

# HOW CLOSE ARE WE TO THE RAPTURE?

FEBRUARY 2021

# Proposition

- We are at the end of the last days (Heb. 1:1-2)
- High time to seriously consider prophecies of Jesus' return
  - Not caught unaware
  - Not be ashamed at His coming (1 Jn 2:28)
  - Made worthy to escape the Lord's judgment upon this wicked world for it is fearful to fall into the hands of a living God (Lk 21:36; Heb 10:31)
- (Ezek 33:1-9) As a watchman on the wall, I must warn everyone of the Lord's coming sword of judgment.

# No Man Nor Angels Know That Day And Hour

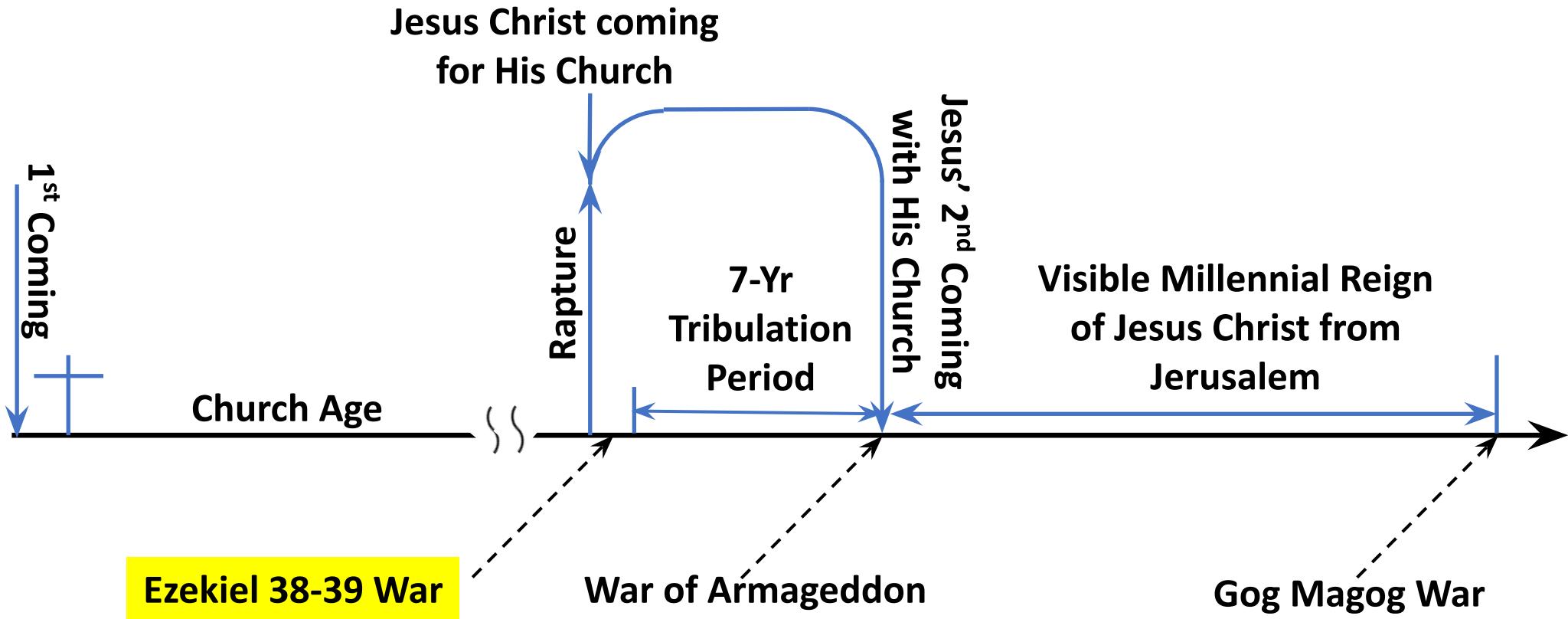
- Mat 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.
- Mat 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
- Mat 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,
- Mat 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
- Mat 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.
- Mat 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.
- But according to Jesus, we should not be like the Pharisees and Saducees. Instead, we should be able to discern the signs of the times. (Matthew 16:3)
- What we shall do following is to discern the signs of the times.

# Plotting the End Times

- How do the global events fit with the prophecy about Israel?
- How can we read the signs of the times and know where we are on the prophetic time line using Israel as our prophetic timeclock?
- The closest event from where we are presently in the prophetic timeline is the RAPTURE of the Church. (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; 1Cor 15:51-52) But no one knows when it will happen. We know that it is imminent, meaning, it is certain to happen any time from now.
- But we can get a clue as to how near it is by looking at the next events after the rapture as they are described in the Bible.

# The Rapture

- 2Thessalonians 2 tells of the revelation of the antichrist called the man of sin, the son of perdition, after the Rapture [falling away, the rendering of Wycliffe Bible (1384); Tyndale Bible (1526); Coverdale Bible (1535); Cranmer Bible (1539); Breeches Bible (1576); Beza Bible (1583); Geneva Bible (1608)]. What is withholding the revelation of the antichrist is the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit that is in the believers is taken away during the Rapture, the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit in this sinful world is also taken away and the Bible says “then shall the wicked be revealed”.
- The 7-year Tribulation (Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week) begins when the antichrist confirms the covenant in Israel with many nations (Daniel 9:27)



**Three Future Wars**

# The Three Big Wars In Israel

- Looking at our chart, the next event after the rapture would be Ezekiel 38-39 war. It is inconceivable that the Ezekiel war will happen during the Tribulation because the antichrist who is at the helm of the one world government will not allow it because of the covenant he confirmed with Israel and with many nations.
- The Ezekiel war is not the Armageddon war at the end of the Tribulation. The Armageddon war is composed of many countries and they are waging a war against the Lord. In the Ezekiel war the nations are only those mentioned in Ezekiel 38 which are Russia and her former Soviet satellites, Turkey, Iran, Sudan, Libya and they are fighting against Israel for the wealth of Israel.
- It is impossible that this is the Gog and Magog war because that would mean that they are burning the armaments of the invading armies for 7 years in heaven.
- So the Ezekiel war 38-39 will occur before the Tribulation. Will it be before or after the rapture?

Ezekiel 38-39 War

- **ANCIENT NAMES OF MODERN NATIONS**

**Rosh** (ancient Sarmatians known as Rashu, Rasapu, Ros and Rus) - **Russia**

**Magog** (ancient Scythians) – **Central Asia** (Islamic southern republics of the former Soviet Union with a population of 60 million Muslims)

**Meshech** (ancient Muschki and Musku in Cilicia and Cappadocia) – **Turkey**

**Tubal** (ancient Tubalu in Cappadocia) - **Turkey**

**Persia** (name changed to Iran in 1935)

– **Iran**

**Ethiopia** (ancient Cush, south of Egypt)

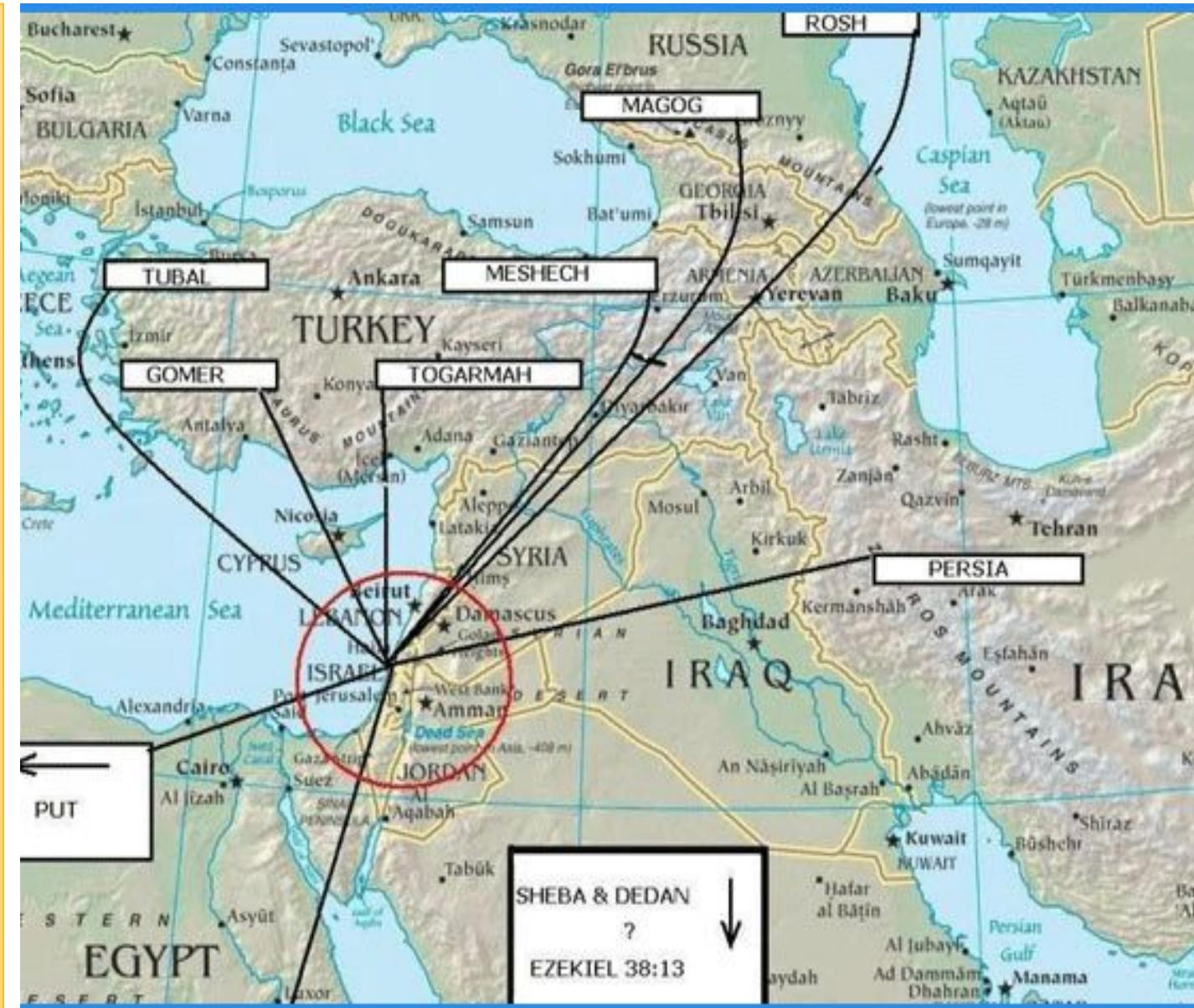
– **Sudan**

**Libya** (ancient Put, west of Egypt)

– **Libya**

**Gomer** (ancient Cimmerians from seventh century to first century B.C. in central/western Anatolia) - **Turkey**

**Beth-Togarmah** (Tilgarimmu between ancient Carchemish and Haran) - **Turkey**





## UNLIKELY ALLIANCE

The three leaders were prophesied by Ezekiel 2 ½ millennia ago as the coalition coming from the north. The three now are in Syria north of Israel. Russia is for the spoil, Iran is to destroy Israel and recover its losses when US pulled out from the Iran Nuclear Deal and applied economic sanctions on Iran and Turkey is forming an army of Islam to fight Israel to set up a Caliphate in the Region.

# Ezekiel's Prophecy (Chapters 38-39)

- Ezekiel chps 38 & 39 predict an invasion of Israel led by Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Meshech and Tubal (Russia and its surrounding nations) and its allied nations (Iran, Turkey, Sudan, Libya). During the writing of Ezekiel's prophecy, there was no Israel as a nation to talk about. Northern Kingdom of Israel is taken captive to Assyria and Southern Kingdom of Judah is exiled to Babylon.
- Regathering of Israel. Israel is to be “brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people” (38:8) After being away from their homeland for almost 2,000 years, the Jews were given a national homeland in Palestine by the Balfour Declaration in November, 1917
- On May 14, 1948, Great Britain withdrew her mandate. On the same day, May 14 1948, David Ben-Gurion, the chairman of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, immediately announced the formation of the sovereign State of Israel.

# Convergence of Further Events Towards Invasion of Israel

- The volatility of the issues concerning the West Bank and settlements. The West Bank has been occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war, but decades of difficult on-off talks between Israel and the Palestinians - both of whom assert rights there - have left its final status unresolved. The vast majority of the international community considers the settlements illegal under international law, though Israel. and the US under the Trump administration dispute this interpretation.
- Present US policy does not support annexation of the West Bank but there is also no peace plan yet.
- Meanwhile, Iran continue to enrich uranium and breach its enrichment limit as agreed in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in 2015. it continues to develop military bases in Iraq-Syria border, develop precision guiding system of rockets with Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza while entrenching themselves in Syria developing more accurate rockets aimed at Israel and flying drones into Israel.

## Israel and the West Bank

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged to annex the Jordan Valley if he wins elections on September 17

— *Approximate boundary of Jordan Valley annexation plan*

The annexation plan does not include any cities currently under Palestinian control



- *Jerusalem city boundary*
- *Route of West Bank barrier*
- *Green line (1949 armistice)*

Sources: [peacenow.com](http://peacenow.com), [B'Tselem](http://B'Tselem), [Openstreetmap](http://Openstreetmap)

- *Full or partial Palestinian control*
- *Israeli-controlled West Bank*
- *Israeli settlement*
- *Israeli outpost*

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# Interest of Russia and Allies In Israel

- In its 72 years of existence Israel has never been so prosperous: S&P Credit Rating IS AA-
- 2020 GDP per capita: Israel = \$33,042,199; Iran = 6,500 USD; Russia = 10,500 USD; Turkey = 13,600 USD
- Inventions/Innovations/technologies – defense system, interactive navigation (Waze, MobilEye), agriculture (drip irrigation), biofuel industries, environment-friendly systems (solar windows), robotics to help surgery in medical health technologies , water/air purification technologies, etc.
- Foreign Direct Investment flows to Israel reached an all-time high of USD 18.2 billion (2019) (From UNCTAD World Investment Report)
- Militarily, Israel has the most technologically advanced military today. Israel is a high-tech superpower and one of the world's top weapons exporters with approximately \$6.5 billion in annual arms sales. Israel is the world's largest exporter of drones, responsible for about 60 percent of the global market, trailed by the US at 25% market share.

# Another of Interest to Russia and Allies

- New discoveries of leviathan reservoirs of NG with a total so far of 40 trillion cu ft. Israel will export NG to Jordan and Egypt. It is finalizing plans for the construction of pipeline under the Mediterannean to Cyprus to Greece then to Italy branching to other European countries.
- Israel has become a strong option as source of NG beside Russia. European nations (NATO members) are not comfortable with Russia being able to control energy supplies to them since cooperation has been suspended in response to Russia's military intervention in Ukraine.
- Such options threatens Russia's income which is very dependent on NG sales. Russia's income will be severely diminished if they cannot control Israel's NG.

# No Nation Comes In Defense of Israel...

- No country will come to the assistance and support of the tiny nation Israel from the invaders while the US is at present a staunch supporter of Israel and the only ally of Israel. Anti-Semitism is on the rise in Europe, US, UN and many more countries.
- Countries can utmost protest only against Russia's plundering of Israel. these are Sheba and Dedan (Saudi Arabia), merchants of Tarshish (England), young lions of Tarshish, (Canada, Australia, US). (Ezek 38:13)

# The Lord Will Fight for Israel

- Ezek 38:18-22 "It will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," declares the Lord GOD, "that My fury will mount up in My anger. (19) "In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. (20) "The fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse and every wall will fall to the ground. (21) "I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains," declares the Lord GOD. "Every man's sword will be against his brother. (22) "With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone."
- v. 23 "**I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the LORD.**"

# 10 Signs Prophesying the Nearing of the Imminent Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

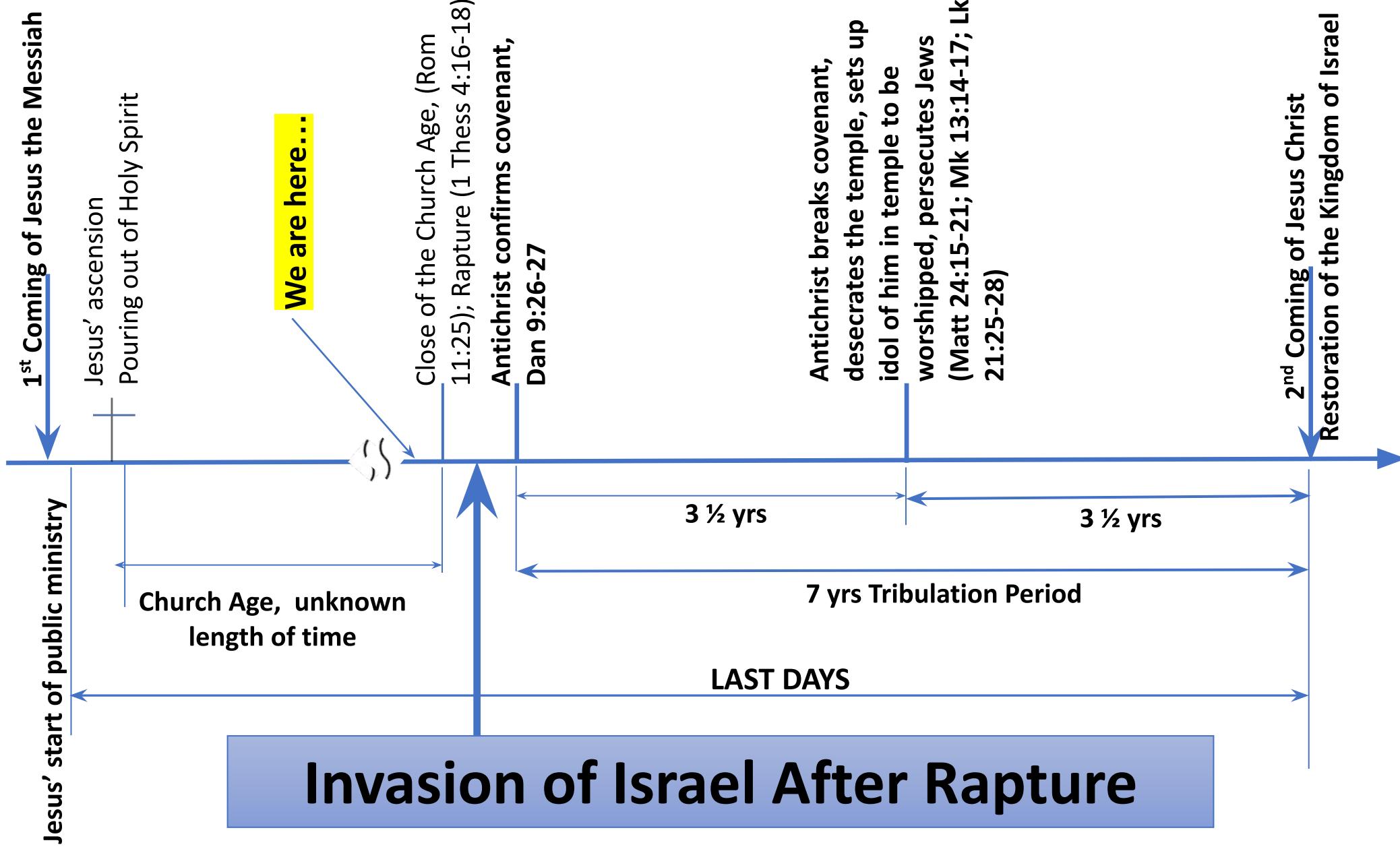
- Earnest desire to build now the 3rd temple. (Matt 24:15; 2Thess 2:4) Plans and implements readied. Priests to serve in the temple are under training. In this war, the Russia-Muslim Coalition will be decimated (1/6 remains). At this devastation of the Muslim countries, Israel can then build the 3rd Temple at the Temple Mount because Islamic opposition would no longer be there.
- Rise of Anti-Semitism (Shem). 2006-2016 UN Human Rights Resolution: 68 vs Israel, 67 to the rest of the world; UN General Assy (2012-2015) 83 resolutions issued against Israel out of total of 97.
- Wars and Rumors of Wars (Matt 24:6-7). Tensions between Israel and Iran have significantly increased, so with proxy Hezbollah in the North and proxy Hamas in the South. Bombings by Israel of Iran's military bases in Syria and Iraq.

# 10 Signs Prophesying the Nearing of the Imminent Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

- Rebirth of the state of Israel in one day.
- The Impending Battle of Gog and Magog
- Scoffers (2Pet 3:1-10) mocking beliefs in a rapture and premillennialism os prevalent not only from outsiders of the church but even from inside the church.
- Technology. Micro-chips, AI and gigantic data bases to control buying and selling on a worldwide scale.
- Earthquakes (Matt 24:7) Big earthquakes will happen because of the slowing down of earths spin (1,600 km/hr). Geological Society of America over past 100 years earthquakes increase by 25-30%. Rev 6:12 when he opened the 6<sup>th</sup> seal there was a great earthquake; v.14, every mountain and island was removed from its place. People pray to the rocks and mountains, “Fall on us , hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.”

# 10 Signs Prophesying the Nearing of the Imminent Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

- Quest for one-world government and one world religion. Pope openly presented a wone world religion or world order.world Government Summit held in Arabian Peninsula in February 2019. UN, WB, IMF, EU, China and Central Banks support the UN Agenda 2030 calling for a formation of world government by 2030.
- Exponential increase in wickedness. (2 Tim 3:1-5) lovers of their own selves, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, resulting to freedom from familial entanglement leading to ABORTION.
- Jer 32:35 And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.



# Why I think the Rapture will precede the Ezekiel 38-39 War...

Eze 39:22 The house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God, from that day forward.

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in (rapture of the Church).

If the Ezekiel war is that close, therefore , the Rapture Event is much closer. Are you ready to meet the Lord Jesus in the air?

# Additional Events Contributing to Fulfillment of Ezekiel War as Prophesied

- As we have always said, fulfillment of prophecy about Israel is our best indicator as to where we are in the prophetic timeline.
- Prophecy: no nation will come to the aid of Israel during invasion. The US which is its only staunch during the Trump administration is less than enthusiastic with the new US presidency. In the Ezekiel war, it is prophesied that no nation would come to the aid of Israel when invaded by the Russian-Muslim coalition. This scenario is indicated by two policies that are not to the interest of Israel:
  - The US is reviving the two-state solution which was set aside by the previous administration. This is not in the interest of Israel as the Palestinians (who actually are Arabs) will not cease to dream of eradicating Israel from the map of the world.
  - The new US Administration is reviving the JCPOA which was shelved by the previous administration which would give Iran greater leverage to acquire nuclear weapons and continue as a formidable threat to Israel's existence.

# Arabs Protest Invasion of Israel

- Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Estates (Sheba and Dedan) are now allied with Israel. The prophecy is that Sheba and Dedan will file a protest against the invaders of Israel. This is something unthinkable 2-3 years ago but will now be fulfilled under the alliance of the Arab nations and Israel. With the growing strength and the relentless drive of Iran to acquire nuclear weapons, the Arab countries (Sunni Muslims) are threatened by their rival Iran which of the Shiite Muslim, thus, the alliance of the Arabs with Israel under the principle that the enemy of my enemy is my friend.

# Before the Lord's Wrath - Pretribulation Rapture

- **To the Church of Philadelphia.** Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.
- 1Th 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.
- 1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words. (cf. Jn 14:1-3)
- 1Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

# But the Lord Jesus Christ has demands to be met:

- Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matt. 4:17). I tell you, except you repent, ye shall all likewise perish (Lk. 13:3, 5). Joh 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (Joh 3:3). For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:20).
- All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out (Joh 6:37). And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day (Joh 6:40). Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. You must be born again (Mat 11:28).

# But the Lord Jesus Christ has demands to be met:

- Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven (Mat 10:32).
- If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matt. 16:24-26). I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing (Joh 15:5).
- Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come...Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. (Mat 24:42, 44).