because God will quickly and completely annihilate the army.
- God will be sanctified (Ezekiel 38:16).

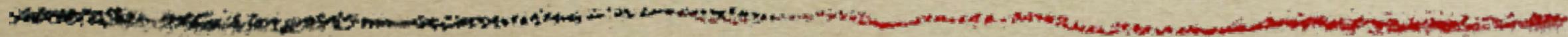
The Product

- First, there is a great earthquake (Ezekiel 38:19-20) that will confuse the invaders.
- Second, there will be infighting among the troops of various nations (Ezekiel 38:21).
- Third, a horrible, lethal plague will add to their misery (Ezekiel 38:22).
- Fourth, torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur (Ezekiel 38:22).

The Product

- The invading nations will swoop down on Israel to take their land.
- They wanted to bury Israel, but God will end of burying them (Ezekiel 38:12).

How: Prophetic Significance



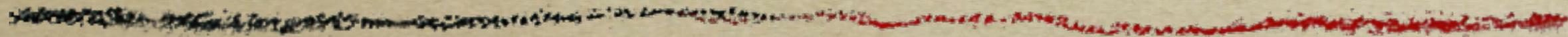
The Product

- The nation of Israel came into existence in 1948. None of this would make sense unless Jews were back in the land.
- Another important event took place in 1967 when Israel came to occupy the mountains.
- Israel must have possession of the “mountains of Israel” (Ezekiel 39:2-4).

Prophetic Checklist

<i>Prophecy</i>	<i>Fulfilled</i>	<i>Date of Fulfillment</i>
Israel in the Land	Fulfilled	1948
Possession of the Mountains	Fulfilled	1967
Dwelling Securely	Not Fulfilled	?

Islamic End Times Prophecy



Islamic End Times Prophecy

- Ever since Islam began, its goal has been the founding of a world empire.
- Its expansion under the second caliph took land to the east and west (North Africa, Spain).
- Its resurgence from the 15th century to the 18th century (Ottoman Empire) was also significant.
- The advance of Islam continued until the Ottomans were stopped in 1529 at the gates of Vienna.

Islamic End Times Prophecy

- Islam has adopted and distorted bits and pieces of the Old Testament and New Testament.
- Heaven - rivers of milk, wine, clarified honey, and shade trees bearing all kinds of fruits.
- Hell - sufferers will be made to drink boiling water, molten lead, and decaying filth.
- “Purgatory” - for Christians, a division of Jews, and a bottomless pit for hypocrites.

Islamic End Times Prophecy

- Islam is also at war with itself. Much of the strife through the centuries has been a conflict between Sunni Muslims and Shiite Muslims.
- The Twelver Shiite sect believes the Mahdi is in hiding and will return in the Last Days.
- Wahhabism is another sect within a sect. It fiercely opposes anything viewed as *bidaa* (modernity).

Islamic End Times Prophecy

- Day of Judgment - first trumpet blast, everyone in heaven and earth will die except those Allah saves.
- At second trumpet, the dead will be resurrected.
- After the resurrection, there will be a 40-year period where people will wander the earth naked, confused, and sorrowful.
- Everyone's deeds will be weighed on Allah's scales of justice (Sura 21:47).

Islamic End Times Prophecy

- Antichrist (1 John 2:18-22; 4:3; 2 John 1:7) - will proclaim himself to be God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). The most detailed description is in Revelation 13.
- Islamic teachers predicts the rise of a powerful leader who is strikingly similar to the Antichrist, who is called by Shiites as The Mahdi.
- Muslims also teach that Jesus (Isa) will return to destroy Christianity and establish Islam.

Resources

