#### **NINE**

### Armageddon, Magog, and The War of Ezekiel

Excerpts from "Armageddon, The Seven Seals, The Day of the Lord, and A Rock Cut Without Hands," Chapter 9 of *THE COMETS OF GOD* by Jeffrey Goodman, Ph.D. www.thecometsofgod.com

## Armageddon, The Seven Seals, The Day of the Lord, and A Rock Cut Without Hands

War! War! According to currently popular interpretations of the *Book of Revelation*, battles and nuclear wars are to characterize the end times. But, we have seen that all of the great fiery catastrophes described in the Seven Trumpets and Vials are to be brought about by cometary impacts rather than thermonuclear explosions. We learned that nuclear explosions, even if every one of the world's nuclear arsenals were combined and exploded simultaneously, are not powerful enough to cause the global sized catastrophes that are to characterize the end times. Most importantly, there is no Biblical precedent for man's weapons serving as God's instruments of

destruction.\* On the other hand, we have seen how the Biblical God repeatedly refers to comets as the weapons of His wrath (Chapter

3). In addition, we have seen how scientific study of the great catastrophes of the Old Testament show that they were caused by comets (Chapters 4 and 5). Only cosmic impacts can deliver 100 pound hailstones. Only cosmic impacts are powerful enough to rock the Earth on its axis, and cause earthquake shaking violent enough to flatten all of the cities of the world. Only cosmic impacts that penetrate the Earth's crust can heat the interior of the Earth enough to make all the mountains and islands of the world disappear, and finally engulf or baptize the entire planet in fire as called for by the last Trumpet and Vial. (*See Illustration I*)

From this baseline of understanding that the Seven Trumpets and Vials are about a series of comet impacts, it is relatively easy to expand our understanding of other parts of the *Book of Revelation* and other end times events described in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. To get the correct overview of the end times, it is essential to know the Bible says that it is God and not man, who will orchestrate the events of the end times, just as God orchestrated the events during the Exodus. God will use the comets that He says He has "prepared for an hour, and a day and a moth, and a year" as part of His original plan of creation (*Revelation 9:15* and *Isaiah 40:26*). God will deliver His wrath and judgment upon mankind through the power of nature, the natural forces of comets. (*Isaiah 40:25-26*,

<sup>\*</sup> Prophetic fulfillment as solely God's responsibility says, "God does not need man's modern inventions to work his will" (Paul Boyer, *When Time Shall Be No More: Prophecy Belief in Modern American Culture*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1992, pp. 131 and 143). Also there is no Biblical precedent for man's weapons being used by God for destruction.

Isaiah 13:3-7, Psalm 103:20-21, Psalm 104:4 and Psalm 148:8. See Chapter 3 for corrected translations of these verses.) He will not be breaking the "ordinances" or "laws" of Heaven and Earth which He says He ordained and cannot be broken (Job 38:33, Jeremiah 31:35 and 33:25). These are the same immutable scientific laws that our scientists now use and place their trust in. As the size of the impacts increase, it seems that God will be giving people a chance to recognize what is happening and why. This will be an opportunity for people to recognize that "this is the finger of God," just as Pharaoh's magicians, told him after the Third plague of the Exodus (Exodus 8:19).

#### **Chapter Outline**

#### I Armageddon

- A. What does Armageddon mean?
- B. Armageddon at the beginning or at the end of the tribulation period?
- C. Who is NOT Magog?
- D. Who was Magog?
- E. Who will be the end times Magog and why?
- F. Rome's relationship to Magog
- G. Where does Armageddon take place?
- H. The Winepress running with blood
- II The Seven Seals Connection to the Seven Trumpets and Seven Vials
- III The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord
- IV The Stone Cut Without Hands
- V The Timing of the Events

#### Armageddon

So where does the so-called "mother of all battles," the battle of Armageddon, fit into the end times scenario? The last verses of the Sixth Vial tell of the kings of the whole world being gathered to battle on the "great day of God Almighty" into a place called "Armageddon." The Sixth Trumpet and Vial (Revelation 9:13-21 and Revelation 16:12-16) tell of four comets "bound for the great River Euphrates" (Revelation 9:14), that on impact will cause the "waters thereof" to dry up, so that the kings of the east can cross the dry river bed easily as they head toward Israel (Revelation 16:12). The Euphrates River lies to the northeast of Israel in Syria and Iraq. This sets the stage for armies from the east to join armies coming from the north in order to invade Israel. The Sixth Vial (Revelation 16:14-16) tells how the kings of the Earth and their armies will be gathered for battle at this place on the great day of God, a place called in the Hebrew language, Armageddon.

#### What does Armageddon mean?

Where is this place called Armageddon? It has generally been thought that the Hebrew word "Armageddon" (*Har-mageddon*) means "mountain Megiddo" and that "Armageddon" designates a mountain at the ancient Israeli town of Megiddo. However, there is NO mountain at Megiddo! The ancient site of Megiddo is only associated with a ten acre, sixty foot high hill archeologists call a "tell" which is made up of many layers of ancient ruins. Few scholars have acknowledged that there is another translation for the word

"Armageddon" (*Har-mageddon*). In Hebrew names often give literal information about the place being named.\* So, instead of taking the word "mageddon" to be the name of a town, the literal meaning of the word can be used. In Hebrew *mageddon* means "a place of troops" or "an assembly of troops" or "a rendezvous of troops" (#4023 in *Strong's Concordance*).† Therefore, instead of the commonly recognized translation of Armageddon (*Har-mageddon*) as "mountain Megiddo," in the context of *Revelation's* events, it should be translated as "a mountain assembly of troops" or "a mountain rendezvous of troops."

A "mountain rendezvous of troops" is consistent with the Sixth Vial that describes the armies of the world being gathered together in a specific place on the day of the Lord. The Hebrew word har of Har-mageddon tells us that this place of gathering is indeed in the mountains. So, on Armageddon the armies of the world will gather together and assemble in the mountains of Israel. But which mountains? Exactly where is this battle to be fought? To answer this question one needs to search the Scriptures and study those passages that call for an end times battle in the mountains of Israel. According to the details in *Revelation*, this end times battle: a) should take place in the mountains; b) occur on the great day of God Almighty (*Revelation 16:14*); c) involve the nations of the world being gathered together (Revelation 16:14-16); d) involve God's wrath destroying these armies (Seventh Trumpet – Revelation 11:18, Seventh Vial - Revelation 16:19); and, e) involve a big cometary impact resulting in great hail, a great earthquake, mountains not

<sup>\*</sup> For example, Bethel – house of God; and Bethlehem – house of bread.

<sup>†</sup> It is interesting to note that *Zechariah 12:11* refers to Valley of Megiddon.

being found (disappearing), islands fleeing, and fire engulfing the Earth (*Revelation 11:18-19* and *16:18-21*).

The end times battle that meets all of these criteria is the battle described in Ezekiel 38-39 of the Old Testament. Five different times Ezekiel 38-39 makes reference to a great battle in the mountains: 1) Ezekiel 38:8 says, "... in the latter years thou shalt come ... gathered out of many people against the mountains of Israel . . . , 2) Ezekiel 38:21 says, "And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains . . .," 3) Ezekiel 39:2 says, "I will . . . bring thee upon the mountains of Israel," 4) Ezekiel 39:4 says, "Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel . . . ," and 5) Ezekiel 39:17 Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel."\* Note the repeated theme of an enemy gathering or assembling in the mountains, just as har mageddon means a "mountain assembling of troops." Clearly, these verses from Ezekiel contain the same theme of troops gathering and assembling themselves for battle as Revelation 16:14-16. (See Illustration H)

# Armageddon at the beginning or at the end of the tribulation period?

The same prophecy scholars who believe that *har mageddon* means "Mountain Megiddo" (as opposed to a "mountain rendezvous of troops") also think that the battle of *Ezekiel 38-39* occurs at the beginning of the tribulation period. They do not connect the battle of *Ezekiel 38-39* with the battle of *Har-mageddon* that is to occur at

<sup>\*</sup> In the *Septuagint Ezekiel 39:2 says*, "I will *assemble thee* and guide thee . . . and I will bring thee upon the *mountains* of Israel."

the end of the tribulation period. They believe that the *Ezekiel 38-39* battle involves a Russian led invasion of Israel at the beginning of the tribulation, rather than an invasion of Israel by the nations of the world at the *end* of the tribulation period.

One of the main problems with having the battle of Ezekiel 38-39 occur at the beginning of the tribulation period lies in who the Scriptures say will be destroyed. In this battle God's "hot anger" is aroused and He pours out His "fiery wrath" (Ezekiel 38:17-19 NIV) on the invading multi-national force and "annihilates" them.\* Note that the Seventh Trumpet in Revelation 11:18 says, "And the nations were angry and thy wrath is come and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and . . . shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth" (also see Revelation 6:17, 16:19, and 19:15). Also, Zephaniah 3:8 tells of God's "fierce anger" and how He will pour out His "wrath" (NIV) on the nations gathered and assembled for battle on "the day." Now, if God destroys or annihilates all the armies of the invading multi-national force at the beginning of the tribulation period, then what armies will the nations of the world have to gather, assemble and invade Israel at Armageddon on "the great day of God Almighty," at the end of the tribulation period? If God were to annihilate the invading armies at the beginning of the tribulation period, then what armies would dare try another invasion? It should In the *KJV Ezekiel 39:2* says that God will "leave but the sixth part" of the invaders. Interestingly Strong's Concordance says that the Hebrew word shaw-shaw translated as "sixth part" (word #8338) actually means "annihilate." Strong's says the error arose because of confusion with word #8341 which means "sixth."

† Zephaniah 3:8 says, "Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy" (zeal).

be clear that *Ezekiel 38-39* describe the battle of Armageddon, which is to take place at the end of the tribulation period!

Ezekiel 38-39 also tells of the presence and appearance of God to save the Jews and "be *known* in the eyes of many nations" (Ezekiel 38:20, 23 and 39:7, 21, and 29) on this day. Matthew 24:29-30 states that Jesus is to return at the *end* of the tribulation period. If Ezekiel 38-39 occurs at the beginning and not at the end of the tribulation period, does this mean there will be two "second comings?"

In *Matthew 24:28* Jesus tells of a great sacrifice where there will be "carcasses" and "vultures" (NAS, NIV) gathered, and *Ezekiel 39:17-20* tells of a sacrifice in the mountains where birds of prey will gather to eat the flesh of mighty men and horses. *Revelation 19:11-16* tells of Jesus' Second Coming upon a white horse; *Revelation 19:17-19* then tells of the armies of the kings of the earth gathered to make war against him and gives an invitation to all of the fowls to gather "together unto the supper of the great God. . . That ye may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and flesh of horses . . . ." Are there to be two such sacrifices, one from the battle of *Ezekiel 38-39* at the beginning of the tribulation period, and one from Armageddon at the end of the tribulation period? Or, are these nearly identical scriptures describing the same event?

Once the nations of *Ezekiel 38-39* are correctly identified, we have another reason why the battle of *Ezekiel 38-39* will occur at the end of the tribulation period. As the Bible calls for two or three witnesses to establish a matter, *Ezekiel 38-39* constitutes the Old Testament prophecy of this great end times battle, while *Revelation's* battle of Armageddon constitutes the New Testament prophecy of this great end times battle.

#### Who is NOT Magog?

So who are the nations referred to in *Ezekiel 38-39* and who do they represent? Do they really represent a Russian led multinational invasion of Israel during the end times as most Bible prophecy scholars believe? In Ezekiel 38-39 the prophet is told to set his "face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal and prophesy against him. And say, 'Thus saith the Lord God; Behold I am against thee O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal" (Ezekiel 38:2, 3 and 39:1). In Ezekiel 38:5, 6, Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer, and Togarmah are also said to be with Gog. For decades, and still today, most Bible prophecy scholars have erroneously assumed that the ancient nation of Magog in western Asia Minor (modern Turkey) is related to the ancient Scythians, a group of Iranian speaking nomadic tribes from central Asia north of Iran, that ranged across the steppes to the Ukraine and Russia. Again in error, they assume that the ancient Scythians were the progenitors of the modern Russians. Then for a third strike, it has been assumed that Meshech and Tubal (two nations of Asia Minor) associated with Magog in Ezekiel 38-39 are related to the Russian cities of Moscow and Tobolsk. (See Illustration E)

The erroneous idea that Russia is the "evil empire" from the north destined to attack Israel during the end times can be traced back to a small group of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century theologians, who based their assertions about Russia's origins on historical references that were purposefully altered. For a detailed presentation of the nations of *Ezekiel 38-39*, see **APPENDIX B - Russia is Not Magog**. Although evidence that contradicts this conclusion has become common knowledge within the academic and other arenas, this

misconception is still prevalent in end times Bible prophecy books.

Actually, among academia today, no professional archeologist or historian associates Magog with the Scythians nor the Scythians with the origins of the Russians. The May 2000 issue of *National Geographic*, reflecting modern scholarship, explains clearly and simply that a group of Scandinavian Viking traders called the *Rus* began the Russian state during the mid AD 800's. It says, "The Slavs and Finns there (near today's St. Petersburg) called them *Rus*, after the Finnic term for Swedes, *Ruotsi* . . . These *Rus eventually founded the first Russian state*, centered on Kiev, in today's Ukraine - and *gave their name to Russia*, a cultural inconvenience the Soviet historians were compelled to dispute for decades."

The name "Rus" or "Rhus" appears in the writings of Bishop Troyes in 839 AD. According to the 12<sup>th</sup> century document known as the Primary Chronicle, the land around Kiev was named "Rus" and the inhabitants called "Russes" in 852 AD. <sup>2</sup> National Geographic goes on to tell how Novgorod (east of St. Petersburg), an early Russian capital was founded by the *Rus*, and how in the city of Kiev, the *Rus* Prince Vladimir converted to Christianity in 988.<sup>3</sup> It is also interesting to note that the renouned Arab chronicler Ibn Fadlan wrote how in 921 AD during the course of his journey to meet with the King of the Upper Volga Bulgar he "met a people called the Rus, a group of Swedish origin acting as traders in the Bulgar capital."4 (The Upper Volga Bulgar lived on the banks of the Volga River in western Russia. The Volga is Russia's largest and most important river.) In his account (a Risala) which has great historical value Ibn wrote, "I have seen the *Rus* as they came on their merchant journeys and encamped by the Volga. I have never seen more perfect physical specimens, tall as date palms, blonde and ruddy . . . they are big men

with white bodies." <sup>5</sup> (See Illustration G)

Today no contemporary history book or textbook accepts the unfounded popular prophecy book claims about Russian origins, instead they clearly show that Russian origins are Scandinavian. Even the author's daughter's high school history textbook detailed how Russian origins are Scandinavian.\* Simply put, the Scythians, who were never historically identified as the people representing Magog, had ceased to be a cultural group at least 500 years before the Russians became a recognized culture. Russians trace their origins back to Scandinavia. There is neither a genetic nor a cultural connection between the Scythians and the Russians.

Misconceptions about Russia being the end times invading empire of *Ezekiel 38-39* create an unfortunate international misunderstanding and can provoke unwarranted political action. For example, this error led President Ronald Reagan and others to refer to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire" and "the focus of evil in the modern world." <sup>6</sup> Before he became president, prophecy student Ronald Reagan spoke at a dinner with California legislators in 1971 and concisely summed up his view of Russia's end times role:

Ezekiel tells us that Gog, the nation that will lead all of the other powers of darkness against Israel, will

<sup>\*</sup> For example, this high school text says, "The arrival of the Vikings is recorded in the *Primary Chronicle*... According to the *Chronicle*, in about A.D. 860 the Slavic people from the northern forest village of Novgorod asked Vikings from Scandinavia for aid: 'Our land is great and rich, but there is no order in it. Come to rule and reign over us.' The Viking leader Rurik accepted the invitation. The Slavs called the Vikings and the area they controlled *Rus*. Trading with the strong, plundering the weak, they (*Rus*) moved south from Novgorod to Kiev, where they founded a political state." *World History: The Human Experience*, McGraw-Hill Company, Gerville, Ohio, 1997, pp. 260-262.

come out of the north. Biblical scholars have been saying for generations that Gog must be Russia. What other powerful nation is to the north of Israel? None. But it didn't seem to make sense before the Russian revolution, when Russia was a Christian country. Now it does, now that Russia has become communistic and atheistic, now that Russia has set itself against God. Now it fits the description of Gog perfectly. <sup>7</sup>

Ironically, in a book issued by a major Christian publisher, *Foes From the Northern Frontier*, Dr. Edwin Yamauchi, a history professor at Miami University, explains that modern Russia's origins are Scandinavian (the *Rus*).<sup>8</sup> Like other historians, Yamauchi explains how none of the ancient nations referred to in *Ezekiel 38-39* can possibly be related to modern Russia. Further, Yamauchi says:

Even if one were to transliterate the Hebrew *rosh* as a proper name (as does the NAS) rather than translate it as 'chief' (as does the KJV, NIV, and Hebrew *Tanakh*), it can have nothing to do with modern 'Russia.' This would be a *gross anachronism* for the modern name is based upon the name *Rus*, which was brought into the region of Kiev, north of the Black Sea, by the *Vikings* only in the Middle Ages. <sup>9</sup>

Yet, just as few within the Christian community seem to be aware of what is now common knowledge that Russia is not Magog, even fewer are aware of the loss of credibility their misidentifying the nations of *Ezekiel 38-39* has produced in the secular academic world. Historian Paul Boyer at the University of Wisconsin writes, "So hackneyed had this scenario (Magog and Sycthia as Russian) become by the 1980's that its proponents hardly bothered with the geographic and linguistic evidence marshaled by earlier writers." <sup>10</sup> Similarly, Daniel I. Block, a professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois in *The Book of Ezekiel* writes,

The popular identification of Russia is *impossibly anachronistic* and based on faulty etymology, the assonantal similarities (similar sounds) between Russia and Rosh being purely accidental... *The name Russia of northern Viking derivation* was first used for the region of the Ukraine in the Middle Ages. <sup>11</sup>

#### Who was Magog?

The nations of the world that ultimately invade Israel are the nations of the end times empire led by the antichrist (*Daniel 11:36-45*, *II Thessalonians 2:3-9*, *I John 2:18*, *Revelation 17:8-14*, *Revelation 19:19*, and *Revelation 20:10*). In establishing his empire, the antichrist will use religion as the common glue that binds together different nations of the world; much like the ancient Akkadian ruler Sargon used the Sumerian religion and the worship of the "Queen of Heaven" (Inanna/Ishtar) to bind together the nations of his Akkadian Empire (see Chapter 8) together, or as the emperors of the Holy Roman Empire (900 AD – 1800 AD) used Roman Catholicism to bind the nations of western Europe together. The antichrist is

to establish a new worldwide religion where he is to be worshiped as a living god and is to reign from God's throne in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem (*II Thessalonians 2:4*). We know a number of Old and New Testament prophecies foretell the destruction of this multinational empire by comets; just as the Akkadian Empire that constructed the temple tower at Babylon was destroyed by a comet impact (see Chapter 8). The two mile wide Amarah Impact Crater in southern Iraq constitutes the "smoking gun" for the destruction of this empire.

Today, archeologists and historians know the exact identities of the nations of *Ezekiel 38-39* based on the dealings these ancient nations had with the Assyrian Royal Court. <sup>12</sup> Remarkably, records of the ancient Assyrian Royal Court describe these ancient nations in the same way that the Bible does in *Ezekiel 38-39* and in *Ezekiel 27:10-15* and *32:26*. For example, *Ezekiel 27:13 (NAS)* tells how Meshech and Tubal traded "vessels of bronze," and the Assyrian records state how the Assyrians took "bronze vessels" as booty in Meshech (Asshurnasirpal II, 885-860 BC) and "bowls with gold handles" as booty in Tubal (Sargon II, 722-705 BC). <sup>13</sup> Meshech's capital was near the ancient city of Gordion (south of modern Ankara in Turkey) and archeological evidence gathered from burials there confirms the ancient accounts; and incidentally attest to the excellence of Meshech's metallurgy. <sup>14</sup>

These Assyrian records give the locations of Magog, Meshech, Tubal Togarmah, and Gomer. *Ezekiel 38:2-5* correctly indicates that they were ancient nations of ancient Asia Minor (Anatolia in modern-day Turkey). These nations spread in a geographic arc from west to east to the north of Israel. On the other hand, Gomer (*Ezekiel 38:5* - Cimmerians) was an enemy of the Assyrians that

invaded ancient Asia Minor by coming down from the north around the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. The Assyrians called the barbarous invading Cimmerians (Gomer) "creatures of hell." <sup>15</sup> (See Illustration E)

These nations all coexisted in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) at a time when Magog (also known as Ludu or Lydia in both the Bible and the Assyrian texts) was led by a militant leader called *Gog* (685-652 BC), about 100 years before the *Book of Ezekiel* was written. *Gog* is the Hebrew spelling for the name of this militant leader from western Asia Minor, who was known as Gyges of Lydia to the Greeks. <sup>16</sup> This same leader was known as "Gugu, king of Ludu" and "Gugu, King of Lydia" to the Assyrians. <sup>17</sup> The Assyrians made great use of *eponyms* (words or names derived from the name of a person) and even published eponym lists. In the Assyrian language "the land of Gugu" is rendered as *Ma-gugu*, just as "the land of Zamua" is rendered as *Ma-zamua*. \* The Hebrew spelling of *Magugu* is "Magog," and thus, "Magog" simply means "the land of Gog."

When *Ezekiel 38:2* refers to Gog from the land of Magog, as the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, scripture refers to a specific geographic area – Asia Minor; to a specific time period– when Magog (Lydia), Meshech, and Tubal were coexistent; and to a specific ruler – Gog (Gyges to the Greeks) – who led the defensive efforts of Magog, Meshech and Tubal against invading Gomer (the Cimmerians). Again, the archeological record shows that Magog, Meshech, Tubal, Togarmah and Gomer all ended long before population centers began to develop in Russia. Thus, archeologists know that *none* of the nations referred to in *Ezekiel 38-39* had anything to do with the origins of modern Russia.

<sup>\*</sup> In Akkadian the word *mat* means "land." From *mat-gugga* we get *ma guggu* which means "land of guggu."

#### Who will be the end times Magog and why?

The historical nations of Magog, Meshech, and Tubal over which Gog was a "prince" as referred to in *Ezekiel 38-39* served as "historical types" of the antichrist and the multi-national confederacy the antichrist is to rule over during the tribulation period. The antichrist's empire is to participate in the great end times "Battle of Armageddon." The Bible uses this historical Gog as a type or picture of the future antichrist in the same way that the Bible uses King David as a type or picture of Jesus' Second Coming as a king and a shepherd to rule over all of God's people (*Ezekiel 34:23* and *Ezekiel 37:22-24*).\*

More is revealed by examining the Sumerian language, that was used by the Assyrians as a sacred language, much like Latin has been even until the present used by the Roman Catholic Church. In Sumerian the word *gug* (Gog) means "darkness." In Gog from the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal from *Ezekiel 38:2*, refers to the chief prince of darkness from the land of darkness, as another type of reference to the antichrist and the lands of his kingdom.† "Gog and Magog" are also referred to in *Revelation* 

<sup>\*</sup> Ezekiel 38:17 gives added insight about Gog being a "type" of the antichrist when it asks, "Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel...? And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face." Space does not permit, but there are indeed passages in the Old Testament before the Book of Ezekiel, where the antichrist is spoken about. There are no passages where Russia or its originators are spoken about, per se.

<sup>†</sup> In the chief prince Gog from Magog leading Meshech, Tubal, and Gomer during the end times, we have in ancient terms "the chief prince of darkness from the land of darkness leading men that "caused their terror

20:8, as opposing the saints of Jesus the Christ at the end of the Millennium. Here "Gog and Magog" (Gog and the land of Gog) in their most basic meaning, are taken to be types or references to any "antichrist and the land of this antichrist"; just as *I John 2:18*, 22, 4:3, and *II John 7* say "there are many antichrists."

The *Book of Daniel* and the *Book of Revelation (Daniel 2:32-45, 7:7-28, Revelation 13:1-18,* and *17:7-18)* symbolically speak of a succession of ancient and historical empires. The apostle John in *Revelation 17:10-11* wrote,

And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a (relatively) short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition (destruction).

#### Revelation 17:10-11

It is from this succession of empires that the ultimate empire of the antichrist arises. At the time John wrote the *Book of Revelation*, the reigning empire referred to as "one is," was the Roman Empire. Many years later, it would be replaced by the Holy Roman Empire. According to this Scripture, the end times empire of the antichrist will be a third and final expression of the Roman Empire (Roman Empire – Holy Roman Empire – and a modern terminal Roman Empire) growing out of the present day multi-national umbrella, the European Economic Community or EU. Although initially, the antichrist may only be a leader within the European Economic in the land of the living" (*Ezekiel 32:26*) and "creatures from hell" (Assyrian term for Gomer).

#### Copyrighted Material

Community, eventually this economic/political conglomeration will become the antichrist's empire (the eighth empire of *Revelation* 17:11).\*

Beyond Gog having led a multi-national force or empire, as the antichrist is to do, how does *Ezekiel 38-39's* use of the historical leader Gog of Magog (Lydia) as a type of the antichrist, relate to a revived Roman Empire? How does the ancient Magog or Lydia connect to a revived Roman Empire that is to invade Israel during the end times? Not many people know that the roots of Roman culture and legal authority historically come from Magog or Lydia.<sup>†</sup>

#### Rome's relationship to Magog

Recall that *Gog* is the Hebrew spelling of the name of the militant leader from western Asia Minor who was known as Gyges of Lydia to the Greeks. Migrants from Lydia called the Etruscans took control of the struggling local population of central Italy and put them on the fast track to becoming the powerful Roman Empire. The *Penguin Dictionary of Archeology* says "the influence

\* The first empire in this succession of empires from *Revelation* 17:10 – 11 is the Akkadian empire, the second is the Assyrian Empire, the third is the Neo-Babylonian Empire, the fourth is the Persian Empire, the fifth is the Greek Empire, the sixth is the ancient Roman Empire, the seventh is the Holy Roman Empire, and the eighth is the antichrist's Empire. The identity of the third through sixth empires is symbolically communicated in *Daniel 2:32-45* and 7:7-28. The Holy Roman Empire is referred to symbolically in *Revelation 13:1-18* as a beast that recovered from a wound. The ancient Roman Empire is the "one is" from *Revelation 17:10*, since the *Book of Revelation* was written around 90 AD during the time of the Roman Empire and its system is still around!

† Roman legal authority called *imperium* is also known as Justinian Law. The word "justice" echoes Justinian Law.

of the Etruscans on Roman civilization was enormous." Grahame Clark in *World Prehistory* states "Roman civilization was deeply indebted to the Etruscans." <sup>18</sup> In the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC the famed Greek historian Herodotus, who is called the Father of History, told how the Etruscans came to Italy as a result of a migration from Lydia. Herodotus in *The History* (1.94) wrote that the Lydians set sail across the Mediterranean and colonized Etruria (Tuscany) because of a severe eighteen year famine in Lydia. <sup>19</sup> To relieve the strain upon their food supply, half of the Lydian residents left with the King's son, and called themselves the Etruscans after his son, Tyrrenius.

Lydian oriental customs were at the heart of the Etruscan culture of Italy. According to Plutarch, Livy and Vergil, when Romulus (twin of Remus) founded Rome in 753 BC, he sent for men of Etruria (Tuscany) who directed him in all sacred ceremonies, ordinances and religious rites according to the *Disciplinia Etrusca*. These same ceremonial rites were used when Rome began establishing its own colonies in the fourth century BC and later. By 600 BC the Etruscans took control of Rome and became the ruling aristocracy in a new society with an economy based on trade and commerce. The Etruscans were responsible for the urbanization of Rome, as well as it's army and its economic advancement. They made Rome the leading state in Latium. (*See Illustration E*)

Between 753 and 509 BC Rome was ruled by seven kings; the last three were Etruscan. Then in 509 BC the Romans revolted and overthrew the monarchy and established Rome as a Republic. The Etruscan king on the throne at this time was a tyrant called Tarquinius Superbus. During the Etruscan rule of Rome, the king served as commander of the army, judge and priest. The Etruscans built temples, introduced the worship of the mother goddess and

even began the wearing of the purple embroidered toga. The eagle or falcon was a symbol of Lydia, which the Etruscans also used, and in time the eagle headed scepter became a symbol of Rome. The symbol of Rome's political power was the "fasces" (a tightly bound bundle of rods enclosing a double edged ax – see the 1916-1945 US Mercury dime reverse) also came from the Etruscans. Thus, both of the favored symbols of the Roman Empire, the fasces and the eagle were of Lydian origin. From fancy pottery to oriental style burial tombs, the culture of Lydia was lifted and replanted just to the north of the city of Rome. As Gog's descendents became the Kings of Lydia, their Etruscan cousins became the Kings of Rome (*Herodotus 6:22*), and they even used the word "*Etruria*" as a synonym for Italy.

Now we can see the genius in using Gog and Magog as types of the antichrist and the final expression of the Roman Empire. Gog from Magog represents the rightful legal heir to the throne of the Roman Empire, since it was an Etruscan who last sat on the throne of Rome, and the Etruscan right to rule traces back to Lydia, whose eponym during Biblical times was Magog which means "the land of Gog."

Recognition that Herodotus was correct about the Etruscans' origins and that the Etruscans were the true source of Roman culture and Roman legal authority (*imperium*) is something that was not confirmed until recently. On April 3, 2007, the *New York Times* ran a feature story entitled "DNA Boosts Herodotus' Account of Etruscans as Migrants to Italy." The *Times*' report gave new findings that support Herodotus' specific account of the Etruscan migration to Italy from Lydia. The Times reported three new and independent studies by geneticists from different universities in Italy and Spain that support Herodotus' account of the Etruscans migration to Italy

from Lydia.<sup>22</sup> One study cited was based on bone samples taken from ancient Etruscan tombs in the Tuscan area of Italy. It showed that based on DNA evidence, Etruscans were genetically different from the general population of modern Italy. Another study published in the April 2007 issue of the "American Journal of Human Genetics," "supports a direct and rather recent genetic input from the Near East, a scenario in agreement with the Lydian origin of the Etruscans." <sup>23</sup> According to this study, "the roots of Etruscans were in the ancient Lydian region of Anatolia." <sup>24</sup> (See Illustration E)

A third study has since shown that DNA from four unusual ancient breeds of cattle currently found in Tuscany (Etruria) is different from that of seven other breeds of cattle also currently found in Italy. The DNA of the Tuscan cattle has been related to cattle typically found in Anatolia (western Turkey) and the Near East; while the DNA from the other breeds of cattle found in Italy has been related to herds found in northern Europe. When people migrate by sea to a new land, it is not unusual for them to take their herds of livestock with them. The Etruscans having taken their cattle with them is consistent with Herodotus' early account of them taking "everything useful that would go aboard ship" and setting sail from the ancient port of Smyrna in Western Turkey (ancient Lydia). <sup>25</sup>

The *New York Times* article quoted a technical report by Dr. Ajmone-Marsan and other geneticists showing that evidence from DNA indicates "both humans and cattle reached Etruria from the Eastern Mediterranean by sea." <sup>26</sup> Dr. Anthony Tuck, an archeologist at the University of Massachusetts Center for Etruscan Studies, admits that "three clear genetic threads linking a Tuscan population, human and bovine, to groups in the Near East is pretty compelling evidence." <sup>27</sup>

So what is the point to this exhaustive narrative about the Etruscans being from Lydia (whose eponym was Magog which means "the land of Gog"), and the significant part the Etruscans played in early political Roman history? Well, it is safe to say there have been scores of books written by Christian authors in the last fifty years that speak of the end times Magog representing the present day country of Russia. Ancient historical writings and now genetic DNA studies not only prove conclusively that Russians are not the descendants of Magog, but that immigrants from Lydia to Rome called Etruscans helped to found Rome. It is interesting to note that the Bible weighed in on what has been a very controversial subject for over 200 years, i.e. as to who Magog was. Also the Bible's descriptions about these people from western Asia Minor and their neighbors (*Ezekiel 27:13-14*, and *32:26*) has been upheld.

#### Where does Armageddon take place?

Now, analysis of the Scriptures has it made clear that the battle of *Ezekiel 38-39* and the battle of Armageddon are one and the same. We have looked at which end time country or political conglomerate Magog represents. The next question is where this battle may take place? *Ezekiel 38-39* repeatedly refers to a battle in the mountains, and Armageddon literally means a "mountain rendezvous of troops." Analysis of Scripture reveals a specific mountain location; it is clear that this great battle would be at Mount Hermon, *not* at the hill of Megiddo as popularly thought.

As noted earlier, in Hebrew names often give information about the place being named. In Hebrew *chermon* (word #2768 in

Strong's Concordance) means "sacred" or "sanctuary" or "asylum." 28 So as "Armageddon" (in the context of the armies of the world that are to gather in the mountains) should be translated as a "mountain rendezvous of troops" (#4023 in Strong's Concordance); "Mount Hermon" (in the context of the Jews fleeing these invading armies) should be translated as "sacred mountain" or "mountain asylum." This makes Mount Hermon a sacred mountain, a mountain of asylum or sanctuary. So in the Hebrew words har maggedon and chermon we have a "mountain rendezvous of troops" taking place at the "mountain asylum" to which Jews have fled. (The Jews taking refuge on rugged Mount Hermon, which is full of caves and hiding places [Song of Solomon 4:8] is not unlike the Afghanis who took refuge in the mountains after Russia invaded the country in 1979.)

Mount Hermon is a massive mountain on Israel's northern border with Lebanon. The highest of Mount Hermon's three distinctive peaks is called Mount Zion (Sion) (*Deuteronomy 4:48*, 3:8, 9 and *Psalm 125:1* and *133:3*).\* This is why scripture sometimes refers to this battle as taking place at Mount Zion or Zion (Sion).† For example, *Isaiah 34:1-10* tells how the "indignation of the Lord" will be upon all nations and their armies to utterly destroy them,

<sup>\*</sup> The peak Mount Zion on Mount Hermon should not be confused with the hill called Mount Zion in the Southwest part of Jerusalem; or "Zion" ("fortress") which is sometimes used as a reference to Jerusalem or as a reference to Israel. Mount Hermon and Mount Zion are over 2 miles high and snow usually covers them all year round, so dews are common. *Psalm 133:3* refers to the dew of Hermon and Zion. *Psalm 125:1* refers to the massiveness of Mount Zion and says that it "cannot be removed."

<sup>†</sup> Some argue that Mount Zion (Sion) is just an alternate name for Mount Hermon. Zion (Sion) lends its name to a stream and a large fault on the southeast flank of Mount Hermon. Aryeh E. Shimron, "Early Cretaceous Tectonism on Mount Hermon," *Israel Geological Society, Annual Meeting Ramot, 1989*, p. 141.

and "the mountains shall be melted with their blood," on the "day of the Lord's vengeance" and "the controversy of *Zion*, and the streams ('torrents' -Interlinear) thereof shall be turned into pitch . . . ." "The streams (torrents) thereof" being turned into pitch tells us this is the Mount Zion of well watered Mount Hermon which has a number of streams on it, not the small hill in the southwest part of arid Jerusalem that is also called Mount Zion. The streams thereof (including the N. Sion, Banias, N. Avar, and N. Guvta) being turned into *pitch* (as a reference to molten rock or lava flowing down the streambeds) speaks of a volcanic eruption to take place on the "day of the Lord's vengeance." <sup>29</sup> This volcanic eruption is taken up later in the chapter. (*See Illustration H*)

Under the Biblical principles of *Ecclesiastes 1:9 and 3:15* where there is "no new thing under the sun," and "that which is to be hath already been" there is Biblical precedent for the armies of the nations coming to fight against Israel and their defeat in the mountains of Israel, specifically at Hermon and Zion. On the other hand, there is no precedent for Israel having won a victory at Megiddo.† It was "under Hermon" that God came to the rescue when Joshua won a great victory against a multinational force (Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, and Hivites) gathered together against Israel in the large valley south of Mount Hermon (*Joshua 11:1-6*). *Joshua 11:3* and *7*, *8* tell how the Lord "delivered" the armies gathered together into the hand of Israel who chased and smote them from the valley

<sup>\*</sup> Revelation 14:1 tells how Jesus is to stand on Mount Zion (Sion) with 144,000 saints. This should be the Mount Zion on Hermon, not the hill in Jerusalem. *Joel 2:30-32* tells of cometary events then says that "in Mount Zion (Hermon) and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance."

<sup>†</sup> In fact, a great loss was suffered at Megiddo. Josiah, one of Judah's exceptional kings, died in a battle between the Egyptians and the Assyrians at Megiddo (ca. 609 BC).

of Mizpah at the foot of Mount Hermon "unto great Zidon" (Zion), which as noted earlier is Mount Hermon's highest peak.

#### The Winepress running with blood

Additional information indicating that the great end times battle takes place at Mount Hermon and Zion comes from *Revelation 14:19-20*. *Revelation 14:19-20* refers to "the great winepress of the wrath of God," describing that on the day of judgment, the harvest in this "winepress" will be trodden, so that blood will come out of the winepress, even to the height of the horses' bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. *Revelation 19:15* explains that Jesus on the day of his return, comes dressed for battle to "treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." Now, if the battle is to take place in the mountains (*Ezekiel 39:17-19*) on Mount Hermon, then the winepress should be nearby. The physical expression (representation) of this "winepress" must be the Hulah Basin that lies below Mount Hermon. (*Joel 3:11-14* tells of the press being full and multitudes being in the valley of decision on "the day of the Lord.") (*See Illustration H*)

Moving down from Mount Hermon, one encounters the upper valley of the Jordan River, and the Hulah Basin. The Hulah Basin is a 5 km x 15 km x 1 km depression that the Jordan River flows through.\* Ancient lava flows once blocked the Jordan Valley in the Hulah area and dammed up the river within this depressed area creating a rough bowl shaped area. However, in time the Jordan River cut through the lava dam and continued its rapidly

<sup>\*</sup> This basin is also referred to as the Damascus Basin.

descending journey to the south. (In Hebrew the world "jordan" means "descends.") Since ancient times, a small lake called Hulah Lake ("the waters of Merom" Joshua 11:5 and 7) has been fed by the waters that drain into this basin, which is likened to a winepress in Revelation 14. From Hulah Lake, the Jordan River continues to flow south until it enters then flows into the Sea of Galilee. After it emerges from the Sea of Galilee it continues on until it ultimately reaches the Dead Sea.

In addition to the streams that flow down snow capped Mount Hermon there is a second way for blood spilled on Mount Hermon to get into the winepress. Because of its geology (limestone with hollowed pockets from water percolation, known as a *karst*), Mount Hermon has significant underground drainage, and the basin that lies at the foot of Mount Hermon would in part drain away the blood if vast quantities of it were spilled on the mountain. In fact, a portion of the rainfall and snow melt that occur on Mount Hermon seeps through the ground, emerging from a spring at the foot of Mount Hermon. The waters that flow out of this spring and the streams that run down Mount Hermon constitute the headwaters of the Jordan River. Jordan River water is the lifeblood of Israel, and it begins at Mount Hermon, passes through the basin or winepress, and heads south, eventually emptying into the Dead Sea, the lowest place on the surface of our planet.

When grapes are crushed in a winepress, the released liquid drains out of a pipe at the bottom of the winepress. The section of the Jordan River that emerges from the basin or winepress below Mount Hermon can be likened to this drainage pipe. So, from this winepress like basin, blood and water would then flow out into the Jordan River, one of the very few waterways in Israel whose waters

can reach the height of a horse's bridle, as also called for in *Revelation* 14:19-20.

Revelation 14:19-20 says that these blood stained waters are to flow for a total distance of 1600 Hebrew furlongs or about 184 miles.\* The distance from the spring at Mount Hermon and the beginning of the Jordan River down to the Dead Sea, and then continuing southeast up into the River Zered, with headwaters near Bozrah; is about 1600 Hebrew furlongs. While the River Zered flows from southeast to northwest, an earthquake or impact generated river wave could easily cause water to go up the Zered and flow the entire 1600 furlong length of this interconnected water system. Or, blood could enter the River Zered near the mountain area of Bozrah and flow northwest into the Dead Sea. So, one way or another, blood could run as high as the horses bridles for a total distance of 1600 furlongs. The **only** interconnected water system in Israel that could let blood flow for a distance of 1600 Hebrew furlongs is the Jordan River/Dead Sea/River Zered track. Along this 1600 furlong drainage track, we have the battle in the mountains at Hermon, the "winepress," that is, the bowl shaped Hulah Basin, south of the mountains, the blood running south and high as the horses bridles down the Jordan River into the Dead Sea; and the slaughter in the mountains near Bozrah discharging blood stained water running down the River Zered into the Dead Sea. These parallels are haunting. (See Illustration H)

Now, Revelation 19:13 has Jesus appearing, "clothed with a vesture dipped in blood," and Revelation 19:15 tells how he "treadeth the winepress." Isaiah 34:6 says that "the Lord hath a sacrifice at Bozrah," Isaiah 63:1-6 asks who is coming from Bozrah with

<sup>\*</sup> A Hebrew "furlong" is approximately 606 feet and it is equivalent to a Roman "stadion." A Hebrew furlong is 1/8 of a Roman mile which is 4,854 feet.  $(606 \times 1600 = 969,600 \div 5,280 = 183.7 \text{ miles})$ 

garments like he has trodden in the winepress, and *Jeremiah 49:22* tells of the Lord flying like an eagle over Bozrah. *Revelation 14:1* tells of Jesus appearing on Mt. Zion with 144,000 faithful Jews (*Revelation 7:1-8*) who have taken refuge there.\* (Recall, that Mount Hermon can mean "sacred mountain" or "mountain asylum.") The Mt. Zion of *Revelation 14:1* would be the highest peak of Mount Hermon (*Deuteronomy 4:48*), not the small hill in Jerusalem, incapable of accommodating 144,000 people.

It seems that at the main battle site of Mt. Zion on Mount Hermon, Jesus trods the winepress, the bowl like area at the foot of the mountains, where the invading armies have assembled. From Mt. Zion at Mount Hermon, Jesus is to then head south to the mountainous area near Bozrah and effect another bloody slaughter. This is why *Isaiah 63:1-5* and *Jeremiah 49:22* tell of Jesus flying like an eagle coming from Bozrah with garments already stained with blood as if he had trodden the winepress. Presumably, he is seen flying like an eagle on his way to effect a third bloody slaughter. (Isaiah 31:4-5 and Jeremiah 48:40 may apply here). This time at a smaller winepress, called the "Valley of Jehosphaphat" (Joel 3:11-15), which seems to be in or around Jerusalem. The "multitudes in the valley of decision" referred to in *Joel 3:14* may be a reference to the much larger valley below Mount Hermon where the main battle takes place.† These Isaiah 31:4-5 NIV says "so the Lord Almighty will come down to do battle on Mount Zion and on the heights." Isaiah 31:4-5 in the Septuagint says, "so the Lord of hosts shall descend to fight upon the Mt. Zion (Mount Hermon), even upon her mountains."

† The location of the Valley of Jehoshaphat is not certain. It has been equated with the Valley of Barachah, south of Bethlehem (*II Chronicles 20:26* and with several valleys in and around Jerusalem. Tradition associates it with the Valley of Hinnom in Jerusalem. Since *jehoshaphat* means "Yahweh judges," and a location called the "Valley of Decision," is also referred to, the use of the term *jehosphaphat* may simply be a refer-

sites and topography seem to fit the scene painted by Scripture.

Again, considering *Ecclesiastes 1:9* and *3:15*, where that which is to be has already been; it is interesting to note that Jehoshaphat, like Joshua, won a great victory against an invading multinational force (the children of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir), when the Lord once again fought for Judah. So, in the case of Joshua's great victory at Hermon/Zion (*Joshua 11*) and Jehoshaphat's great victory (*II Chronicles 20*), we have historical precedent for the battle of Armageddon, where Yahweh will judge in a valley of decision by again fighting for Israel.

Jumping ahead 10 pages:

#### The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord

As we have shown the reader, the Sixth Seal, the Seventh Trumpet, the Sixth and Seventh Vials and *Ezekiel 38-39* have a number of different prophesied elements in common, culminating with the appearance of the Lord. One would expect numerous scriptural references to *such* a day of importance! Many have believed that the Sixth Seal, the Seventh Trumpet, the Sixth and Seventh Vial and *Ezekiel 38-39* speak of different dates. But, how many days can be called "*the day of the Lord*," and how many Second Comings actually occur? Can men shake at the Lord's *presence* when he reveals himself to the nations during the battle of *Ezekiel 38-39*, and then at another

ence to the judgment God brings about in this valley.

time hide from the *face* of the Lamb on the "Great Day of His Wrath" as called for in the Sixth Seal? What then of the Lord's wrath and judgment upon the nations as called for in the Seventh Trumpet and the fierce wrath upon the world called for in the Seventh Vial? How many times can God's wrath *utterly destroy* the armies of the nations? After the armies of the nations are destroyed, whence do nations get new armies so that God's wrath completely destroys them again, and again?

We have the "fire of (God's) wrath" upon the armies of the nations on "the day whereof I (God) have spoken." (Ezekiel 38:19 and 39:8), which seem to be the same day that the Sixth Seal calls the "great day of his wrath." (Ezekiel 39:8 indicates that God has previously spoken of this day when it says "this is the day whereof I have spoken." There are a number of instances in the Bible where God has spoken of this day before the time of Ezekiel. For example, the prophet Isaiah [ca. 740-680 BC] came before the prophet Ezekiel [ca. 592-570 BC], and Isaiah 2:11-22 and Isaiah 13:3-13 speak of this day, the "day of the Lord" and his wrath where the Earth shakes terribly and moves out of her place.") <sup>31</sup>

On this day, *Ezekiel 38:20* exclaims "all men that are upon the face of the earth shall shake at my (God's) presence," and *Ezekiel 38:23* reveals saying that on this day God will "be known in the eyes of many nations!" The Sixth Seal tells how the "kings of the Earth" will ask the mountains to hide them from the "face" and the "wrath of the Lamb" (*Revelation 6:15-17*), just as *Isaiah 2:19-22* tells of men hiding in the rocks and caves when the Lord "ariseth to shake terribly the Earth."

Revelation 19:11-15 describes Jesus returning astride a white horse to make war, judge and smite the nations while clothed in a

garment having been dipped in blood. Revelation 19:19 tells of the beast who is the antichrist and his "armies gathered together to make war against him (Jesus) that sat on the horse." Revelation 19:17-18 directs all fowl that fly to "come and gather yourselves together unto the *supper* of the great God. That ye may eat the flesh of kings . . . and the flesh of all men" after the slaughter that takes place on this day. This is consistent with *Matthew 24:28* where Jesus warns how the vultures will gather together to feed on the bodies of those who die in this battle. Jesus says, "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather" (Matthew 24:28 NAS).

The "supper" of men's flesh offered to the fowl that fly in the sky of Revelation 19 seems to also be the "sacrifice" spoken of in Ezekiel 39:4 and 17-19. Ezekiel 39:4 and 17-19 say:

"Thou shalt fall upon the *mountains* of Israel, thou and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the *ravenous birds* of every sort . . . (17) . . . Speak unto every *feathered fowl*, and to every beast of the field . . . gather yourselves on every side to my *sacrifice* that I do *sacrifice* for you, even a great *sacrifice* upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh and drink blood. (18) Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty and drink the blood of the princes of the earth . . . (19) And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my *sacrifice* which I have *sacrificed* for you.

Ezekiel 39:4 and 17-19

Zephaniah 1:7-8 talks about this sacrifice, when the Lord is present on "the day of the Lord" Zephaniah 1:7-8 says, "Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord God for the day of the Lord is at hand: for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests. And it shall came to pass in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes and the King's children . . . ." It is interesting to note that Israel's unique location at the junction of three continents has made it a major crossroad for bird migration. Over 500 million "migratory birds, almost twenty-five percent of the world's migratory birds, fly over northern Israel on migrations traversing Europe, Western Asia and Africa. Large concentrations of birds of prey including vultures, buzzards, eagles, and hawks migrate over Israel twice per year. 32

Revelation 14:1 describes Jesus standing on Mt. Zion (Sion), the highest peak of Mount Hermon. Revelation 19:15 says that Jesus is the one who treads the "winepress," which we learned is located below the aforementioned Mt. Zion. This is the location of the battle of Ezekiel 38-39 and the battle of Armageddon (which are one in the same), so that the blood comes out of the winepress as high as the horses bridles down the Jordan River and into the Dead Sea and then up the River Zered for a distance of 1600 furlongs as called for in Revelation 14:14-20. Earlier in this chapter it was explained that, there is another winepress and slaughter at Bozrah near the River Zered (Isaiah 63:1-4 and 34:1-8). Isaiah 63:4 says that this slaughter takes place on "the day of vengeance," a day of great woe also referred to in Isaiah 61:2. Isaiah 34:1-8 speaks of the "day of the Lord's vengeance" in the context of the same events found in the Sixth Seal, the Seventh Trumpet and the Sixth and Seventh Vials. Isaiah 34:1-8

<sup>\*</sup> Recall that *Ezekiel 38-39* also tells of the Lord being present (*Ezekiel 38:20*) when this sacrifice takes place (*Ezekiel 39:4 and 17-19*).

tells of the "host of heaven," that is, the comets of heaven falling, the indignation of the Lord being upon the armies of the nations, so that "he hath utterly destroyed them and delivered them to the slaughter," and including "a sacrifice in Bozrah," where "the mountains shall be melted with their blood." \* (See Illustration H)

As shown a few pages before, *Revelation 19* essentially describes Jesus appearing on a white horse clothed in a bloody garment to make war and smite the kings of the Earth and the armies of the nations, which have gathered together. It foretells of Jesus coming to tread the "winepress" and providing a supper or sacrifice so that fowl may eat the flesh of Kings along with the flesh of all men on earth. The horrors of *Revelation 19* are clearly consistent with the events called for in the Sixth Seal, the Seventh Trumpet, the Sixth, Seventh Vials, and *Ezekiel 38-39*. The day of Jesus' Second Coming and his judging the nations is the day of His wrath, the day of vengeance, and the day of the Lord; these days are all one in the same.

In all of this, a great number of Scriptures fit together and work together, supporting each other, giving a more detailed picture of the events to take place at the end of the tribulation period. Contrary to what most end times prophecy books have said, the Scriptures do not support modern theories of nuclear events or nuclear warfare.

<sup>\*</sup> Isaiah 2:10-22 tells of men "hiding in the mountains when the Lord will ariseth to shake terribly the Earth on the day of the Lord." Using different descriptions for the comets, Isaiah 13:1-13 tells of the Lord mustering the host (comets), His sanctified ones (those set apart – Job 38:22-23), the weapons of His wrath, who came from a far place, the edge of heaven (the Oort Cloud), and the kingdoms of the nations gathered in the mountains as destruction from the Almighty on the day of the Lord, a day of fierce anger, with the sun being darkened from the dust raised by the impacts, with an impact so large that it shakes the Earth out of her place.

However, as we have seen, there are scores of Scriptures describing comet caused disasters. Similarly, the inability to identify the cometary causes of the major Old Testament catastrophes (discussed in Chapter 4 and 5) has made it difficult for authors of prophecy books to recognize that God used comets as the weapons of His wrath in the past, and that He will use comets again to bring about the disastrous events prophesied in the book of *Revelation*.\*

On the day of God's wrath, God is to take vengeance on the nations of the world that have become part of the antichrist's empire and have invaded Israel. On this day, God is to use comets, the sanctified weapons of His wrath to fight for and save Israel, just as comets served as His weapons of choice in the past. God is to destroy the forces of the end times empire of the antichrist with comets, just as he destroyed the Near East's first empire (the Akkadian Empire) with a comet (recall the Amarah Crater in Iraq). This is the day when the Lord says, "gather the nations that I may assemble the kingdoms to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy" (*Zephaniah* 3:8).<sup>†</sup>

Of this day, in *Matthew 24:29-30*, Jesus says, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars (comets) shall fall from heaven, and the powers (objects) of the heavens shall be shaken: (30) And then shall appear the *sign of the Son of Man* in heaven; and

<sup>\*</sup> Recall, that in Greek the word *dis-aster* literally means "bad star," where the word "star" (*aster*) can refer to any luminous body in the sky including comets.

<sup>†</sup> It is interesting to note that *Joel 3:11-15* first tells the heathen to assemble themselves and then asks the Lord to "cause thy *mighty ones* to come down." The "mighty ones" referred to in *Joel 3:11* are comets; just as *Isaiah 13:3* also refers to the Lord's comets as "mighty ones."

then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." In Cecil B. DeMille's movie *The Ten Commandments*, the scene that portrays the parting of the Red Sea is startling, but it pales in comparison to what is foretold in *Matthew 24:29-30*, where light is to suddenly shine out of darkness (*II Corinthians 3:6*).

#### The Stone Cut Without Hands

Now, in addition to the use of comets, at the battle of Armageddon (*Revelation 16:14-16* and *Zephaniah 3:8*) there is even more Scriptural information describing the great end times battle of Armageddon that takes place at Mount Hermon in northern Israel. This additional information comes from the *Book of Daniel. Daniel 2:34-35* and *45* tell about a "stone . . . cut out of the mountain without hands that smote the kingdoms of the world." These kingdoms relate to the armies of the nations of the world being destroyed at the battle of Armageddon on the day of the Lord. But how can a stone be cut out of a mountain without hands, and how could the stone then destroy armies?

To geologists a stone cut out of a mountain with no hands that can destroy armies describes a *nuée ardente* which involves the side of a volcanic mountain exploding outward (horizontal eruption) instead of the top of a volcanic mountain exploding upward (vertical eruption). The French term "*nuée ardente*" refers to the "glowing cloud" (*nuée* – cloud, *ardente* - glowing) of material that hugs and rolls down the mountain slope after a lateral volcanic eruption. This cloud of fiery material contains gases, ash, lava, and rock fragments of

all sizes known as pyroclastics, some the size of a house, that are shot out by the explosive eruption. Not only is the rocky material plugging an old volcanic caldera or crater blown out or "cut out," but a large part of the side of the mountain is also "cut out" and incorporated into the glowing cloud of material that begins avalanching down the mountain slope. This glowing cloud can reach temperatures up to 2000° F and move at speeds that are over 300 miles per hour. This fast moving cloud would destroy everything in its path, even melting and twisting metal and glass. This is what happened at Mount Pelee on the Caribbean Island of Martinique on May 8, 1902.

On this day of woe, a *nuée ardente* rolled down the mountain, crossed the Blanche River Valley, and spread out laterally before it hit the seaside city of St. Pierre. In just a few fiery minutes the superheated volcanic debris left the entire city a smoldering (ruin), killing all but two of its 30,000 inhabitants. Those who escaped the blast and incineration by incandescent ash, died from intense heat, while still others died miserably of asphyxiation by inhaling extremely hot volcanic dust and sulfuric gases.

The May 18, 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helen's in Washington also involved an explosive *nuée ardente*. After a series of warnings, the north face of the mountain was suddenly shattered by a horizontal blast that released a high velocity cloud of superheated debris. The energy released by this lateral "blast" was equivalent to 500 Hiroshima size atomic bombs or ten million tons of TNT. <sup>33</sup> The debris rolled down Mount St. Helens in less than a minute and then spread out in a fan shaped (140 degree) pattern. Four foot in diameter trees up to fifteen miles away were knocked down. The deadly explosive cloud turned 232 square miles of once beautiful timberland into a dull gray ash covered lunar like wasteland virtually devoid of life. <sup>34</sup>

When the air finally cleared, the entire north face and top of the mountain was blown away. It is fair to say that the blown away north face represents "a stone cut out of the mountain without hands." Where the north face once stood an amphitheater like crater with 2,000 foot high walls was created. This striking amphitheater looks down upon the widespread devastation below. The crater measures 1.2 miles wide and 2.4 miles long. And the 10,500 foot high mountain was instantly made 1,313 feet lower. The cloud of superheated ash and debris reached a temperature of 500° F and traveled at 230 miles per hour. Its powerful ash laden blast killed people as far away as sixteen miles from the mountain, and filled valleys with pumice and ash as far as 17 miles away. The resulting avalanche of pyroclastic, mud and debris swept away everything in its path from bulldozers to bridges as it moved down the mountain and spread out in a fan shaped pattern. <sup>36</sup>

Is there any physical evidence for Mount Hermon being capable of a volcanic eruption producing a *nuée ardente*? Mount Hermon is basically an uplifted fault block of limestone where there have been several lava flows evidenced by a number of volcanic dykes. The remnants of several basalt cones on the flanks of Mount Hermon have also been found. Basalt cones are evidence of past eruptive craters. In particular, half way up the mountain on its southeastern flank there is a large depression, a "collapsed caldera" that is approximately 2.5 miles long by 1.9 miles wide, equivalent to Mount St. Helen's crater in Washington. <sup>37</sup> This ancient caldera is called the Newe Ativ Caldera, and it contains a volcanic crater called

the Guvta Crater.\* Israel's Geological Survey study and mapping of this area refers to it as the "Newe Ativ Volcanic Complex," and the "Newe Ativ Magmatic (Caldera) Complex." <sup>38</sup> (See Illustration H)

A few miles up the mountain slope from the large Newe Ativ Caldera with its small cone and eruptive crater, there is a large ancient basaltic cone that cuts through the limestone formation at a place called Majdal Shams. This large prominent cone seems related to the small cone and eruptive crater that the Survey's geologist Aryeh Shimron found in the large Newe Ativ Caldera, and to another nearby but smaller cone at Nahal Nimrod. <sup>39</sup> There is also a small volcanic crater at Mas'ade, less than one kilometer to the southeast of the Newe Ativ Caldera. † These cones and craters, together with others in the area, indicate a large, central magma chamber feeding a

<sup>\*</sup> A "caldera" is produced by the collapse or rapid subsidence of a magma chamber's when a great volume of magma is removed by an eruption. A caldera collapse often contains the volcanic cone or crater that erupted. The collapsed volcanic caldera on Mount Hermon contains a complex of magnetic and volcanic materials including a small basalt cone that pierced through the Jurassic limestone at Newe Ativ; and a volcanic crater at the core of the complex called the "Guvta Eruptive Breccia Crater." Evidence for the Guvta Crater comes from a magnetic rock unit called the Guvta Eruptive Breccia, which resulted from an explosive volcanic eruption – Aryeh E. Shimron, "Early Cretaceous Tectonism on Mount Hermon," Israel Geological Society, Annual Meeting, Ramot, 1989, p. 141. Also as above "Early Cretaceous Magmatism," 1989, pp. 1-5 and 10. On page 10 the author asks, "Is the Guvta Breccia the throat of an Early Cretaceous volcano?"

<sup>†</sup> Personal communication from Aryeh E. Shimron, based on his "Preliminary Geological Map of the SE Hermon Range" in *New Geological Data and K-Ar Geochronology*, as above, Fig. 1-2, p. 7. In a letter to the author herein dated November 29, 1989, Shimron wrote, "some Pleistocene hunters got caught having a barbecue near the crater (at Mas'ade) and got well cooked during the eruption. What was left of their bones was found some years ago in some ashes.".

number of cones and craters. These collectively characterize a classic circumstance of lateral eruptions releasing incandescent clouds, where the biggest eruptions occur not at the main cones and craters, but at one of the lower cones or craters, a parasitic lateral vent. This geomorphology duplicates what happened at Mount St. Helens in Washington in 1980 and at Pelee on Martinique in 1902. <sup>40</sup>

There are also a number of faults on Mount Hermon that produced earthquakes, some of which likely accompanied past volcanic eruptions. The eruptions of Mount Hermon in the past were responsible for a portion of the lava streams and ejected pyroclastic rocks that are found on the east side of the Jordan River. There are also a number of extinct volcanic craters in the Hauran, the plain to the south of Mount Hermon. This is not surprising since Mount Hermon sits at the northern end of the 4,000 mile long Great Rift that begins in Africa. This geologically active, relatively young rift (twenty five million years old) still produces new volcanic craters that spew tremendous quantities of ash and lava. Thus, Mount Hermon is capable of a volcanic eruption, an eruption that produces a lateral blow out called a *nuée ardente*.

The fact that Mount Hermon has experienced this type of volcanic eruption in the past fulfills *Ecclesiastes 1:9* and *3:15* which say, "that which is to be hath already been." Interestingly, since Mount Hermon ceased volcanic activity long before literate man occupied the area, and since these prophecies were written long before scientists had the knowledge to interpret the evidence from past volcanic events, it is doubtful that *Ezekiel* or *Daniel* had any idea that snow capped Mount Hermon had a volcanic history and equally doubtful that they knew what a *nuée ardente* is.

The Newe Ativ Caldera on the southeastern flank of Mount Hermon lies near the head of a stream called the Banias, located about four and one half miles to the east of Caesarea Phillippi along the head waters of the Jordan.\* If this caldera or the large Magdal Shams basalt cone above this caldera were to be the location of a lateral volcanic eruption on the day of the Lord, then any *nuée ardente*, or burning cloud released would race down the valley and slam into Caesarea Phillippi (the Banias Valley already contains basalt related to the Magdal Shams basalt cone). Caesarea Phillippi is where the antichrist and the kings of the Earth and their vast armies are most likely to be camped as they prepare to lay siege to Mount Hermon to exterminate the Jews who have taken refuge on the mountain. (In Hebrew the word *hermon* means "sanctuary.") <sup>41</sup>

As discussed earlier, *Isaiah 34:1-10* tells how the "indignation of the Lord" will be upon all nations and their armies to utterly destroy them during "the controversy of Zion." It then speaks of a volcanic eruption when it states that "the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch (*lava*), and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch (*lava*)." The word twice translated as "pitch" in this verse, the Hebrew word *zeh-feth* (word #2203 in *Strong's Concordance*) is better translated as "lava," since it comes from a root meaning to "liquefy" as in molten rock. The cloud released down the Banias Valley would travel from east to west, and like the ash clouds released by both Pelee and Mount St. Helens, there would definitely be lightning associated with pizoelectric discharge by the cloud. *Matthew 24:27-28* says, "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the

<sup>\*</sup> The *el Liddani* meets the *Nahr Banias* above Caesarea Phillippi. Caesarea Phillippi lies about three miles to the east of Dan.

coming of the Son of Man be. For wheresoever the carcass is there will the eagles be gathered together.\*

When Ezekiel 39:6 says God "will send fire on Magog," in addition to the comets that are to fall, this could also designate the burning cloud or fireball released by a nuée ardente. Zechariah 14:12 seems to describe the effect of a burning cloud up to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, moving at up to 300 to 400 miles per hour, would have on people. It says, "And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem. Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth." Many prophecy authors have believed that this Scripture is describing the effects of a nuclear bomb being exploded at Armageddon, but the intense burning wind from a nuée ardente would easily cause the very same effects. When God tells Gog, a type of the antichrist in Ezekiel 39:3 that, "I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand," it seems God is telling the antichrist that his armies would not even be able to fire a shot or detonate a bomb when they come against Him.

Interpreting *Zechariah 14:12* as a description of a volcanic disaster rather than a nuclear blast makes this verse compatible with a number of other Scriptures that call for and/or describe a volcanic eruption and an earthquake that will occur on the day of the Lord. In *This Shaking Earth* (1978) physicist John Gribbin, in discussing the explosive eruption of Mount Pelée in 1902 *nuée ardente*, says,

<sup>\*</sup> The word "carcass" indicates the carnage that will result from this event.

The phenomenon which produces this kind of hot avalanche (*nuée ardente*) is familiar today in another even more grim context, as the '*base surge*' which rolls away from the site of a nuclear explosion at ground level. The destruction caused by a *nuée ardente* which hits an inhabited region can only be compared with the destruction caused by a nuclear explosion . . . Even in bare outline the story of the destruction of St. Pierre reads more like the horrors of war than any natural disaster. <sup>42</sup>

Since Scripture reveals that comets are to come in and impact the Earth on the day of the Lord, it is no surprise that Scripture also indicates that a volcanic eruption will also occur on the day of the Lord. Just as large cosmic impacts can trigger mega earthquakes, large cosmic impacts can punch into or through the Earth's crust, triggering massive volcanic eruptions on one or both sides of Earth. A cosmic impact can trigger a volcanic eruption by raising the pressure and temperature in the mantle underlying Earth's crust. In particular, this could initiate and/or strengthen plumes of hot magma that rise up within the mantle and circulate toward the lower crust in concentrated streamers or plumes. A mantle plume is not unlike a rising glob of material in a 1960's style decorating lava lamp. Dr. Dallas Abbot of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observation says, "The general idea is that plumes are strengthened by impacts."43 At a Geological Society of American meeting "she showed a correlation between the timing of purported superplumes and large impact events . . ." 44 Dr. Abbott and Ann Isley of State University New York at Oswego found a correlation between

meteorite and comet impacts and an increase in volcanic activity. Ten major episodes of impacts were found to correlate with nine major episodes of volcanism. <sup>45</sup> They also found that "two prominent lulls in impact activity matched up with periods of decreased volcanism." <sup>46</sup> Dr. Abbott said, "Large impacts generate large earthquakes . . . These earthquakes can trigger volcanic eruptions. If the earthquake is large enough to do more, it could make the eruption more intense by allowing more magma to escape." <sup>47</sup>

There is growing support in the scientific community for the idea that volcanic eruptions can be set off by enormous cosmic impacts. For example, Adrian Jones and David Price from University College London say Abbott's work backs up their recent computer simulations. These models suggest that meteorites larger than ten kilometers across occasionally punch right through the Earth's crust causing huge volcanic eruptions on both sides of the Earth, simultaneously. "A large impact has the ability to cause instant melting where it hits, creating its own impact plume in the mantle and resulting in a massive surge of molten ejecta or lava spilling out." Some scientists believe that the Hawaiian Islands were born of a cosmic impact that created a plume or hot spot in the mantle below this island chain (see Chapter 7). (See Illustration I)

In Chapter 7 we learned that continental areas of extensive ancient volcanism such as India's Deccan Plains with its step like layers of basalt and the Siberian Traps (Trappen for steps) may be the result of large cosmic impacts. Recall the very large impact that struck the moon and produced the extensive lava flows referred to as the "Man in the Moon." Now some scientists believe that the dinosaurs did not all die from a cosmic impact alone calling for a combination of factors to explain the destruction. In particular, Jones says the

dinosaurs probably all died from a "double whammy," consisting of a cosmic impact followed by devastating volcanic eruptions. <sup>49</sup>

### The Timing of the Events

Revelation 16:14-16 tells of the armies of the world being gathered together "to the battle of that great day of God almighty. .. into a place called in the Hebrew Armageddon." In Zephaniah 3:8 the Lord adds to the picture and says, "gather the nations that I may assemble the kingdoms to pour upon them my indignation, even my fierce anger: for all the Earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy." Whereas Revelation 16:14-16 tells how this battle is to occur at a place called in the Hebrew Armageddon, remember that in Hebrew Armageddon literally means "mountain rendezvous of troops." The troops or armies of the nations that are to gather together for a battle at Mount Hermon (the "mountain of asylum") on this great day is consistent with Ezekiel 38-39, which describes a battle in the mountains where the "Lord God" is present, fights for Israel against the invading multinational force, and "saves" Israel. This is also consistent with Revelation 14:1-5 which tells of Jesus being seen on Mount Zion ("mountain fortress"), the highest peak of Mount Hermon with 144,000 redeemed Jews, who no doubt fled to the mountain to hide from the invading armies.

While the "Lord God" comes to fight for Israel and "save" Israel at the Battle Armageddon, the author does not want to give the impression that only Jews will be "saved" during the tribulation

<sup>\*</sup> This great day of battle is also referred to in *Revelation 11:18* which talks about the Seventh Trumpet and tells how the nations were angry that God's wrath is come that they should be judged.

period. Both before and during the Battle of Armageddon, a great number of Gentile believers from all nations, cultures and tongues are to be "saved." Among the believers who are "saved," some will be martyred (Revelation 6:9-11 and 7:9-14), some will escape all the things that come to pass (Luke 21:36), and some will be kept from the hour of trial (Revelation 3:10 NIV). In Matthew 24:22 (Mark 13:20) Jesus says that except the days of the "great tribulation" were shortened "there should no flesh be saved: (but for the elects' sake those days shall be shortened.") I Thessalonians 4:15-17 talks about believers being "caught up" or "raptured" up into "the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" at Christ's coming.\* The "rapture" is a controversial doctrine among Christians. There is much debate on whether believers will be "raptured" at the beginning, middle or end of the tribulation period. Somehow, believers will either be removed or protected during the tribulation period. Believers being protected during the catastrophic tribulation period is not unlike Moses and the Israelites being protected during the ten plagues of the Exodus.

Scripture says the battle of Armageddon will take place in northern Israel at Mount Hermon. It is in the expansive open area of the Hulah Basin below Mount Hermon where the armies of the antichrist will camp, and where "the great *winepress* of the wrath of God" is located (*Revelation 14:19-20*). This is the "winepress" spoken of when scripture says Jesus will "treadeth the *winepress* of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" (*Revelation 19:15*). This is the "press" that *Joel 3:13-14* says will be full with "multitudes in the "The word translated "caught" is from the Greek word *harpazo* (word #726 in *Strong's Concordance*). The word translated "up" in *I Thessalonians 4:17* is from the Greek word *anō* (word #507 in *Strong's Concordance*). In Latin Bibles such as the *Vulgate*, the Greek word *harpazo* ("caught up") is translated as *raptus*, which in English is rendered as the word "rapture."

valley of decision," the valley below Mount Hermon on "the day of the Lord." The "day of the Lord," is the day *Isaiah 13:2-13* says that the Lord will destroy the kingdoms of the nations gathered together, and the day *Zephaniah 1:7-8* says that the Lord will "punish the princes and the kings' children" and prepare a "sacrifice." In *Matthew 24:28* Jesus makes reference to this sacrifice.

The Bible tells us the Jews of Israel will take refuge at several places in the wilderness to escape annihilation by the antichrist. Yet it is on Mt. Zion, the highest peak of Mount Hermon (the "sacred mountain" or "mountain asylum"), where Jesus is to appear astride a white horse coming to deliver or save 144,000 "redeemed" Jews who have taken refuge on the Mount (*Revelation 14:1-5, 12:13-17*, and

The phrase the "day of the Lord is used twenty-one times in the Old Testament (Isaiah 2:12; 13:6, 9; Jeremiah 46:10; Ezekiel 13:5, 30:3; Joel 1:15, 2:1, 11, 31; Amos 5:18, 20; Obadiah 15, Zephaniah 1:7, 14; Zechariah 14:1; and Malachi 4:5). The phrase "the day of the Lord is used four times in the New Testament (Acts 2:20; II Thessalonians 2:2; and II Peter 3:10 and 12) and referred to in comparable terms in Revelation 6:17 and 16:14. On the "day of the Lord" Isaiah 13:2-13 says God will punish the world" with "wrath and fierce anger" and bring "destruction" on the "kingdoms of nations gathered together." On the "day of the Lord" Zephaniah 1:7-8 says the Lord God will be present and "will punish the armies and the King's children" and prepare a "sacrifice" and "bid his guests" in the "day of the Lord's sacrifice." Ezekiel 39:4 and 17-20 also make reference to the sacrifice of flesh and blood to be prepared by the Lord, which will include the blood of princes. On the "day of the Lord," Joel 2:1-11 says to sound the alarm in (His) holy mountain (Mount Hermon) and to blow the trumpet in Zion for the "day of the Lord is great and very terrible and who can abide it." Joel 3:13-14 refers to the day of the Lord and to the winepress in the valley below Mount Hermon where the armies of the antichrist are to camp and says, "Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down: for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great. (14) Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

*Isaiah 16:1-5*).\* The 144,000 believing Jews will be surrounded by the armies of the antichrist. (*See Illustration H*)

Based on Scripture, the antichrist's plan is to annihilate all the Jews and eliminate the need and basis for Jesus returning to the Earth (*Revelation 12:13-17*). This desire or intention to eliminate Jews is not new to either the Scriptures nor the historical record. As early back as the Exodus story, Pharaoh sought to enslave, overwork and kill all male infants. Even after releasing the Hebrew nation, Pharaoh and his army pursued them to destroy them (*Exodus 15:9*). In the story of Esther, "Haman sought to destroy all the Jews" of the Persian Empire "in one day" (*Esther 3:6, 10* and *13*). The Holy Roman Empire in their medieval crusades to recover the Holy Land from both the Turks and the Jews for the Roman Catholic Church sought to kill many Jews, and Adolph Hitler of the Germany's Third Reich (empire) sought to annihilate all the Jews of Europe and then the world.

The promise of Messiah's coming as a "conquering" Messiah to save the Jews was made to the Jews of the Old Testament. Jesus is to fight against the multinational armies of the antichrist, just as "the Lord fought for Israel" against Pharaoh (*Exodus 14:14*). "The Lord cast down great stones from heaven" and helped Joshua defeat the armies of five kings gathered against Joshua at Gibeon as recorded in *Joshua 10:1-14* and *42*. In *Isaiah 35:4* the prophet tells Israel to "Be strong and fear not: behold, your God will come with a vengeance . . . he will come and save you." Just as *Jeremiah 46:10* calls "the day of the Lord God of hosts, a day of vengeance," *Isaiah 34:8* refers to "the day of the Lord's vengeance," and *Isaiah 61:1-2* refers to "the

<sup>\*</sup> The Jews taking refuge on rugged Mount Hermon which is full of caves and hiding places is not unlike the Afghanis who took refuge in the mountains after the Russians invaded the country in 1979.

day of vengeance of our God."\* If there are no faithful Jews for Jesus to save, then there is no express need for Jesus to return. The name "Jesus" is the Greek rendering of His name in Hebrew. In Hebrew Jesus' name is Yeshuah, and in Hebrew yeshuah (#3442 or #3444 in *Strong's Concordance*) means "he will save." If Jesus does not return to save the Jews and others who accept Him as Savior, and defeat the armies of the antichrist, then the antichrist could complete his plan of empire and rule the world from David's temple in Jerusalem. Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:2, 14-19 tell how satan wanted to be like God and sit on God's throne in heaven and rule, which led to satan being thrown out of heaven. Through the antichrist, satan seeks to sit on God's throne on Earth and rule Earth. II Thessalonians 2:4 tells how the antichrist will exalt himself above the God of the Bible and seek to be worshipped as God while sitting on God's throne in the rebuilt temple of God in Jerusalem.<sup>‡</sup> Daniel 8:25 tells how the antichrist will "stand up against the Prince of Princes (Jesus), but he shall be broken without hand ('without human agency' - NAS)."

In *Deuteronomy 4:29-31* the God of the Bible promises to save the children of Israel during the "tribulation" of the "latter days" ('the time of Jacob's trouble' – *Jeremiah 30:7*), and He says He will not let them be destroyed. In *Deuteronomy 7:19 (NAS)*, God

<sup>\*</sup> In *Luke 4:18-19* Jesus quotes from *Isaiah 61:1-2*, but leaves out the words regarding "the day of vengeance of our God." His appearance at the battle of Armageddon constitutes "the day of vengeance."

<sup>†</sup> The Hebrew word *yehoshua* (#3091 in *Strong's Concordance*) which means "the Lord is salvation " also comes into play. In the Greek *yehoshua* is rendered as "*Joshua*."

<sup>‡</sup> Isaiah 14:13-14 tells how satan wanted to be like God and exalt his throne above God's throne in heaven. After being thrown out of heaven, satan then planned to rule from God's throne on Earth in Jerusalem. In other words, satan planned to rule on Earth and let God rule in heaven. By indwelling the antichrist, satan could come to rule the Earth.

promises to do the same type of terrifying and destructive "signs and wonders," as during the Exodus, upon "all the peoples of whom you (Israel) art afraid." *Micah 7:15* says, "According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvelous things ('wonders' in the NIV)." From these verses we can see that during the "tribulation" of the "latter days," when Israel is "afraid" of the antichrist and his vast armies, the God of the Bible will again use comets to show terrifying "signs and wonders" that bring death and destruction upon the empire of the antichrist, just as He also used comets to destroy the kings and their armies in Joshua's battle (*Joshua 10*) and destroy the empire that was building the temple tower at Babylon (see previous chapter).\* *Zechariah 12:8-9* says, "In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem . . . and

As Deuteronomy 7:19 (NAS) tells how the God of the Bible used "signs and wonders" from cometary phenomena to save Israel during the Exodus and would again do so to all the peoples coming to destroy Israel; it is interesting to note that the following verse, *Deuteronomy 7:20* seems to refer to cometary debri as "hornets." Deuteronomy 7:20 (NAS) says "Moreover, the Lord your God will send the hornet (hornets in Septuagint) against them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you perish." The Hebrew word tsir-aw (#6880 in Strong's Concordance) which is translated as "hornet" in Deuteronomy 7:20 (KJ, NAS, NIV, and Septuagint) comes from the Hebrew word tsah-rah (#6879 in Strong's Concordance) which means "to scourge or strike." As "hornets" constitute a swarm of flying objects that scourge or strike, maybe the word "hornets" is a figurative term for a swarm of cometary debris that scourges or strikes. This Hebrew word tsir-aw (#6880) has been translated as "hornets" and seems to be used in a similar way in Exodus 23:28 and Joshua 24:12, and 8. As cometary phenomena seem to be figuratively related to "hornets" in Deuteronomy 7:20, cometary phenomena is figuratively related to "locusts" in Revelation 9:3-12. The second part of Deuteronomy 7:20 speaks of men "hiding" themselves; and in this regard relates to Isaiah 2:10, 19, and 21 and Revelation 6:15-17, which speaks of men hiding themselves in the context of cometary phenomena.

it shall come to pass in *that day* that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem." So, at the last minute, when all seems lost, the Messiah (*Maschiach ben David*) will appear astride a white horse to deliver and save the children of Israel as promised. *Romans 11:25-27 NIV* says,

Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so *all Israel shall be saved*, as it is written (quoting *Isaiah* 59:20): 'The *deliverer* (redeemer) will come (to) Zion, he will turn godlessness away from Jacob: And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.

#### Romans 11:25-27 NIV

The "great day of God Almighty" of *Revelation 16:14* is also the "great day of His (Jesus) wrath" of *Revelation 6:13*. On the "great day of His wrath" *Revelation 6:13:17* says that the stars of heaven, that is, comets will fall unto the earth and the kings of the Earth will seek to hide "from the face of him that sitteth on the throne and from the wrath of the lamb," just as *Matthew 24:29-30* says that the stars of heaven will fall on the day of Jesus' return. *II Peter 3:10-13* says that on the "day of the Lord" the entire Earth and the heavens (atmosphere) will be "on fire," which speaks of a mega impact that engulfs or baptizes the entire planet in flames.

Based on the catastrophic events of the Sixth Seal, the Seventh Trumpet, and the Seventh Vial, this great day of battle starts with stars falling from heaven, that is, comets ("hairy stars") and/or comet fragments coming in to impact the Earth (*Matthew 24:29, Revelation 6:13* and *Isaiah 34:4*). *Isaiah 13:3-9* and *13* say:

3) I have commanded my sanctified ones (comets), I have also called my mighty ones (comets) for mine anger, even them that rejoice in my highness. 4) The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people, a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the Lord of hosts mustereth the *host* (comets) of the battle. 5) They come from a far (place), from the end of heaven (the Oort Cloud), even the Lord, and the weapons of his indignation (comets), to destroy the whole land. 6) Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. 7) Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: 8) And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth; they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. 9) Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it . . . 13) Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

#### Isaiah 13:3-9 and 13

Initially, these impacts will cause a "great earthquake" (Revelation 16:18 and 11:19), so intense that every mountain and

# Copyrighted Material

island will be moved out of their place (*Revelation 6:14*) with "the sea and waves roaring," according to *Luke 21:25*. There will also be volcanic eruptions. A volcanic eruption, a *nuée ardente* or lateral eruption will occur on Mount Hermon, where the armies of the antichrist are camped in pursuit of the Jews who have taken refuge there. The lateral blow out of Mount Hermon would represent a rock or "stone . . . cut out of the mountain without hands," that smote the kingdoms of the world (*Daniel 2:45*).\*

Picture the multinational forces of the antichrist moving up the Banias Valley on the southeast flank of Mount Hermon. The Newe Ativ Volcanic Complex sits at the top of this valley. An eruption in the Newe Ativ Caldera would send a very hot and glowing cloud of ash down the valley, and according to *Zechariah 14:12* the flesh of the troops moving up the valley would "consume away while they stand upon their feet and their eyes (would) consume away in their holes, and their tongues (would) consume away in their mouth." We know that these verses in *Zechariah* apply to a volcanic eruption because of the type of consumption described.

The fiery blast from a volcanic eruption (or pyroclastic flow) can reach temperatures upwards of 2000° F, and is capable of causing the specific effects on men described in *Zechariah 14:12*. In contrast, the fiery blast from a cometary impact could reach temperatures of many thousands of degrees, and people caught down range from an impact would be instantly and completely vaporized. Further, *Isaiah 34:8-9* seemingly makes reference to this lateral volcanic eruption on the "day of the Lord." First, *Isaiah 34:1-3* says,

<sup>\*</sup> Zechariah 9:15 says, "The Lord of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour and subdue with *sling stones* . . . ."

Come near, ye nations to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies; he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the *mountains* shall be melted with their blood.

Isaiah 34:1-3

Then Isaiah 34:8-9 says,

For it is the *day of the Lord's vengeance* and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion. (9) And the streams thereof (of Zion) shall be turned into pitch (*lava - zeh-feth*, word #2203 in *Strong's Concordance*, a root meaning to "*liquefy*" as in molten rock or *lava*), and the dust thereof into brimstone (volcanic eruptions release brimstone or burning sulfur), and the land thereof shall become burning pitch (*lava*, word #2203 in *Strong's Concordance*).

#### Isaiah 34:8-9

The troops that are not killed by the burning cloud will then be struck down by a "plague" of "great hail" that involves an "exceeding great" fall of one hundred pound stones of cometary ice (Revelation 16:21 and 11:19).\* This is not unlike (Ecclesiastes 1:9 and 3:15) the time when "great stones from heaven" helped Joshua win a victory over the five kings of the Amorites (the king of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon) that were gathered against him (Joshua 10:3-14). Joshua 10:11 says "the Lord cast down great stones from heaven . . . (and) they were more which died with (cometary) hailstones than they who the children of Israel slew with the sword." Joshua 10:42 explains that "all these kings and their land did Joshua

Zechariah 14:13 tells how in this "great tumult" the invading troops will turn on each other, as "they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbor, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbor ('they will attack each other' - NIV). Ezekiel 38:21 which tells about this same battle tells how "every man's sword shall be against his brother." Ironically, as the word Har-mageddon as used in Revelation 16:16 should be translated as "mountain rendezvous of troops;" it could also be translated as a "mountain gathering of troops to cut one selves." This is because the Hebrew word megiddo (#4023 in Strong's Concordance) that is translated as "rendezvous" comes from the Hebrew word gaw-dad (#1413 in Strong's Concordance), which means "to crowd" or "gash" as if by pressing into, or "gather selves together in troops" or "cut selves." In this the word Har-mageddon more completely describes the battle of Ezekiel 38-39. Also there is precedent for when Ezekiel 38:21 and Zechariah 14:13 say that the invading troops will turn on each other. Judges 7:22 speaks of Gideon's great victory in battle when "the Lord set every man's sword against his fellow." I Samuel 14:20 tells how Israel's King Saul won a battle against the Philistines and "every man's sword was against his fellow and there was a very great discomfiture." II Chronicles 20:17-23 tells how King Jehoshaphat of Judah won a great battle when the Lord sent confusion against the invading forces of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir and they all helped to destroy one another.

take at one time, because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel."

Ezekiel 38:19-23, talks about the great end times battle in Israel, and reflects the sequence of events that has been suggested here. This "Sequence" includes a cosmic impact that causes an earthquake with great shaking, a volcanic eruption that blows out the side of a mountain and sends a fiery cloud of rock, ash, and burning sulfur on the antichrist's troops, and then one hundred pound hailstones and burning sulfur from cometary ice raining down on the troops. Ezekiel 38:19-23 says:

Surely in that day there shall be *great shaking* in the land of Israel . . . (20) all the men that are upon the face of the earth (land) shall shake at my *presence*, and the *mountains shall be thrown* down, and the steep places shall fall . . . (22) I will rain upon him and upon his bands ('troops' – NAS, NIV), and upon the many people ('nations – NIV) that are with him . . . great hailstones, fire, and brimstone (burning sulfur). (23) Thus, I will magnify myself and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations and they shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 38:19-23

Ezekiel 39:4-5 adds:

Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort,

Copyrighted Material

and to the beasts of the field to be devoured . . . (6) And I will send a fire on *Magog* (the antichrist and the armies of the lands or nations that are part of his empire).

#### Ezekiel 39:4-5

After the initial impact or impacts, the burning volcanic cloud, and the cometary hailstones, it seems that at least one much bigger and more penetrating impact is to lead to the Earth being rocked in space (*Isaiah 13:13* and *Isaiah 24:18-23*). This bigger impact is to also lead to the cities of the nations falling due to the earthquake of unprecedented size (bigger than any since men have been on the Earth - *Revelation 16:18-19*) this impact causes. *Jeremiah 30:23-24* and *Jeremiah 25:31-32* (also *Jeremiah 23:19-20*) may relate to the Earth being rocked in space, and the great shock wave and winds that would occur when they say:

Behold, the *whirlwind* of the Lord goeth forth with fury, a continuing *whirlwind*: it shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked. The fierce anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the *latter days* ye shall consider (understand) it.

Jeremiah 30:23-24

A noise shall come even to the ends of then earth; for the Lord hath a *controversy with the nations*, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are

## Copyrighted Material

wicked to the sword, saith the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great *whirlwind* shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

#### Jeremiah 25:31-32

II Peter 3:10-13 tells how such a mega impact on "the day of the Lord" would temporarily engulf the entire planet in flames so that everything is burned up, including the atmosphere and the oceans; where the "elements shall melt with fervent heat" (also see Isaiah 66:15-16). As discussed in Chapter Seven regarding the Seventh Trumpet and Vial, a crust penetrating mega impact could raise the temperature of the Earth's interior and also cause vast amounts of molten rock to rise up from the Earth's mantle and flood out onto the Earth's surface. From all of this activity, the Earth's relatively thin crust could come to melt so that "every island fled away and the mountains were not found" (Revelation 16:19). While all the mountains and islands would have been shaken and moved at the start of the day, now with the much bigger impact the mountains and islands, and all of the Earth's crust would literally melt away leaving the Earth with a molten surface, a sea of molten rock, not unlike the Moon's Mares. As science has come to learn of continental drift and then of plate tectonics; the reality of catastrophic melting of the Earth's crust represents the geological "END GAME," a game we have seen played out on planet Venus. No one and nothing would survive as the Earth undergoes a "Baptism of Fire" (Matthew 3:11-12, also see Matthew 13:40-42, and 49-50). In the Old Testament fire was used for cleansing and such a Baptism of Fire would cleanse

both heaven (the atmosphere) and the Earth. <sup>50</sup> After this cleansing, when all cools down again, there would be a new crust, a new Earth, and a new heaven (atmosphere) (*II Peter 3:10-13*).

Before this very big impact that comes to engulf the Earth in a sort of "Baptism of Fire," there is a "most spectacular" event that takes place in the heavens for all mankind to see. This event will be taken up in the next chapter.

\* \* \* \*

We have looked at the battle of Armageddon, the description of the winepress running with blood, how the Seven Seals relate to the Seven Trumpets and Vials, God's response to the multinational attack of Israel, and what happens at the return of Jesus. We have put forth explanations for the events that the Bible warns of and have seen how they are scientifically possible. We have also seen how the Bible provides important scientific information that modern researchers in geology, archeology and astronomy have only recently been able to recognize. A better understanding of the disastrous events that Scripture says will befall the nations and their armies on the day of Jesus' return could help us integrate the timing and relationship of these events to each other.\*

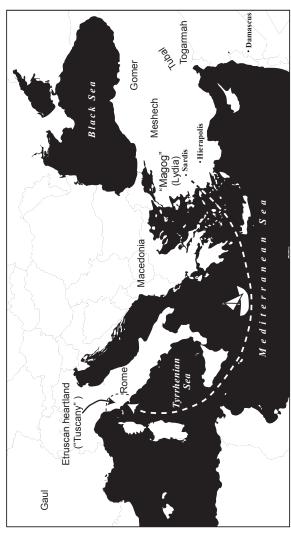
From *THE COMETS OF GOD* by Jeffrey Goodman, Ph.D.

# www.thecometsofgod.com

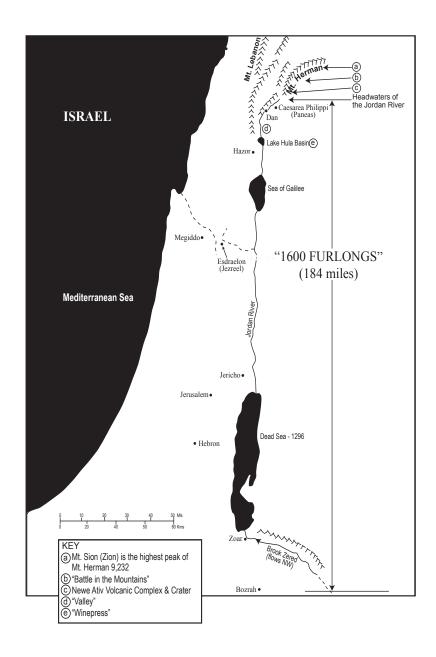
<sup>\*</sup> It must be remembered that the "Sequence" of events given here is not absolute and only a possibility. The thrust of this book is on the interpretation of the physical events prophesized by Scripture. Theological arguments are not in the domain of this book.



THE VIKING ORIGINS OF RUSSIA Groups of Viking traders called the "Rus" traveling in shallow draft ships moved along the great rivers of Russia to establish trading posts which became the region's major cities (for example: Novgorod, Bulgar, Kiev and Moscow). According to the 12th century document known as the *Primary Chronicle* in 852 AD the land around Kiev was named "Rus" and the inhabitants called "Russes." The renowned Arab Chronicler *Ibn Fadlan* (921 AD) tells how he met a group of tall, blond haired Swedish traders called the "Rus" along the Volga River near the Bulgar capital. The Rus came to rule over the local Slavic people and found the Russian state. The belief that Russian origins involve Magog and/or the Scythians (see previous diagram) is contrary to historical fact. Russia is NOT the so-called "*Evil Empire*" of *Ezekiel 38/39*.



Ezra 4:15, 19). **LYDIAN MIGRATION TO ITALY** An early Lydian dynasty experienced a prolonged famine which caused half of Court Records of the Assyrians"; the primary source on this subject. These same Assyrian Court records are referred to in the Bible "Gyges of Lydia." To the Assyrians this same leader was known as "Gugu King of Ludu," and "Gugu of Magugu." Ezekiel referred to ANCIENT NATIONS OF EZEKIEL 38/39 Ezekiel 38/39 makes reference to a group of ancient nations that are all found in Asia Minor: Magog (Lydia), Meshech, Tubal, Togarmah and Gomer. The correct identification of these nations comes from the "Royal the Lydian population to migrate to the west coast of Italy, just north of Rome. The Romans called these Lydian migrants "Etruscans" The Etruscans settled in an area called Tuscany and they helped found the city of Rome and iump start the Roman civilization. Hundreds of years after this migration, the Lydian population in Asia Minor came to be ruled by a militant ruler whom the Greeks called his same leader as "Gog of Magog" where "Magog" means "the land of Gog."



**BLOOD TO FLOW A DISTANCE OF 1600 FURLONGS** "And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horses' bridles by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs." *Revelation* 14:20

# Copyrighted Material