

Iranian War & Magog

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For Discussion: Is Operation Epic Fury Preparing for the Ezekiel 38 War?

(Mark Tredecim; raptureready.com; April 22, 2026)

<https://www.raptureready.com/2026/04/22/is-operation-epic-fury-preparing-for-the-ezekiel-38-war-by-mark-tredecim/>

Also: The Battle of Gog of Magog

(Joel Richardson; joelstrumpet.com; September 10, 2012)

<https://joelstrumpet.com/the-battle-of-gog-of-magog-the-return-of-jesus/>

Also: Ezekiel 38 and 39 by Thomas Ice (pre-trib.org)

<https://www.pre-trib.org/ezekiel-38-39?start=25>

What is the Ezekiel 38 war?

A coalition of nations led by Russia, Turkey, and Iran threaten Israel after they have been regathered in the land after the Diaspora.

- Their motivation is to take a great spoil.
- No nation comes to their defense and God directly intervenes to deliver them.

How is the current war in Iran setting the stage for the of Ezekiel 38?

The destruction of Iran's military, its rulers, and its support engine for terrorist proxies may lead to a relative feeling of safety and peace for Israel.

- Ezekiel also describes the lackluster response of other nations to this invasion, essentially just hand-wringing and empty words; no other nation comes to the aid of Israel.
- Looking at how other nations have failed to provide support to the US and Israel in ending the multifaceted threat of Iran, and their timid response as Iran threatens the flow of oil that they need, it's easy to envision a similar response to the invasion described in Ezekiel chapter 38.

Why wouldn't the USA (Ezekiel 38 *young lions*) come to Israel's aid?

This may be due to a future new administration in the US that is hostile to Israel, too fearful to act, or that has allowed the US military to become too weak to be a deterrent for such an attack.

- A cataclysmic natural disaster, economic collapse due to the ballooning national debt and hyperinflation, or a surprise nuclear attack might explain American weakness and paralysis.
- When the Rapture occurs, America will be greatly impacted due to the millions of American Christians who will vanish "in the twinkling of an eye." These will include many in critical positions.

What are the different views of the timing of the Ezekiel 38 war?

- At any time (before the rapture)
- After the rapture, before the 70th Week of Daniel
- During the 70th Week of Daniel
- Coinciding with the War of Armageddon
- During the Millennial Kingdom
- At the end of the Millennial Kingdom

We'll discuss the cases for and against each of these timings and you can decide... maybe we'll take a vote.

What is the case for the Ezekiel 38 war happening before the rapture?

Israel is living securely in the land now and things are pretty much business as usual which would likely not be the case after the rapture.

What is the problem with the Ezekiel 38 war happening before the rapture?

The motivation of the Ezekiel 38 nations does not fit... seeking to take a spoil. Israel's enemies today are more aligned with Psalm 83, that they would cease from being a nation.

What is the case for the Ezekiel 38 war happening after the rapture & before the 70th Week of Daniel?

The Ezekiel 38 coalition takes advantage of the chaos following the rapture and the Antichrist will take advantage of the opportunity to confirm a peace treaty with Israel.

- The reference to burning the weapons 7 years (Ezekiel 39:9) could correspond to the 7 years of the 70th Week of Daniel.

What is the problem with the Ezekiel 38 war being after the rapture & before the 70th Week of Daniel?

See the cases for other timing perspectives of this war.

What is the case for the Ezekiel 38 war happening during the 70th Week of Daniel?

At the beginning of the Tribulation Israel will certainly be at peace.

What is the problem with the Ezekiel 38 war happening during the 70th Week of Daniel?

Besides at the very beginning, there is the problem of burning the weapons 7 years (Ezekiel 39:9); particularly after the Abomination of Desolation.

What is the case for the Ezekiel 38 war being another description for the War of Armageddon?

JD Farag has recently gone on record that he has come to embrace this view. And from a biblical standpoint, the Lord is present on earth at the end of this war...

Ezekiel 38:19-20 – Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence.

All the nations will recognize that Jesus is Lord...

Ezekiel 39:7 – I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel.

This is the only time that the phrase “*the LORD, the Holy One in Israel*” is used in the whole Bible. A similar phrase, “*the Holy One of Israel*,” is used 31 times in Scripture.

- But here in Ezekiel, the Lord is not merely the Holy One of Israel; He is actually present in Israel.

What is the problem with the Ezekiel 38 war being another description for the War of Armageddon?

The differences reveal they cannot be the same battle:

1. Ezekiel's invaders are said to be from specific countries, thus not all the nations of the world. At Armageddon, the Lord “*will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle*” (Zech. 14:2)
2. The Ezekiel invasion comes from the north, but the Armageddon invasion comes from the whole earth.
3. The Gog invasion is said to occur when Israel is “*living securely*” in the land. There will not be a more dangerous time for Israel than the end of the Tribulation after the Abomination of Desolation.
4. Ezekiel does not mention a military battle other than the fact that the invaders kill one another. The destruction is primarily by divine intervention. At Armageddon, there is a great battle fought between the Lord with his hosts and the assembled nations.
5. The purpose of the Ezekiel invasion is to take spoil; the purpose of the Armageddon Campaign is to destroy all the Jews.

6. In the Ezekiel invasion, there is a protest against the invasion; in the Armageddon Campaign, there is no protest because all the nations are involved.
7. There is not any time for Israel to bury the dead (7 months) or burn the instruments of war (7 years)... 75 days after Christ's return, the 1,000-year kingdom will commence after a cleansing of the judgment from the Tribulation
8. The armies gathered at Armageddon array themselves against Jesus Christ which is not true of Ezekiel's northern military coalition.

What is the case for the Ezekiel 38 war happening during the Millennial Kingdom?

When the Ezekiel invasion takes place Israel will certainly be at peace.

What is the problem with the Ezekiel 38 war during the Millennial Kingdom?

From Matthew 13 and 25 we know that all unbelievers will be prohibited from entering into the millennium.

- The attackers would have to be unbelievers, which would take hundreds of years for them to be born in the kind of numbers noted in Ezekiel.
- Isaiah 2:4 excludes the possibility of war in Christ's millennial kingdom. The only war that breaks out is at the end of the millennium when Satan is loosed (Revelation 20:7-9)
- It makes no sense to think that the land would be defiled for seven months during the Millennial Kingdom.
- Isaiah 9:4-5 tells us that all weapons of war will be destroyed following the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom.

What is the case for the Ezekiel 38 war happening at the end of the Millennial Kingdom?

God and Magog are explicitly mentioned...

Revelation 20:7-8 – Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

Israel would certainly be at peace during the Millennial Kingdom.

- When Satan is released at the end of the millennium, he makes one last effort to defeat Israel, the apple of God's eye.
- If Satan can break God's promise to Israel, he will have defeated God's purposes and thereby won the final victory.

What is the problem with the Ezekiel 38 war happening at the end of the Millennial Kingdom?

When there are thought to be similarities between biblical passages, that is when the differences become even more important...

- The Ezekiel invasion comes from the north with specially named attackers; the Revelation invasion comes from all over the world.
- There is the problem of the 7 months and 7 years since the Eternal State begins following the end of the Millennial Kingdom war.
- A human being, Gog, is said to lead the Ezekiel invasion, while Satan himself (an angelic being) is the leader of the Revelation event.

So, why then is the expression "Gog and Magog" used by John in Revelation?

Walvoord: It may be that the terms have taken on a symbolic meaning much as one speaks of a person's "Waterloo," which historically refers to the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, Belgium, but has come to represent any great disaster.

- Certainly, the armies come in the same spirit of antagonism against God that is found in Ezekiel 38

So, based on this discussion, what is the most likely timing for the Ezekiel 38 war?

- At any time (before the rapture)
- After the rapture, before the 70th Week of Daniel
- During the 70th Week of Daniel
- Coinciding with the War of Armageddon
- During the Millennial Kingdom
- At the end of the Millennial Kingdom

What application do we see from our discussion today?

- The Iranian war may indeed be setting the stage for the Ezekiel 38 war thus we have to be close to the end of the Church Age.
- It helps us better understand end times events when we consider the cases for and against various timing perspectives.