

Parson to Person

Biblical Timeline and the Eschaton (Part 6)

During the Millennial Reign of Christ, Satan will be bound for the entire 1000 years. Afterward, he will be loosed “*for a little season*” (Revelation 20:1–3). When he is released, he will work to bring deception and a final great rebellion against the Lord. However, his “successes” will be short lived—for following this effort, he will receive his final and deserved end.

“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. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:7–10 NKJV).

As we can see from the text, Satan’s final push will involve another attempt to destroy Israel. However, this final war will quickly be ended when God sends down fire from Heaven to devour all of His enemies.

It is of great interest to Bible scholars that the “*Gog and Magog*” war is referenced here in this text—for by the time this final war takes place, the Gog-Magog invasion of Ezekiel 38–39 will have already occurred. In fact, it will have taken place over 1000 years before this final satanic effort. Therefore, one must ask at least 5 questions: 1) Why the reference? 2) What is the meaning?

3) Are we mistaken about the Gog-Magog timing? 4) Who will be the participants? And finally, 5) What does all this tell us?

1) Why the reference?

It seems best to suggest that the insertion of the words “*Gog and Magog*” may be a point of reference to suggest another Satanic attempt of similar nature.

2) What is the meaning?

The meaning then would remind the Bible student that Satan hates Israel and desires to destroy her, but also that God is both Israel’s defender and deliverer. Satan has always worked to destroy Israel, will work to destroy her, and will make this final attempt after the Kingdom Age. The “*Gog and Magog*” invasion involves the nations under the leadership of Satan. This mention reveals (with clarity) that Satan is indeed the motivating force behind the Gog-Magog invasion and has been the root source of hatred against Israel from her birth. He is set upon the destruction of Israel.

3) Are we mistaken about the Gog-Magog timing?

The timing of the Gog-Magog invasion is clearly not post-Millennial. In fact, the attributes of the Magog invasion and this final war are distinctly different. For example, in this final war “*fire [will come] down from God out of heaven and devour*” the enemies who have surrounded Israel. At the Gog-Magog invasion the enemies are going to fall on the mountains of Israel, and birds of prey will come and devour their flesh. Moreover, Israel will be burying the bodies for seven months in a valley they will name The Valley of Hamon Gog. Moreover, the fire of God shall fall upon the land of Magog—not on Israel.

However, and in contrast, following the Gog-Magog invasion (which will occur before the Second Coming of Jesus—no less than

1000 years earlier), God will make Himself known to Israel and will hide His face from them no more (see Ezekiel 39:7,22,29). During the Millennial Reign, all of Israel (and all the world) will know Jesus as Lord—face to face. More could be said...

4) Who will be the participants?

The participants in this war will be Satan himself and those he deceives of “*all the nations.*” These are descendants of the Tribulation survivors who had been allowed access into the Kingdom Age.

Procreation amidst a restrained curse will allow for billions of persons to populate the earth. The satanic deception and associated betrayal of Jesus is stunning and tragic.

5) What does all this tell us?

The anthropological revelation we see in this final revolt is the rebellious nature of man. It is inexcusable! The resistance man demonstrates is a rejection of the Lord—without any cry for information or faith. Throughout the Millennial Reign, all the earth will have come to understand who Jesus is and all He has done. The 1000-year time span wherein the curse shall be restrained, and when prosperity is beyond comprehension, proves to be no motivator when working to “convince” sinful man that Jesus is Lord—and worthy of our praise.

Man, in great numbers, will follow the lead of Satan and rebel against Jesus. No one will be able to say, “I didn’t know!” or “I just needed to see for myself—and then I will believe!” No, Jesus will be present and there will be no excuse!

The rebellious nature of man will be climactically revealed—without question. The Bible student would be wise to note this fact—especially when working in the field of evangelism.

Anyone can rightly suggest that men are without excuse (see Romans 1). However, during the Millennial Reign of Christ the truth will be inescapable. No one will deny the existence of Jesus—nor His authority. Simply stated, they will refuse Him—just as they do today—but with a fuller revelation of truth than those in any earlier dispensation.

I love you all,
Pastor Paul

