

The Gog and Magog Sukkot Connection 10/7/2017

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Sukkot/Booths, Huts, Tabernacles; final feast in 7 feast list of Lev.23. Has the most offerings brought (Num.28-29) of any feast. Largest feast, has the most elements to it. 7 days long plus 1 day called *Hoshana Rabbah/The Great Salvation* plus an additional rabbinically added holy day *Simchat Torah/Rejoicing in the Torah* when the Torah Scroll is rolled back to Genesis. Sukkot commemorates the temporary dwellings that Israel lived in while in the desert for 40 years, (Lev.23:43) As Sukkot is the most joyous holiday and the Sukkah is associated with peace its this feast that is the pinnacle of the feasts/fall feasts but it is also the most eschatological feast of the mo'edim (feasts).

Zechariah.14 mentions Sukkot and this is why its understand it as being connected with Gog & Magog since chapter 14 mentions a major war and earthquake. V.16-21, survivors left of the nations who attacked Jerusalem will go up annually during Sukkot to worship G-D in Jerusalem. The very people who wanted to destroy Jerusalem will be forced to go there every year to worship Messiah.

Joel. 4, the Battle in Meggido- Armageddon is not a war but is one of the battles of Gog and Magog. Many Jewish sages who understand Gog and Magog not just as 1 war but a series of battles that culminates in 1 final battle. This gathering is in the *Valley of Jehoshaphat (L-RD Judges)* where He leads them down into final judgment and executes the final sentencing of his judgment in this valley that's also called the *Valley of Decision/Cutting (as in a final decision that is like the cutting edge of a harvest sickle)*

Dan.2 & 7 both Dreams of Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel are in regards to Gog's kingdom and government.

Rev.20:7-8, posits Gog and Magog after the millennium and this would agree with the rabbinic consensus and the apparent chronology of there being a final battle prior to the Millenium in Rev.19:11-21 where Messiah comes and the beast and false prophet are captured, put in bottomless pit for millennium, then released to deceive the nations after the millennium. These nations have been gathered by the demonic spirits in the 6th bowl judgment who are released to gather the kings of the world for this battle in Rev.16:12-16 which speaks of Har-Megiddo as the gathering place for these kings which is the Valley of Yehoshaphat of Joel.4 (ch.3 C.E.V.). This also agrees with Zechariah in that v.18-19 there is a massive earthquake in Jerusalem.

Eze.38-39: Main chapters on Gog and Magog. Read at Sukkot.¹

After Messiah comes, a major war will be instigated against Israel, as mentioned in the Holy Zohar (Shemos 7b), and in Parashas Vayaira (119a) and Toldos (139). This is the War of Gog and Magog spoken about in Yechezkel (38, 39), and Zechariah (14), as well as in Midrash Tehillim (Mizmor 118:9). There it says: Three times in the future Gog and Magog will come against Israel and go up against Jerusalem, and assemble and anger the nations with him to go up to Jerusalem ... (Sha'arei Leshem, p. 491)

¹ Megillah 31A Gemara. Babylonian Talmud. <https://www.sefaria.org/Megillah.31a.16?lang=bi> Accessed September 30, 2017

Why is Gog u'Magog connected to Sukkot aside from aforementioned Zechariah 14 text?

All the major elements of Sukkot are characteristics of the wars of Gog & Magog.

Chazal says this confrontation will consist of three major wars (Midrash Tehillim 109). According to Malbim, Chapter 38 refers to the first war, Chapter 39 to the second war, and Zechariah (chapter 14) to the third. Tur Shulchan Aruch (Orach Chaim 490) writes that the war will take place during Sukkot. – Milstein Edition of Ezekiel

Sukkah/Booth, huts, Lev.23:42-



In the name גִּגְגֹּג *Gog* we see the word גַּג *Gag* (roof) which denotes most commonly the flat roof of a building on which things can take place; usually to do with idolatrous worship.² A *gag* is something strong that's been built to protect as opposed to a Sukkah which has a weak סִכָּךְ *s'kakh/roof of twigs, palm leaves, and branches*. A *s'kach* has to be made from something from the earth that is no longer attached to the earth.³ The roof of Gog is strong that's been built to give Gog the security in the protection of his own power. The roof is the political might he builds for himself then eventually uses to wage war on the Sukkah of G-D's people. *The strength of the Sukkah though is not in power but in בטחון bitachon/trusting in the L-RD (bitachon also means security). The battle is the illusion of human strength against G-D's weakness.*⁴ – R'Shimson Raphael Hirsch (*italics mine*)

Lulav/Arba Minim, 4 Species: Palm branches, myrtle, willow, citron, Lev.23:40-

² See also Judges 16:27, Josh. 2:6, 2 Sam. 11:2, 2 Kings 23:12, Jer. 19:13, 32:29, Zeph. 1:5

^{3 3} If one trellised climbing plants such as a grapevine, or gourd plant, or ivy, over a sukkah while they were still attached to the ground, and then added roofing atop them, the sukkah is unfit. If the amount of fit roofing was greater than the plants attached to the ground, or if he cut the climbing plants so that they were no longer attached to the ground, it is fit. -Sukkah 11A – No item that is attached to the ground is fit for roofing a sukkah, in accordance with the mishna (Shulchan Arukh, Orach Chayim 629:13) Notice Messianic implications here as the Isa.11:1, Jer.23:5 the Yeshua Messiah/Branch...who is cut off in Dan.9:26-27. He is of the earth but has been separated from it.

⁴ Rev.6:15-16. Hos.10:13-14



The *l'kakh*..the taking, gathering denotes a taking with fervor. These 4 species are gathered. They are 4 because they are gathered from the 4 corners of the earth. They are 4 because they are 4 types of individuals who serve the L-RD.⁵ This taking/gathering, is 1 in which G-D gathers his people to the Land and where He gathers the nations who want to destroy Israel to destroy them there.

Offerings of Sukkot, Num.29:12-35- Countup... in days 1, 2, 3, etc. but a countdown in sacrifices 13, 12, 11,10, 9, etc. the number of sacrifices (bulls) equals 70. This is said to refer to 70 original nations in Gen.10. Sukkot was the feast when Israel made atonement for the 70 nations of the world.

Had the nations of the world realized what benefit the Temple was to them they would have built fortifications around it in order to safeguard it. For it was of greater benefit to them than it was for Israel; as appears from the prayer of Solomon: 'Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel' (1 Kings.8:41); and he goes on to write, 'and do according for all which the foreigner calls You.' (v.43).⁶

גוג ומגוג Gog and Magog numerically = 70

70 original nations = Coalition of these nations

Who is Gog and Magog?

Is used symbolically to rep. a prince/government who will resist G-D and seek to destroy Israel. It is also understood as being the process in which global tensions rise resulting in the nations seeking to destroy Israel due to Israel being a stone of stumbling.

Rabbinic texts and interpretations are not uniform and there are a variety of opinions as to who is what country specifically. What is uniform is that all nations considered to be Gog are western European superpowers i.e. Germany, Russia, Rome, etc.

Biblically...

Eze.38:2-3, Gog is the *prince/president*⁷, political leader from Magog which is the kingdom/land. He is the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

Gog is the Anti-Messiah who is also called *Armilus* in many rabinnic texts.⁸ *Armilus* considered to be a derivative of *Romulus (Rome)*.

⁵ Leviticus Rabbah 30:12

⁶ Bamidbar Rabbah 1:3 ; Sukkah 55b. Babylonian Talmud; Netziv in HaEmek Davar Bamidbar 28:12

⁷ The word here is "Nasi" it means leader, prince, president but never King. This word stands out in the text because its not connected to the other words or other clauses. It has its own cantillation mark.

He is the head of a coalition of nations/peoples. v.5-6, Persia (Iran), Cush⁹ (Could be Ethiopia, ancient kingdom of Nubia, could be southern area of Saudi Arabia), Put (Libya), see also Eze.30:5 (Arabia-all the mixed people), Lydia (western Turkish province). No matter what its not the actual nations but their union that is important. They will be at war with one another but will find a common ground to unite in their hatred and will to destroy Israel.¹⁰

Gen.10, table of patronyms i.e. individuals who were the progenitors of nations that carry their name. ex. Mizraim=Egypt, Cush=Ethiopia, Ashkenaz=Germany¹¹

v.2, Yapheth's sons- Gomer, Magog, Madai (Media), Yavan (Greece), Tubal (Turkey), Meshech and Tiras

Gog is a prince, Magog is his land, Meshech and Tubal are his political extensions along with Persia, Put, etc. Properly should be rendered 'Gog from the Land m'Gog (of Gog)'

1. Yiphtach is the Western nations because Shem is the Middle Eastern nations. Shem is often associated with the World Superpowers because Noah said Genesis 9:27, "May G-D enlarge Yiptach, may he dwell in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan (7 nations of Canaan who were to be exterminated from the Land) be his slave."

From this Yiphtach and Shem have an alliance...when the alliance is good it benefits the world, when the alliance is bad destroys the world.

Rabbinically...

Rabbi's understood Gog as referring to a political leader of western superpowers...such as Rome was the dominant power in that day...however

*The Holy One, Blessed is He, was about to make Hezekiah the Messiah and Sennacherib, Gog and Magog (Isa.36:40). The Attribute of Judgment said before The Holy One, Blessed is He, "Master of the Universe! You did not make David, the king of Israel, Messiah, though he recited many songs and praises. And now You want to make, Hezekiah, for whom You did perform great miracles but for which he did not recite song, Messiah?"*¹²

⁸ Midrash Aseret HaSh'vatim, OM 466 ; Midrash WaYosha, BhM 1:56

⁹ <http://biblehub.com/topical/c/cush.htm> Accessed September 28, 2017. Easton's Bible Dictionary. NE Africa locale? It was the southern limit of Egypt (Ezek. 29:10, A.V. "Ethiopia," Hebrews Cush), with which it is generally associated (Psalm 68:31; Isaiah 18:1; Jeremiah 46:9, etc.). It stands also associated with Elam (Isaiah 11:11), with Persia (Ezek. 38:5), and with the Sabeans (Isaiah 45:14).

¹⁰ Matt.24:7

¹¹ Also the name of Ashkenazai Jews since they migrated to and are from the area of Germany and France. Here it is a reference to the specific geographic area and nation of Germany

¹² Sanhedrin 94a Babylonian Talmud

Here Assyria is associated with Gog u'Magog. That is Gog is an extension of the ancient empire of Assyria even as Messiah is an extension of Hezekiah as he is a Son of David. Gog is not 1 nation but many nations in confederacy. The combined superpowers of the extended Roman Empire/Western world and the religious fervor of the Middle Eastern Islamic nations whose religious war ideology is rooted in ancient Assyria.¹³

All rabbinic sources equate Gog M'Gog political government as being a union between the Western powers and Ishmael since if the western/European powers will invade Israel they first must interact with the powers in that area of the world i.e. Islamic nations. This is seen in the government that Gog has which is seen in Nebuchadnezzar and Daniels dreams in Dan.2 & 7.

Nebuchadnezzar sees image of a man made of gold, silver, copper, iron, feet of mixture of iron and clay. Daniel has same dream but sees these empires from a different perspective and sees them as beasts: Lion w/wings=Babylon/Iraq, Bear=Persia/Iran, Leopard=Yavan/Greece/4 heads are the 4 generals and successors of Alexander the Great, Last Beast different from all others = Last world Empire/Rome, Revived Roman Empire mixed with something else.¹⁴



Photo Courtesy <http://www.pathlights.com/My-Bible-School-2010/images/Daniel-2-7.jpg>

Feet mixture of iron/clay-

Rome was divided into eastern and western Roman Empire in 285 c.e. by Diocletian. Eventually this polarized the empire with different ideologies and played role in the collapse which was a collapse of old Rome by the Visigoths in 410 but the Germanic leader Oadacer in 476 overthrew last Roman

¹³ Assyria's wars were pre-dominantly of a religious nature as the nature of Semitic/Near Eastern gods was that of expanding empires. Hence all ancient empires and civilizations began in the Near East and expanded until the west (Greece and Rome) became dominant powers themselves. From the article by John M.P.Smith. *The Day of Yahweh in The American Journal of Theology*, Vol. 5. Num.3, (Jul.,1901). pp. 505-506. University of Chicago Press.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3153503> Accessed: 04-03-2017 04:51 UTC

¹⁴ Dan.2:31-45, 7:1-8

emperor Romulus. Both divisions of the Roman Empire grew into the European Western nations as we know today. Russia is the utmost of the East and America the utmost of the West.¹⁵

Iron is Rome. Rome was an empire, consisted of nations.

All elements of Nebuchadnezzar's dream are metals: gold, silver, copper, iron representing kingdoms the last element is totally different...clay. This has to represent a kingdom since all other elements represent a kingdom. This last kingdom must be an extension of these kingdoms and must be a part of but totally separate from these kingdoms. Many pictures and charts of Nebuchadnezzar's image show that the iron, iron/clay mixture is Rome and the revived Roman empire. However, this is only half right! Rome is the iron...the western/european powers.

What or Whom is the Clay? All elements in Daniel 2 in Nebuchadnezzar's dream are referred to by Aramaic terms since Daniel has portions not written in Hebrew but in Aramaic as he was exiled to Babylon and Aramaic was the main language.

רְסֵי/Clay: earthenware shards, flakes of pottery clay... only found 7x in the Bible all in this passage. Related to and from root מְרִסָּה /scale, flaked, coarse, rough.¹⁶ That clay is used can refer to a clay jar of which 3 substances in ancient world go in a clay jar...water, wine, and oil. This substance is not a jar in this image though it's a part of the feet mixed with iron. Every element represents a kingdom but also a span of time in which that kingdom rules. Could this clay be referring to the nature of the ground from which it came because its described as being scaled, flaked? This type of ground or rock referred to is called bedded sedimentary rock shales.

Shale is a fine-grained, clastic sedimentary rock composed of mud that is a mix of flakes of clay minerals and tiny fragments (silt-sized particles) of other minerals, especially quartz and calcite.¹⁷ Oil shale is an organic-rich fine-grained sedimentary rock containing kerogen (a solid mixture of organic chemical compounds) from which liquid hydrocarbons called shale oil (not to be confused with tight oil—crude oil occurring naturally in shales) can be produced.¹⁸ This clay Daniel references is not just clay but rather an indication of what is found beneath shale deposits in the Middle East regions as oil shale is an indicator of oil beneath the deposit. Oil deposits in the Middle East are found under serpentinite and ophiolite rock layers. Serpentinite is a rock composed of one or more serpentine group minerals, the

¹⁵ Jonathan Cahn: The Ghost Kingdom - a Prophetic Endtime Mystery

¹⁶ In modern Arabic خزف *chazaf* is one of the words for *ceramic*

¹⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shale> Accessed September 27,2017

¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oil_shale Accessed September 28,2017

name originating from the similarity of the texture of the rock to that of the scaly or flaky skin of a snake.¹⁹

This clay indicates the Kingdom it represents. It's a kingdom, people who mix with the West but don't fully assimilate. They are of a totally different element than the kingdoms before them. It's a people whose land is rich with oil...Ishmael. Ishmael has the oil needed to fuel the power of the iron industry of the west.



http://images.rigzone.com/images/home/article/hf_139326_article.jpg



<http://www.alqamer.com/images/1.jpg>



<https://www.eneft.com/-/img/6983966/oilshale/whatisoilshale-image.jpg>

Quotes About Gog & Ishmael in Rabbinic Sources:

*"Thus has the L-RD G-D shewed me; and, behold, a swarm of locusts coming from the east; and, behold, one caterpillar, king Gog."*²⁰

*There are four exiles the Midrash Rabba speaks of: Babylonian, Media-Persia, Greek, and Rome.*²¹ The Zohar speaks of a fifth exile which involves Ishmael as an extension of the Roman exile.

*"The descendants of Ishmael will go up at that time [End of Days] with the nations of the world against Jerusalem..."*²²

*"Israel will say to the king of the Arabs, 'Take silver and gold and leave the Temple.' The king of the Arabs will say, 'You have nothing to do with this Temple. However, if you want, choose a sacrifice as you did in the past, and we will also offer a sacrifice, and with the one whose sacrifice is accepted, we will all become one people.' The Jewish people will offer theirs, but it will not be accepted because the Satan will lay charges against them before The Holy One, Blessed is He. The descendants of Kedar will offer theirs, and it will be accepted.... At that time, the Arabs will say to Israel, 'Come and believe in our faith,' but Israel will answer, 'We will kill or be killed, but we will not deny our belief!' At that time, swords will be drawn, bows will be strung and arrows will be sent, and many will fall..."*²³

¹⁹ <https://www.geoexpro.com/articles/2014/02/how-much-oil-in-the-middle-east>
<http://www.offshore-mag.com/articles/print/volume-55/issue-4/news/general-interest/middle-east-geology-why-the-middle-east-fields-may-produce-oil-forever.html>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serpentinite> Accessed September 30, 2017

²⁰ Amos.7:1, LXX. See also Rev.9:11.

²¹ Bereishit Rabba.2:4, Midrash Rabba.

²² Zohar.1:119A

²³ Sefer Eliyahu, Pirkei Mashiach. 236.

The children of Ishmael are destined to provoke great wars in the world. The children of Edom will gather together against them and challenge them. There will be one war on the sea, one on land, and one in the vicinity of Jerusalem. They [i.e. the children of Edom and the children of Ishmael] will alternate in dominating one another. But the Holy Land will not be given to the children of Edom.²⁴

In the future the children of Ishmael will do fifteen things in the land (of Israel) in the latter days, and they are : They will measure the land with ropes ; they will change a cemetery into a resting-place for sheep (and) a dunghill ; they will measure with them and from them upon the tops of the mountains ; falsehood will multiply and truth will be hidden ; the statutes will be removed far from Israel ; sins will be multiplied in Israel ; worm-crimson will be in the wool, and he will cover with insects paper and pen ; he will hew down the rock of the kingdom, and they will rebuild the desolated cities and sweep the ways ; and they will plant gardens and parks, and fence in the broken walls of the Temple ; and they will build a building in the Holy Place ; and two brothers will arise over them, 'princes at the end'²⁵

Before the war of Gog and Magog, Babylon (Iraq) will fall into the hands of a Christian nation and this nation will be the head of the coalition against Israel. First they will fight with Ishmael then they will make peace with Ishmael and go against Jerusalem. Malbim, Radak

Three wars of trouble ^ will the sons of Ishmael in the future wage on the earth in the latter days, as it is said, " For they fled away from the swords " (Isa. 21:15). " Swords " signify only wars, one in , the forest of Arabia, as it is said, " From the drawn sword " (ibid.); another on the sea, as it is said, " From the bent bow " (ibid.) ; and one in the great city which is in Rome,- which will be more grievous than the other two, as it is said. " And from the grievousness of the war " (ibid.). From there the Son of David shall flourish and see the destruction of these and these, and thence will He come to the land of Israel, as it is said, " Who is this that cometh from Edom, with crimsoned garments from Bozrah ? this that is glorious in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength ? I, that speak in righteousness, mighty to save ".²⁶

Some rabbis hold that since all the prophetic redemption dates have come and gone what is now needed for Messiah's unveiling is repentance and good deeds.²⁷ War corrects the way Jews think as a turning of minds on Israel's part is only done when war comes against the Jewish people as it did in Esther's day.²⁸

²⁴ Zohar Parashas Va'era 32a

²⁵ Pirkei de Rabbi Eliezer

²⁶ Ibid. 63:1

²⁷ Sanhedrin. 97b.

²⁸ Winston, Pinchas. *The Numerical Value of Gog U'Magog*. Posted: May 11,2011. Accessed: March 16, 2017. <http://torah.org/torah-portion/perceptions-5771-behar/>