

The Rise of Key Players During the Last Half of the Tribulation – Daniel’s 70th week

Daniel 8:19 “Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end *shall be.*”

Three and a half years or 1260 days into the Indignation/Tribulation, the greatest leader the world has ever known is ruling over a peaceful planet and the world has breathed a collective sigh of relief. He is performing wonders and miracles (Rev. 13:13,14) not the least of which is uniting the monotheistic world religions, Judaism, Catholicism, and Islam. The Jews now have their Temple beside the Muslim Dome of the Rock. This unthinkable ecumenicism has been made possible because both Islam and Judaism have accepted him as the Muslim Mahdi and the Jewish Messiah in one personality. The long-divided Suni and Shia Muslims agree that he is the Anointed 13th Imam and is bringing a prosperous worldwide economy by establishing a global seven-year peace pact. But global political and religious tranquility is shattered overnight when the Antichrist declaring himself God, defiles the newly built Jewish Temple with the Abomination of Desolation. A sectarian and geopolitical earthquake ensues.

Trap Set

What triggers the false Messiah to pollute the Temple he permitted to be built and to claim to be God? Spiritually speaking, it is a Satanic possession like that of Judas at the last Passover. This Son of Perdition, who performs the mystery of iniquity, is that Wicked One whose coming is in accordance with the workings of Satan, possessing “all power” (2 Thess. 2:3-9). The godless Gog-Magog northern hoard are determined to put an end to this Roman, western European, little horn god figure who rules the world from Jerusalem. God sets a “hook” in the jaw of Gog to draw them upon the mountains of Israel. Their evil intent is to “take a spoil and to take a prey.”

“I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws ... I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes” (Ezekiel 38:4,16).

But is it the northern invasion by Gog or the supernatural defeat of Gog that triggers the Beast to declare himself as God? It seems more likely that he is an opportunist filling the power vacuum when the great Russian-led northern invasion of atheist Gog and Magog are destroyed supernaturally on the mountains of Israel. Over the next three studies we will examine why the timing of this invasion in Ezekiel 38, occurs in the middle of the Tribulation and is quite different from the Battle of Armageddon at the end of the seven years.

The Jewish High Priest of the new Temple and the new Sanhedrin will reject this self-proclaimed God just like their Sanhedrin predecessors rejected Jesus as the Son of God and will call the deal off. The horrific bloodthirsty Antichrist like the ten-horned Beast of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 will lash out at Israel intent on completing Hitler’s final solution.

Once the political and religious tranquility is shattered, the revelation of God’s rage against the “heathen rage” will begin (Psalm 2). Then cataclysmic cosmic events described in the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments of Revelation chapters 6-9 will pour out upon mankind. The entire planet will stagger on its axis like a drunken man. Scripture describes mountain-shaking earthquakes in “divers places” over such a global scale that they will be too many to assess.

Isa. 24:19-21 “The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones *that are* on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.”

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As the earth becomes increasingly depopulated, the nations, like Pharaoh of Exodus are hardened in their determination to take it out on the Jews in Israel. They are satanically defiant against the God of Israel who is pouring out His wrath. Since Satan's kingdom is being destroyed, he is determined to destroy any possibility of God's kingdom on earth being established in Israel, so he will desperately attempt destroy Israel and every Jew.

“Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” (Rev. 12:12).

Rise of End Day Powers

We know how it ends. Can we recognize any of the international players that are prophesied to rise to the occasion? Yes, several.

#1 – Israel is God's super-sign of end times.

The main player and the pupil or apple of God's eye is Israel. Over 77 years ago God fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah 30:3 “For lo the days come,” finally came in 1948.

“For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.” Jer. 30:3

Israel has been in travail-like birth pains ever since her rebirth. (Jer. 30:4-6). That great day of which none has ever been like the “time of Jacob's trouble,” known as the Tribulation is next on their prophetic calendar. “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Dan. 12:1).

Other ancient nations are staging on the world scene.

#2 Revived Roman Empire Hybrid of 10 nations

Daniel chapters 2 and 7 indicate that there will be a hybrid form of the fourth world empire in a ten-nation confederation that is reduced to seven and ruled by the Anti-Christ. As we covered in a previous study, the current formulation from which this ten arises is the EU (European Union), which originated from the EEC (European Economic Community) formed under the “Treaty of Rome” and signed in the Vatican.

Dan. 7:8 “I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn *were* eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.”

#3 The King of the South Egypt

Dan. 11:40 “at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.”

Who is the King the North?

#4 Syria

These two kings are mentioned several times in Dan. 11:2-35 “the king of the south is Egypt and the King of the north is Syria.”¹ Dr. Showers in His commentary “The Most High God” interprets this as happening in the first half of the Tribulation and the Anti-Christ will come to Israel's defense and conquer Syria then Egypt, thus enforcing his covenant with many. After subduing Syria, he will march through the “beautiful land,” (8:9,11:16), bypassing

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Jordan. Dan. 11:41 “these shall escape out of his hand, *even* Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.” Dan. 11:44 “tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him.”

What nations from the East and the North causes troubling news?

“It is proposed that the disturbing news will be that the invasion of the Middle East foretold in Ezekiel 37-39 has begun to take place.

#5 Russia and some of its allies will come from the north (Ezek. 38:6, 15; 39:2). One of Russia’s allies (ancient Persia)

#6 Iran will send troops from the east (Ezek. 38:5). There will only be one period of time between Israel’s restoration to the homeland in 1948 and the second coming of Christ when Israel will feel secure. That time will be the first three and a half years of the seventieth seven of years. The secure feeling will only last during the first half of the seventieth seven, because as noted in Dan. 9:27, Antichrist himself will try to destroy Israel during the last half.” Then Russia and her allies will invade Israel and the Antichrist will hear of that invasion while mopping up in Egypt. When he hears that Israel has been invaded by Russia and her allies, “therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.” Before the Antichrist can return from Egypt to confront the northern invasion, the forces of Russia and her allies will already have been destroyed by God (Ezek. 38:18-39:8). “The military force of his major opponent has been removed. This will give him a free hand to what he wants to do...”ⁱⁱ He will then establish his “tabernacle” or IMPERIUM ROMANUM, military headquarters on Mt. Zion – “the glorious and holy mountain. “It will be obvious to all that the invading army was destroyed supernaturally. It may be that the Antichrist will claim he caused that supernatural destruction.”ⁱⁱⁱ Now with Russia, Iran, and Turkey out of the way, two groups stand in his way; the Jews who worship one God and the Christians who worship the Son of God. The Christians are marked for extermination. The diaspora Jews who have fled to Israel for refuge from global antisemitism are unwittingly snared in the perfect trap. The Antichrist is eliminating the arch-enemies of the Muslims who will be overjoyed.

Rev. 12:3-6 “behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.” “it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him”

Michael the archangel will have to stand in defense of Israel lest they be totally annihilated (Dan. 11:40).

Through miracles and wonders the “Beast” who deceived the nations and Israel, survives a fatal head wound thus corroborating his divinity and takes the credit for supernaturally destroying Russia and her allies. Why wouldn’t the majority of the world under His satanic delusion believe him capable of it. Certainly, he seems invincible. The rest of the end times powers that arise will covered in our 3-part series on Ezekiel 37,38, & 39.

So far the nations identified to Daniel are Israel, 10 nations of the revived Roman Empire, Egypt, Syria, Russia, Iran. The rest will be revealed in Ezekiel 38,39.

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The Book of Daniel ends with unanswered questions.

Many details will remain sealed until the time of the end (Dan. 12:4), meaning the last three and a half years of the seventieth week. Many popular ear-tickling teachers use the phrase “many shall run to and fro and knowledge will abound” to say that these sealed prophecies of the book are understandable today in the modern era of travel and technology. Certainly the Book of Revelation which was written 600 years later unsealed some details, but there remain many sealed things in that apocalyptic text which still baffle scholars today. Let’s avoid the spectacular claims of new revelations and current event-based interpretations and stick with the clearly revealed “known knowns” rather than speculating at the “known unknowns” of sealed prophecy.

In Dan. 12:5-7 the angel Michael asks a question to a being above the waters, “How long *shall it be* to the end of these wonders?... when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that *it shall be* for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these *things* shall be finished.”

Daniel repeats the question in confusion.

Dan 12:10 “Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.” This matches up with 12:1 and 2 “and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.”

In the absence of understanding the unsealed prophetic events, we are left to focus on doing something about what we already know and understand. “It is appointed unto man once to die and then the judgment.” An entirely different eternal destiny awaits the wise than does the wicked – “everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.” Let us be wise.

Dan 12:3 “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” Dan 12:10 “Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.”

Although this speaks of the choice between the two fates for Israelis and Jews in the last days of the Tribulation/ “Indignation,” it is also true for every living soul today. Many Jews will be saved during those last days as a response to the 144,000 Jewish evangelists who preach the Gospel of Yeshua. Tragically, many Jews as well as Gentiles will remain in rebellion against Jesus and God.

Like in the Book of Esther God turns the tables. God will lure the Hellish Haman-like hunters over the next three and a half years into the net of God’s final rage or Indignation. Then like the “enlargement and deliverance” which arose “to the Jews” in the case of Queen Esther, Israel’s deliverance will arrive from the most unexpected source, King Jesus.

Matt. 24:29,30 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

The tattered remnant of Israel that survives will witness His coming.

Rev. 1:7 “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him,” which is a quote from: Zech. 12:10 “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced.”

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An astonished Israel will ask,

Zech. 13:6 "What *are* these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, *Those* with which I was wounded *in* the house of my friends."

Then all Israel, the 1/3 who survives, will believe in the name of the LORD Jesus and be saved.

Roman's 11:26,27 "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."

Jer. 31:31-33 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Thankfully before that great attempt to annihilate Israel, two heavenly witnesses will have proclaimed the gospel of Jesus the Messiah of Israel for 3.5 years (Rev. 11:1-4), and from them the 144,000 Jewish evangelist will have covered the globe with the everlasting Gospel (Rev. 14:1-4).

Your response to the Gospel of Jesus now will determine your eternal destiny, Everlasting life or everlasting Contempt. "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10:13, Joel 2:32

"at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt." Dan 12:1,2

In our next study of Ezekiel 37-39 we will see the rest of the end day powers and how conditions are getting ripe for the gathering of the nations into the great winepress of God's wrath.

ⁱ Renald Showers, *The Most High God*, The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Collingswood, NJ., 1982, P166

ⁱⁱ Ibid. p169

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid p171