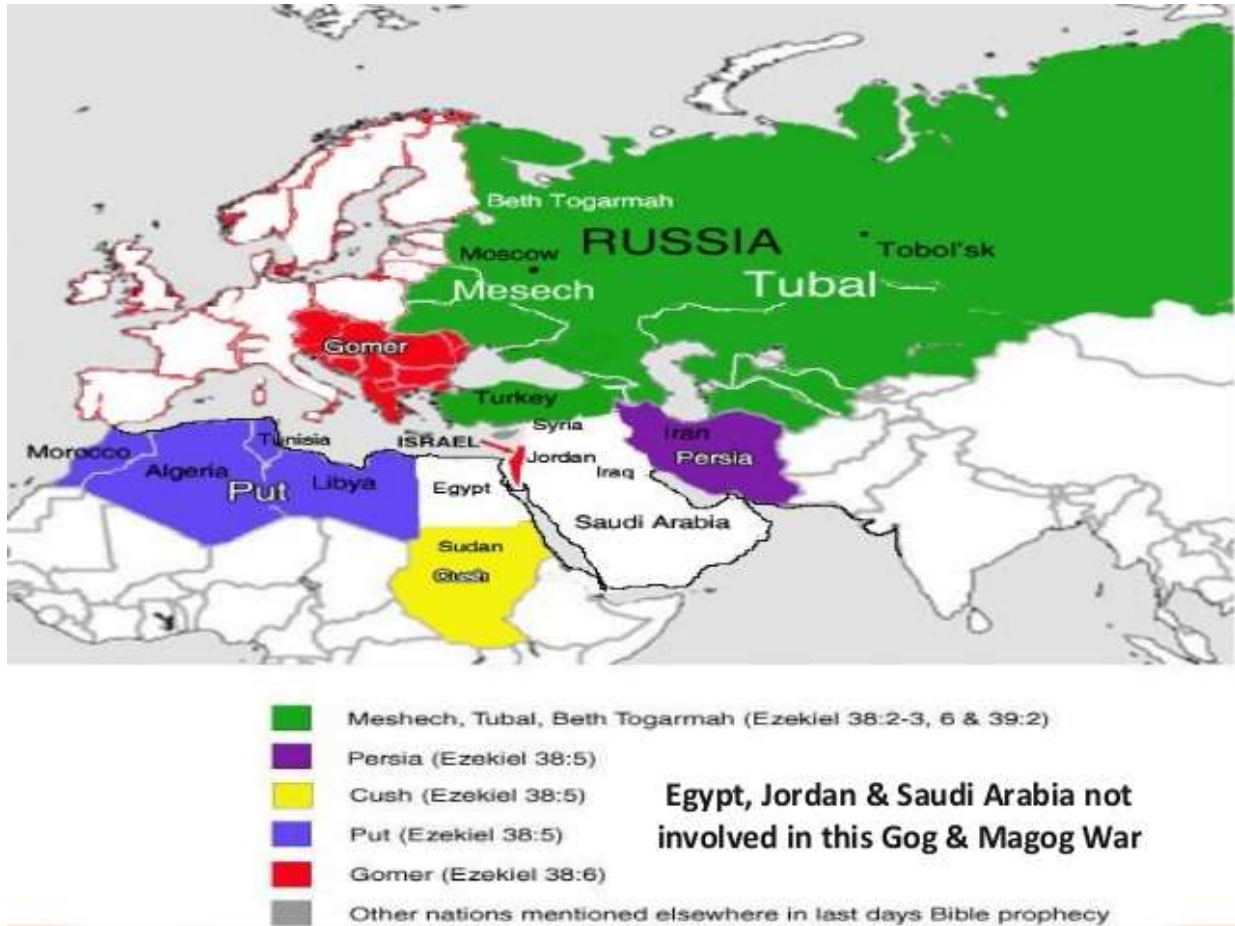


The Gog and Magog War

- The events following the Arab-Israeli war set the stage for the Gog and Magog war (Ezekiel 38-39).
 - The participants in this war include Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Persia, Cush, Put, Gomer, and Beth-Togarmah.
 - The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshek and Tubal; prophesy against him and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshek and Tubal. I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. Persia, Cush and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets, also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you. (Ezekiel 38:1-6)
 - The modern equivalents to these are Russia, the former Soviet states (Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia), Iran, Sudan, Ethiopia and Libya, eastern Europe, Armenia, western Asia, and Turkey.



- Yemen (Sheba) and Saudi Arabia (Dedan) do not participate in this war.
 - Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all her villages will say to you, “Have you come to plunder? Have you gathered your hordes to loot, to carry off silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods and to seize much plunder?” (Ezekiel 38:13)
 - Scholars believe that Tarshish is Great Britain and that her villages are her colonies – the United States, Canada, and Australia.
 - Based on the wording of this verse and the fact that that this coalition includes countries that support Israel, their absence in the Gog and Magog war indicate that these nations limit their support for Israel to political or economic sanctions rather than providing military support.

- Evidence that supports a separate Arab-Israeli war prior to the Gog and Magog war is the absence of Israel’s immediate neighbors as participants in this war.
 - The most logical conclusion is that Israel has defeated these adversaries in a prior war and has expanded her borders to encompass that land as noted in Ezekiel 47:13-48:35.
 - One of the chief reasons these countries come against Israel is to “seize spoil and carry off plunder, to turn your hand against ruins now inhabited and against a people gathered from the nations, who have been acquiring cattle and possessions and who live at the center of the world” (Ezekiel 38:12).
- There are differences between the Arab-Israeli war and the Gog and Magog war.
 - Arab-Israeli war.
 - It is man’s hatred toward God’s chosen people that drives the Arab-Israeli war
 - It is the Israeli IDF that defeats Israel’s enemies as divine judgment against those enemies.
 - Both Israel and her enemies will be punished and there will be widespread devastation.
 - “See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins. The cities of Aroer will be deserted and left to flocks, which will lie down, with no one to make them afraid. The fortified city will disappear from Ephraim, and royal power from Damascus; the remnant of Aram will be like the glory of the Israelites... In that day their strong cities, which they left because of the Israelites, will be like places abandoned to thickets and undergrowth. And all will be desolation.” (Isaiah 17:1-3,9)

- “Then the house of Jacob will be a blazing fire, and the house of Joseph, a burning flame, but the house of Esau will be stubble; Jacob will set them on fire and consume Edom. Therefore no survivor will remain of the house of Esau.” (Obadiah 1:15-18)
 - “I will make it a wasteland; they will fall by the sword from Teman to Dedan. I will take My vengeance on Edom through My people Israel, and they will deal with Edom according to My anger and wrath. So they will know My vengeance.” (Ezekiel 25:13-14)
 - “I will make the land of Egypt desolate among devastated lands, and her cities will lie desolate forty years among ruined cities. And I will disperse the Egyptians among the nations and scatter them through the countries. ‘Yet this is what the Sovereign Lord says: At the end of forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the nations where they were scattered. I will bring them back from captivity and return them to Upper Egypt, the land of their ancestry. There they will be a lowly kingdom.’” (Ezekiel 29:12-14)
 - “Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I swear with uplifted hand that the nations around you will also suffer scorn.” (Ezekiel 36:7)
 - “At the sound of their fall the earth will quake; the sound of her cry will be heard at the Red Sea.” (Jeremiah 49:21)
- Gog and Magog war.
 - It is God that persuades Gog into starting the Gog and Magog war.

- “I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords.” (Ezekiel 38:4)
- “I will turn you around and drag you along. I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains of Israel.” (Ezekiel 39:2)
- God defeats Israel’s enemies divinely.
 - “Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand. On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion birds and to the wild animals. You will fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign Lord.” (Ezekiel 39:3-5)
 - This is done without the IDF
 - “so that the nations may know Me, when I show Myself holy through you in their sight.” (Ezekiel 38:16)
 - Only Israel’s enemies are punished and the devastation is limited to just the attacking forces.
- Timing of the Gog and Magog war.
 - Many scholars place the Gog and Magog war in the first half of the tribulation period, but there are several reasons that this theory is incorrect.
 - It is through this war that God will make His holy name known.

- “I will make known my holy name among my people Israel. I will no longer let my holy name be profaned, and the nations will know that I the Lord am the Holy One in Israel.” (Ezekiel 39:7)
- This gives people the opportunity to believe in God before being deceived by the Antichrist.
- It will take Israel seven years to burn the weapons from the war.
 - “Then those who live in the towns of Israel will go out and use the weapons for fuel and burn them up—the small and large shields, the bows and arrows, the war clubs and spears. For seven years they will use them for fuel.” (Ezekiel 39:9)
 - If the Gog and Magog war were to occur during the tribulation period, there would not be seven years left for this cleanup to take place, especially if this war were to occur at a point significantly after the start of the Tribulation.
- The sheer magnitude of this war would be the perfect catalyst to bring forward the Antichrist, who would then establish the seven-year peace agreement that begins the tribulation period.
 - “He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” (Daniel 9:27)
- Scripture indicates that the Antichrist does not break this treaty until the start of the Great Tribulation three-and-a-half years later (Daniel 9:27).

- It is unlikely that the Antichrist could allow this war to occur during the Tribulation and keep the peace agreement in place, especially if it occurs at the beginning of the Tribulation and just after the signing of the peace treaty, which would be necessary to allow for the maximum amount of time for the cleanup.
- It is more likely that the Gog and Magog war precedes the tribulation period and that the war, famine, and death described in the seal judgments (Revelation 6:3-8) are representative of other conflicts throughout the world.
 - Gog and Magog war must start at least three-and-a-half years before the start of the tribulation period.
 - This timing is required to complete the seven-year period for Israel to burn the weapons from the war before they need to flee at the start of the Great Tribulation.
 - “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak.” (Matthew 24:15-18).
- Israel being able to plunder and pillage these enemies in retaliation for invading them is yet another example of God’s promise to curse those who curse them.
 - “They will not need to gather wood from the fields or cut it from the forests, because they will use the weapons for fuel. And they will plunder those who plundered them and loot those who looted them, declares the Sovereign Lord.” (Ezekiel 39:10)

- “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:3)
- Other examples from scripture
 - Egypt attempted to kill the Hebrews by trapping them at the Red Sea, but the sea parted, letting the Hebrews escape and then closing on the advancing Egyptian army (Exodus 14).
 - During the time of Queen Esther, Haman plotted to kill the Jews living in Persia and hang Esther’s adopted father Mordechai, but the Jews fought back, survived, and instead of Mordechai getting hung in the gallows, Haman did.
 - “Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs attending the king, said, ‘A pole reaching to a height of fifty cubits stands by Haman’s house. He had it set up for Mordecai, who spoke up to help the king.’ The king said, ‘Impale him on it!’ So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king’s fury subsided.” (Esther 7:9-10)
 - Joseph’s brothers attempted to harm him by selling him into slavery, but it turned out to be a blessing.
 - “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” (Genesis 50:20)
- God knows how to convert bad things into good.
 - “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)
 - God put the hooks in the jaw of the invaders to bring them against Israel.

- “I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords.” (Ezekiel 38:4)
- Instead, the Israelis will set fire and burn the weapons of the defeated invaders for seven years (Ezekiel 39:9-10).

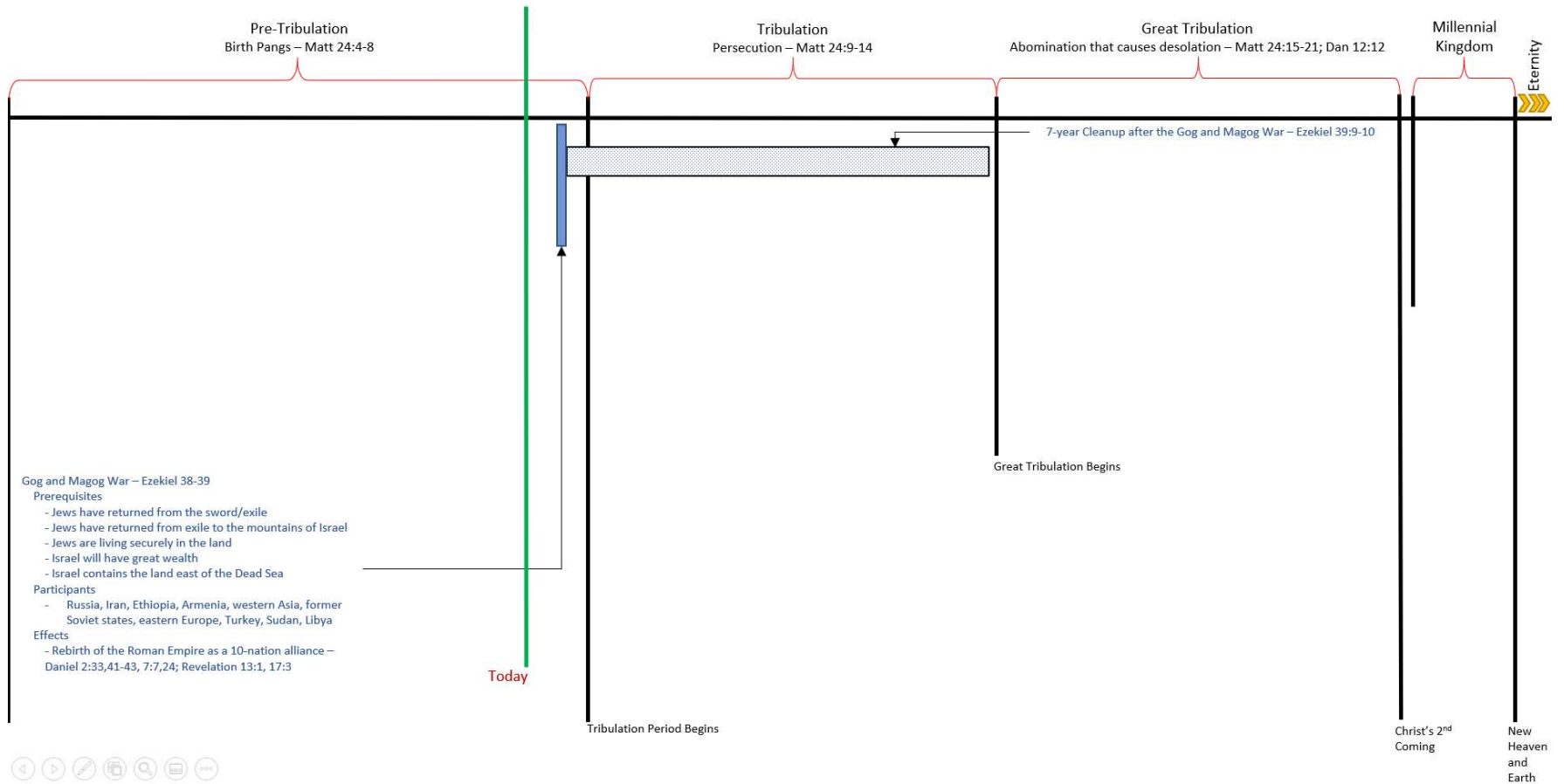


Figure 1: Timeline of the Gog and Magog War Events

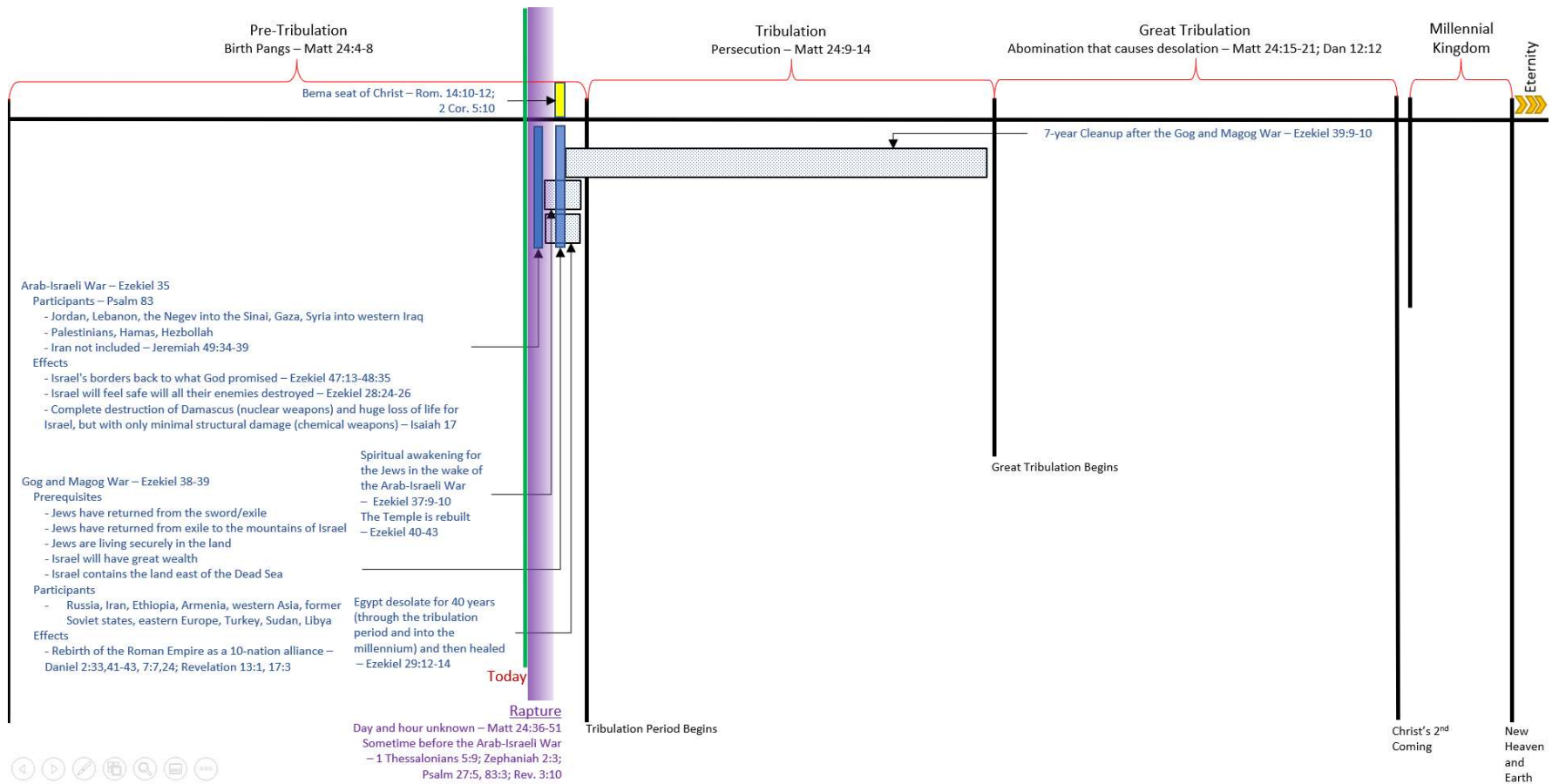


Figure 2: Timeline of End-Times Events