

FAITH + WORKS

JAMES

James 2:14–19 and Matthew 15:7–11

- The way we live shows whether we have faith in Jesus.
- Some pastors and theologians claim that James's theology and Paul's theology are in conflict.
- But when we read the passage in its context, we quickly see that is not true at all.

James 2:14–19 and Matthew 15:7–11

- James was using the example of helping the poor as a metaphor for what it is like when someone says they have faith but do not live it out.
- We know it's a metaphor because James says, "In the same way...."
- The metaphor is intentionally hyperbolic.

James 2:14–19 and Matthew 15:7–11

- In the same way, James told us that saying you have faith in God does nothing if it's not accompanied by action.
- By “does nothing,” he meant that that kind of faith doesn't change anything; it doesn't save you (verse 14).
- There were many people in James's day who only gave lip service to God.

James 2:20–24; Genesis 15:1–6,
22:1–14; Hebrews 11:8–10, 17–19

- Abraham was saved by faith but showed his faith in action.
- Much of the New Testament talks about the faith of Abraham, how he was saved by his faith and all people of faith are the true children of Abraham (Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6).
- God “counted” his faith as righteousness.

James 2:20–24; Genesis 15:1–6, 22:1–14; Hebrews 11:8–10, 17–19

- Hebrews 11 has been called “the faith chapter” because it tells the stories of OT characters who followed God in faith.
- James used two of these same examples, Abraham and Rahab, to explain faith has to show itself in the way we live.
- Abraham lived his whole life by faith, as a sojourner through the land.

James 2:20–24; Genesis 15:1–6, 22:1–14; Hebrews 11:8–10, 17–19

- James said Abraham's faith was "completed" by what he did (verse 22).
- James says in verse 24 that "a person is justified by works and not by faith alone." Does this contradict Paul?
- Paul specifies "works of the law," in order to dissuade his audience from trying to find salvation in the law of Moses,

James 2:25–26; Joshua 2:1–5; 6:24–25; and Hebrews 11:31

- Rahab's action showed her faith in God even from just hearing about Him.
- Rahab's story proves that God's rescue plan has never been just for Israel alone.
- Rahab showed great trust in the Lord, despite not even being a member of the community of Israel.

James 2:25–26; Joshua 2:1–5; 6:24–25; and Hebrews 11:31

- Rahab reacted differently than the other people in Jericho.
- They reacted in fear of God and Israel. The king tried to kill the spies.
- But Rahab responded with faith.
- She believed God would win the battle and that she and her family would be saved (Joshua 2:12–13).

James 2:25–26; Joshua 2:1–5; 6:24–25; and Hebrews 11:31

- James said “even” Rahab the prostitute was considered righteous based on faith that showed itself in action.
- When it came to righteousness by the standards of the Jewish law, Rahab was unrighteous.
- She was not only a Gentile, but she was also a prostitute. This was the last person they would expect to be commended for her righteousness.

James 2:25–26; Joshua 2:1–5; 6:24–25; and Hebrews 11:31

- The Gentile prostitute and the Jewish patriarch share one thing in common, faith that showed itself in action.
- This is the kind of faith that is real. The kind of faith that is alive, not dead.
- Belief is not enough; only faith that shows itself in action will save. Salvation comes from putting your trust in God.

Ask Kerby



What is the significance of
Israel's Attack on Iran?

The Israel-Iran War Couldn't Be Postponed Any Longer



Left: Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends a press conference in Budapest, Hungary, April 3, 2025. Right: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei looks on during a meeting with a group of people in Tehran, Iran, December 11, 2024. (Bernadett Szabo/Reuters, Office of the Iranian Supreme Leader/WANA via Reuters)

Israeli strikes hit more than 100 targets in Iran including nuclear facilities

Tehran says strikes are 'declaration of war' while Donald Trump warns of further, more brutal attacks

Israel attacks Iran's nuclear sites and its top military leaders. Iran retaliates with drones

What we know about Israel's attacks on Iran's nuclear sites and military commanders

Iran says Israel's strikes on its nuclear facilities are a 'declaration of war' as Trump says 'we knew everything' - live



Netanyahu: "Operation Rising Lion" to Cripple Iranian Nuclear Program Will Continue For "As Many Days As It Takes"



Posted By [Tim Hains](#)
On Date June 13, 2025



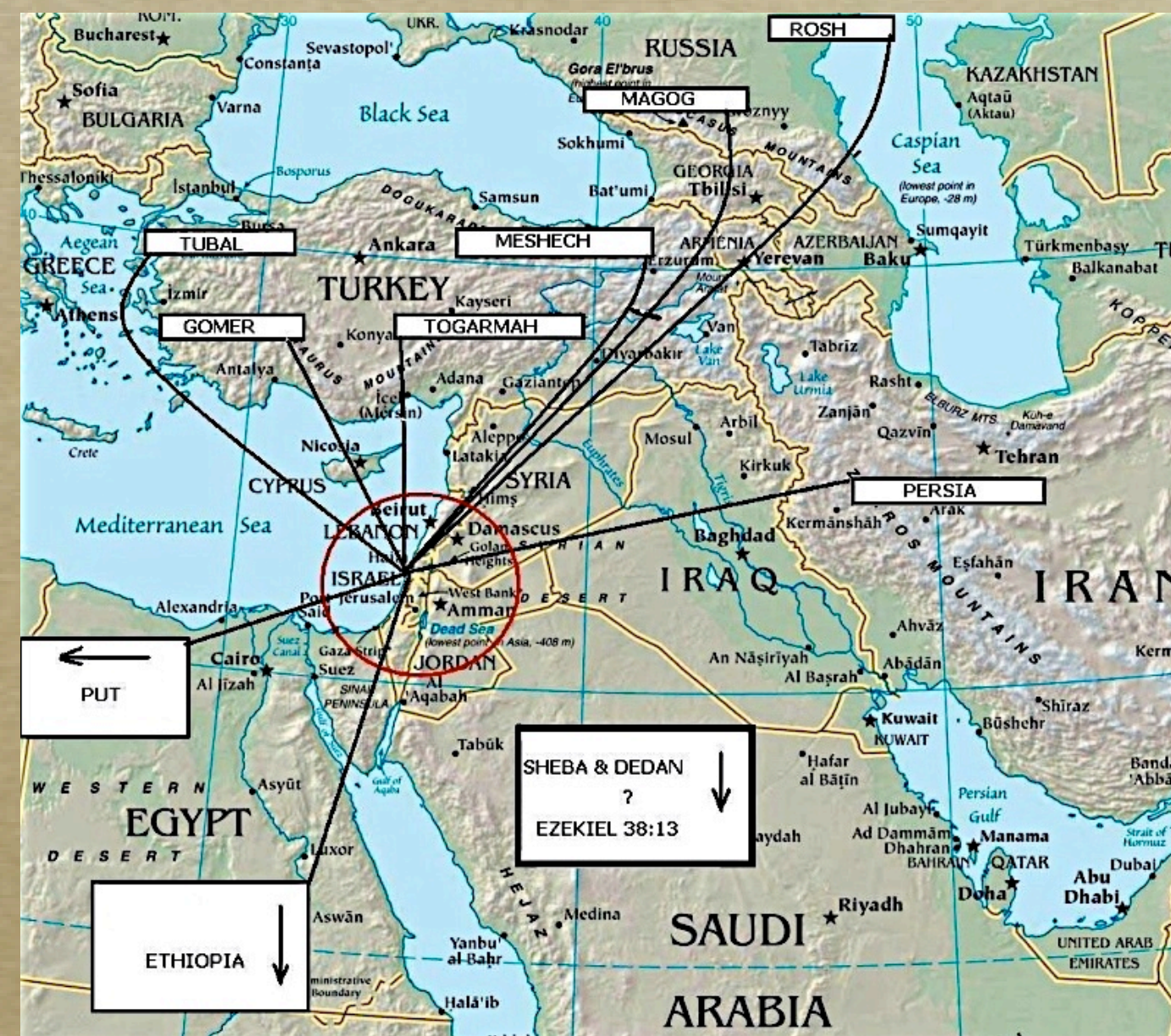
Israel Airstrikes in Iran



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.

Magog

- According to the Jewish historian Josephus, the Scythians inhabited the land of Magog.
- The Scythians were nomadic tribes who inhabited Central Asia, including the southern steppes of modern Russia.
- It also includes the “stan” countries of today (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, etc.).

Rosh

- Bible scholars often have identified Rosh with Russia.
- The Hebrew word *rosh* means “head, top, summit, or chief.”
- Ezekiel (38:2) says that it will come from the “remotest parts of the north.” Russia is a country north of Israel.

Persia

- The words “Persia” or “Persian” are found 35 times in the Old Testament.
- Persia is modern-day Iran.
- It had the name Persia until 1935, and then was changed to an Islamic Republic in 1979.
- It has a population of 70 million.

Cush

- The Hebrew word *Cush* is often translated Ethiopia in modern translations.
- Historians locate Cush directly south of ancient Egypt. Thus, modern Sudan inhabits the ancient land of Cush.
- Northern Sudan harbored Osama bin Laden from 1991 to 1996.

Put

- Ancient sources describe *put* as a “distant” land to the west of Egypt.
- This would include Libya, but could possibly also include Algeria and Tunisia.
- It was under the rule of Colonel Gaddafi from 1969 to 2011. Now looks like it will become a radical Muslim state.

Gomer

- Some have suggested that Gomer is Germany, but that is incorrect.
- Gomer is probably a reference to the ancient Cimmerians who occupied Anatolia.
- Josephus identifies the Gomerites with the Galatians, who inhabited what today is central Turkey.

Beth-togarmah

- The Hebrew word *beth* means “house” so this is the house of Togarmah.
- In the ancient world this included the Assyrians and the Hittites. They were located in what is modern Turkey

The Gog Coalition



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

The Participants

- Based on these identifications, Ezekiel 38 predicts an invasion of the land of Israel in the last days by a confederation of nations.
- They come from the north of the Black and Caspian Seas, extending down to Iran in the east, as far as Libya to the west, and as far south as Sudan.

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.

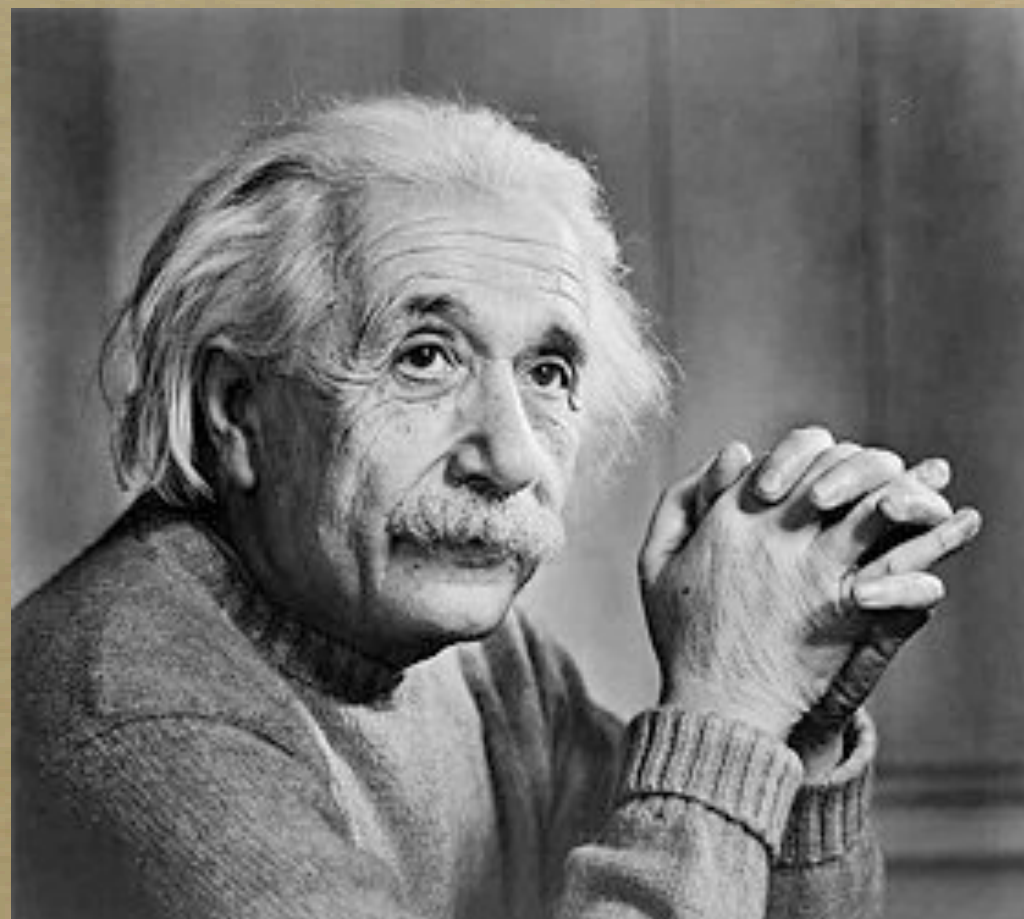
The Participants

- What about the descriptions swords and shields in Ezekiel 38:4?
- One explanation: using descriptions in the past to explain the future, have to translate ancient names to present-day nations.
- Another explanation: devastation of the Tribulation, revert back to earlier weapons.

Future Wars

“I know not with what weapons
World War III will be fought, but
World War IV will be fought with
sticks and stones.”

Albert Einstein



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

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).

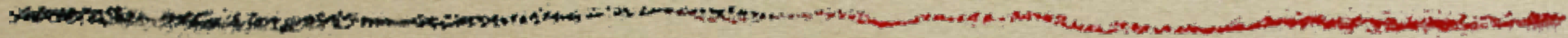
The Product

- 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



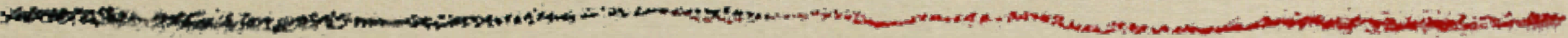
The Product

- How is the world stage being set for the fulfillment of this prophecy?
- What are some of the key developments we are witnessing today?
- Let's look at Israel and then some of the major players in this scenario.

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	?

Resources

