

Reading: **Ezekiel 38:16 - 23**

Introduction

- In [2 Kings 6] Jehovah revealed the secret war plans of the king of Syria against Israel to the prophet Elisha.
- Elisha forwarded them to the king of Israel thus scuppering the Syrians plans.
- Likewise, God has revealed the plans of Satan for Armageddon to Ezekiel, so we know how this end time battle will pan out.
- Ezekiel identifies the 'aggressor' nations by their ancient names.
- But there is another 'player' who wants to be at the table when they believe the Middle East will be carved up.

1 The Kings Of The East

- [Revelation 16:12] speaks of the 'kings of the east.'
- Who is represented here? Answer: the people's republic of China.
- Second largest population of any country in the world. (1.4 billion).
- China is atheistic and anti-god and considers religion to be 'the opiate of the people.'
- China teaches its school children about a great end time battle which they win against the west.
- What Putin and Russia are in the west, Xi Jinping and China are in the east.
- China has over 500 operational nuclear warheads.

2 Covering The Land Like A Cloud

Russia's first move: Consider [vs 9 & 16].

NB Ancient prophets had to use their language to describe the technology of our day.

- See [Isaiah 31:5]. Aeroplanes described as 'birds flying.'
- This 'cloud covering the land' is a massive ariel assault by parachute.

3 When God Calls For A Sword

- With little Israel overwhelmed, Jehovah makes His move. Consider [Ezekiel 38:18], [Zechariah 14:3].
- Jehovah's arsenal are the 'forces of nature' He Himself created.
- Earthquakes: [Ezekiel 38:19] and [Zechariah 14:4].
- · Consider also [Ezekiel 38:10].
- God has used the forces of nature in battle already.
- Consider [Genesis 19:24], Noah's flood and [1 Samuel 7:10] & [Exodus 14].

4 The Samson Scenario

- Mordecai Venunu revealed Israel's possession of the nuclear bomb to the west in 1986.
- Israel's mentality is, 'we can't have the land, no one will have it.'
- In such a situation they will 'pull the whole house down on everyone' like Samson did with the Philistines.
- Consider [Zechariah 14:12]. Could Zechariah be describing the effects of a nuclear explosion?
- Consider [Joel 2:30 32]. Is the OT prophet describing the effects of a nuclear explosion?
- In such an apocalyptic event is there any safety?
- Consider the Armageddon Psalm. [Psalm 91:5 12].
- "He will give His angels charge over you." The 'Rapture' of the saints.