

Yovel

19th issue/ May 2023

"When once the existence of God
guaranteed the existence of Israel,
today the continued existence
of the people Israel guarantees the
existence of God."
Emil Fackenheim

IN THIS ISSUE:

Final Essays of Yovel Magazine

TO KNOW THE SON OF GOD -
FINAL CHAPTERS

THE WAR OF GOG -
Parts I and II

Photo: Markus Nurmesniemi

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"Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan."

(Lev. 25:9-10)

In Hebrew the fiftieth year is called **Yovel**, a celebration year, jubilee. It is the year of the blowing of the ram's horn. Thus Yovel got its name from the shofar announcing the beginning of the year.

The sound of the Yovel declares the beginning of a new era, the era of God's favour towards Israel. In Hebrew the word yovel can be read in two ways. Either "yovel", which means a ram or a ram's

horn like a shofar, or in passive voice "yuval", is led or was led, like in Isaiah 53: "he was led like a lamb to the slaughter... for the transgression of my people he was punished."

Like a lamb which has a desire to follow its shepherd humbly, to be led, "yuval".

The three names of the shofar are like a road signs on our salvation path: **Keren**, which is the name including the personal calling, rose up in smoke with the sacrificed ram instead of Isaac (Gen. 22:13). On Mount Sinai the Israelites heard the sound of that horn, **Shofar**, for the first time when it called the people to make the change, a turn a round, teshuva.

The nation learned the sound of the shofar when The Lord himself blew the horn (Ex. 19:16).

From that point on the Israelites

were commanded to blow themselves on the shofar (Lev. 25:9), until The Sovereign Lord himself blows it, this time the shofar called **Yovel** (Zech. 9:14).

Then He will announce freedom, liberation, a jubilee to all nations, to all of those who will hear His voice.

Yeshua the Messiah, Jesus Christ, started his ministry in the synagogue declaring with the words of Isaiah 61:1-2 proclaiming good news to the poor, freedom for the captives, release from darkness for the prisoners and proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor.

Proclaiming the jubilee, which is The Messiah himself.

In Him is the heritage restored, the one we lost in the garden of Eden. In Him is the essence of Yovel. (<http://torah-art.net>)

Markus Nurmesniemi



In this issue:

Editorial: This is Yovel	p. 2
Keijo Lindeman: To Know the Son of God: Yeshua - The Son of God, part I	p. 3-9
Keijo Lindeman: To Know the Son of God: Yeshua - The Son of God, part II	p. 10-15
Keijo Lindeman: The War of Gog, part I	p. 16-20
Keijo Lindeman: The War of Gog, part II	p. 21-27

Editorial

This is Yovel

"Shalom chaverim!

You are now holding in your hands the fruit of the small beginnings.

This journal is a result of an idea slowly molding in the heart in time...

The final impulse to the launch was three different visions from a three different persons. All of the visions pointed to the same goal, shedding light to different sides of the whole picture."

These were the first words which started the first Yovel-magazine in 2017.

The 50th year is called Yovel in Hebrew, Jubilee, the year of the sounding of the ram's horn.

The first Yovel-Magazine was published at the same time when Jerusalem was celebrated because of its Jubilee, the 50th year of liberation in the Six Day War in 1967.

Yovel is the Jubilee which the Bible declares:

Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan."
(Lev. 25:9-10)

Every issue's page nr 2 has been explaining the term since the beginning.

Now, today, the magazine is published for the last time. At the same time I can declare my own Jubilee and "liberation" from the duties of editorial-in-chief. My year of Jubilee started last January when I turned 50. The world has changed dramatically since the start of this magazine. Yet I feel that this magazine has fulfilled its purpose which it was set out to do.

It has, for its part, been delivering the message of restoration of all things. Although the publishing ends, the magazine will live on in the internet. All of the issues are found on our website www.yovel-magazine.com. From there you can find also other materials published.

I would wholeheartedly like to thank each and every one of the magazine's writers for these memorable years and co-operation.

Thank you Keijo Lindeman, Dr John Garr, Dr Clifford Denton, Paul Sumner, Joseph Shulam, Kalle Venäläinen, Eddie Chumney, Carl Coke, Michael Rood, Roger Finch, Markku Hokkanen and others. Thank you Pirjo Pulli and Tanja Lehto for translating the articles into English.

And big hand and thanks to you all readers. You are the reason why this magazine was established.

This journal was also born in homage for late Anna Hänninen (19.9.1926 – 11.3.2017), honouring her life's work in The Messiah. Her long lasting and tireless praying and intercession for the restoration of Israel, for the unity of The Bride of The Messiah, and for the little children in distress made a legacy, which "Yovel" in part wanted to take on. Her love for Israel and for the roots of our faith built bridges for the Israel-connection in ways which are constantly bearing fruit.

The world have been going through fundamental changes and turmoils during Yovel-Magazine's run. Nothing is the same anymore. Donald Trump's presidency divided the USA.



Covid embraced the entire human race with its cold limbs. USA withdrew its forces from Afghanistan with catastrophic consequences. Iran is building its nuclear capabilities.

Russia's war on Ukraine started already in 2014 with the invasion of Crimea, and now the war is escalating tensions between the East and the West. China is stepping in front of the world stage to be a major conductor. But all this is pointing to a certain direction. We can almost hear the footsteps of the Groom. Also the restoration of all things is rapidly advancing (Acts. 3:21).

I now leave this journal to the hands of our Lord, Yeshua being the ultimate chief editor.

Let us prepare the way for the Lord, and let's make straight paths for him!

Maranatha!

Markus Nurmesniemi
editor in chief

To Know the Son of God ep. 3

Yeshua - The Son of David, part 1



Photo: Markus Nurmesniemi

Written by:
Keijo Lindeman

Israel wants to have a king

"When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges over Israel. The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second was Abijah. They were judges in Beersheba. But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside toward dishonest gain, accepting bribes and perverting justice. So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah.

"Look," they said, "you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king to judge us like all the other nations." But when they said, "Give us a king to judge us," their demand was displeasing in the sight of Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And

the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you. For it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected Me as their king" (1 Sam. 8:1-7).

"Then Samuel took a flask of oil, poured it on Saul's head, kissed him, and said, "Has not the LORD anointed you ruler over His inheritance?"

As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all the signs came to pass that day. When Saul and his servant arrived at Gibeah, a group of prophets met him. Then the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied along with them.

All those who had formerly known Saul and saw him prophesying with the prophets asked one another, "What has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul

also among the prophets" (1 Sam. 10:1, 9-11).

After the days of Moses and Joshua, Israel was led by the judges. When Samuel had become old, he appointed his sons as judges. His sons, however, were not righteous and just in their ways, which was why the people asked for a king like all other nations had.

This request offended Samuel but the Lord told him that the people had actually rejected the Lord as their king. God agreed to the people's request, and Saul was made Israel's first king.

Samuel anointed Saul by pouring oil on his head, and the Spirit of God came upon Saul. But because Saul did not obey the instructions and commandments God had given he

lost his kingship. God chose a better man to take Saul's place as the king of Israel.

Then Samuel said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people Israel. Now therefore, listen to the words of the LORD. This is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'I witnessed what the Amalekites did to the Israelites when they ambushed them on their way up from Egypt. Now go and attack the Amalekites and devote to destruction all that belongs to them. Do not spare them, but put to death men and women, children and infants, oxen and sheep, camels and donkeys...' "Stop!" exclaimed Samuel. "Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night." "Tell me," Saul replied. And Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, have

you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel and sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and devote to destruction the sinful Amalekites.

Fight against them until you have wiped them out.' So why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you rush upon the plunder and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" "But I did obey the LORD," Saul replied.

"I went on the mission that the LORD gave me. I brought back Agag king of Amalek and devoted the Amalekites to destruction. The troops took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of the things devoted to destruction, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

But Samuel declared: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obedience to His voice? Behold, obedience is better than sacrifice, and attentiveness is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance is like the wickedness of

idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has rejected you as king." Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned; I have transgressed the LORD's commandment and your instructions, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, please forgive my sin and return with me so I can worship the LORD." "I will not return with you," Samuel replied. "For you have rejected the word of the LORD, and He has rejected you as king over Israel."

As Samuel turned to go, Saul grabbed the hem of his robe, and it tore. So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to your neighbor who is better than you" (1 Sam. 15:1-3; 16-28).

The Lord had told Saul to destroy totally the Amalekites, because they had attacked Israel in the desert when Israelites had left Egypt (Ex. 17:8-16).

However, Saul was disobedient and spared the life of

Agag, the king of Amalek, and took plunder against the Lord's clear commandment. (Later we meet Haman, the Agagite, who tried to destroy Jews in Persia. Read Esther 3.)

As an excuse for his disobedience Saul said he feared the people and spared the best of the cattle to sacrifice them to the Lord, even though the Lord had told him to destroy everything. In his answer to Saul Samuel pronounces an important principle: obedience is more important than sacrifice.

All kind of rebellion against the Lord's commandments is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. This is an important principle also for the New Covenant believers. No sacrifice nor any other measure can replace obedience and faithfulness to God's word and commandment.

David was anointed king over Israel

"So Samuel took the horn

of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power; Samuel then went to Ramah. Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him" (1 Sam. 16:13-14).

Not only did Saul lose his kingship, but what is worse, the Lord rejected him. Samuel anointed David king over Israel in Saul's place, and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David. The Spirit of the Lord left Saul and the Lord sent an evil spirit to torment him.

This is a warning example to New Covenant believers. If we sin and the Holy Spirit is grieved, we should quickly repent and ask for forgiveness (Eph. 4:30; Hebr. 6:4-6).

The blood of Yeshua will then cleanse us from our sin and we may go on living our life as Christians happy and rejoicing as the Holy Spirit also rejoices (1 John 1:7-9).

If we stubbornly keep on



Photo: Markus Nurmiesniemi



Photo: Markus Nurmesniemi

living in sin, we may well end up like Saul, the king of Israel. We will lose our redemption and the Spirit of the Lord will depart from us, which will leave the gates open also to evil spirits (Mat. 12:44-45; 2 Pet. 2:20-22).

Although David had been anointed king of Israel, he had to wait many years for his kingship to come true in real life. Saul, who was still the reigning king, was envious and jealous of him and tried to murder him.

David became king only after Saul's death. He reigned first as king in Hebron for seven years, and then he reigned over all Israel for thirty-three years (2 Sam. 5:1-5).

David had his faults; he sinned but in all his imperfection he was a man after God's heart. He was constantly dependent on God, asked Him for advice, and repented deeply and sincerely his sins (1 Kings 15:4-5; Acts 13:21-22; Ps. 51).

Promise of the eternal heir to David's throne

"And when your days are fulfilled and you rest with

your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He will build a house for My Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he will be My son. When he does wrong, I will discipline him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My loving devotion will never be removed from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I moved out of your way. Your house and kingdom will endure forever before Me, and your throne will be established forever." So Nathan relayed to David all the words of this entire vision" (2 Sam 7:12-17).

"You said, 'I have made a covenant with My chosen one, I have sworn to David My servant: 'I will establish your offspring forever and build up your throne for all generations'" (Ps 89:3-4).

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the gracious promise that I have spoken to the house of Israel and the house of

Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause to sprout for David a righteous Branch, and He will administer justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely, and this is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness [Hebrew OT: YHWH tsidkeinu]" (Jer. 33:14-16).

While David was still alive, the prophet Nathan gave him the promise that he would have a descendant, the Son of David, who would inherit the eternal throne of David. The Psalmist joins the prophet proclaiming that there will be a descendant of David who will be established for ever as the heir of the throne.

The prophet Jeremiah's prophecy speaks about the righteous Branch sprouting from David who will cause justice and righteousness to prevail in the country. Furthermore, Jeremiah prophesies that the people of Israel will be saved and that there will be a time when Jerusalem will live securely, which refers to the coming Thousand-year Messianic Kingdom of Peace (Isa. 2:1-

4, Rev. 20).

There is also an interesting reference to this special offspring of David: He is called by the name "YHWH our Righteousness". This means that along with God the Father also the Messiah, Son of David, is called by the name YHWH. At the same time "The LORD [YHWH] our Righteousness" refers to the precious fact that the Son of David will also be our righteousness.

This was made possible when He paid for our sins on the cross so that we would have forgiveness for our sins and be justified freely by grace through faith (Rom. 3:23-31).

The notice nailed to the cross: "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" (John 19:19) also refers to this.

Yeshua – the heir to David's throne

"A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Matt. 1:1).

"As Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting beside the road, begging. When he heard the

crowd going by, he asked what was happening. "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by," they told him. So he called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who led the way admonished him to be silent, but he cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and directed that the man be brought to Him. When he had been brought near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" "Lord," he said, "let me see again." "Receive your sight!" Jesus replied. "Your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God. And all the people who saw this gave praise to God" (Luke 18:35-43).

In the opening verse of his Gospel Matthew states that Yeshua is the promised Messiah, the Son of David. Many of Yeshua's contemporaries recognized Him as the Son of David, the heir of David's throne. One of them was the blind beggar sitting beside the road to Jericho whom

Yeshua the Son of David healed. The apostle Peter revealed to the Jews during the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) that Yeshua was the promised Messiah, the heir to David's throne.

"Brothers, I can tell you with confidence that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that He would place one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, to which we are all witnesses. Exalted, then, to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." Therefore let all Israel know with cer-

tainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ!" (Acts 2:29-36).

Yeshua was not the Son of David only 2000 years ago when He came on the earth to redeem us, but even in His resurrection body and in His glory He will be forever the Branch of David, the Offspring of the tribe of Judah.

"Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Then I saw a Lamb who appeared to have been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth"(Rev. 5:5-6).

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root the Offspring of David, and the bright Mor-

ning Star" (Rev. 22:16).

Yeshua is the eternal Branch of David, the Heir to David's throne, and He testifies to having been born from the tribe of Judah. Yeshua is a Jew and the King of the Jews for ever and ever.

Establishment of the Son of David's Kingdom

"In that day I will restore the fallen tent of David. I will repair its gaps, restore its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old, that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear My name" (Amos 9:11-12).

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from



Photo: Markus Nurmesniemi

that time on and for ever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this”(Isa.9:6-7).

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, you will know that her desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country stay out of the city.

For these are the days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. How miserable those days will be for pregnant and nursing mothers! For there will be great distress upon the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive into all the nations. And Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (Luke 21:20-24).

The kingdom of David was established about three thousand years ago, and David reigned for forty years in all, as did also his son Solomon after him.

Because of Solomon’s sins the kingdom, however, was split in two kingdoms during the reign of Solomon’s son Rehoboam (1 Kings 11:9-13).

The tribes of Judah and Benjamin remained with Rehoboam, while northern Israel and the ten other tribes made Jeroboam their king (1 Kings 12).

Because of disobedience, idolatry, and sin the northern kingdom, Israel, was deported to Assyria in 722 BCE (2 Kings 17), while the southern kingdom of Judah fell into captivity in 586 BCE. The Babylonian captivity of Judah lasted for 70 years (2 Chron. 36:11-21).

After the captivity a number of Jews returned to Judah and Jerusalem to rebuild and restore the land and the Temple.

The kingdom of Judah still existed in some form or another until 70 CE when the forces of the Roman empire invaded Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and took a large number of the people of Judah as prisoners to Rome to be sold on the slave market (Luke 21:5-6, 20:24).

Judah had its final death blow in 132 CE during the Bar Kochban revolt, when the Roman army put down the Jewish rebellion against Rome.

Once again Jewish citizens were deported and sold as slaves. The name of Jerusalem was changed into Aelia Capitolina, and the land of Israel was renamed Palestine, according to the Philistines, ancient arch-enemies of Israel.

The Jews were forbidden access to Jerusalem on pain of death. The land was left abandoned and desolate for nearly two thousand years; the kingdom of David had received its death blow.

However, the kingdom of David will not be left desolate and deserted for ever; it will be restored when “the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled”.

It will be established and confirmed by righteousness and justice. In 1948, after nearly two thousand years, the State of Israel was reborn. The divide is in the past; there is one unified nation of Israel in which all tribes live together, as Ezekiel has prophesied (Eze. 37).

The rebirth of the nation of Israel after centuries of diaspora did not happen without birth pains; there were many wars to fight from the day of the declaration of independence.

Even now extreme Muslims in the neighbouring Arab nations threaten her very existence; Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas terrorists in Gaza in the south.

Iran keeps threatening to wipe off Israel from the face of the earth and plans to develop nuclear weapons (Dan. 10.13-14, 20-21).

Everything will culminate in a great war when the enemies attack Jerusalem and Israel, just as Zechariah prophesies.

“This is the burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel. Thus declares the LORD, who stretches out the heavens and lays the foundation of the earth, who forms the spirit of man within him: “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness [OT Hebrew: saf ra’al= cup of poison] to all the surrounding peoples.

Judah will be besieged, as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth gather against her, I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone [OT Hebrew: even ma’amasah] for all the peoples; all who would heave it away will be severely injured.

On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and every rider with madness. I will keep a watchful eye on the house of Judah, but I will strike with blindness all the horses of the nations.

Then the leaders of Judah [OT Hebrew: alufei Yehudah: generals or leaders of the tribes] will say in their hearts: ‘The people of Jeru-

salem are my strength, for the LORD of Hosts is their God.’

On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among the sheaves; they will consume all the peoples around them on the right and on the left, while the people of Jerusalem remain secure there.

The LORD will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and of the people of Jerusalem may not be greater than that of Judah.

On that day the LORD will defend the people of Jerusalem, so that the weakest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the LORD going before them.

So on that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem” (Zech. 12:1-9).

Zechariah tells us that at the End of Days Jerusalem will be made a cup of poison, a heavy stone, an immovable rock for the nations who will eventually attack Jerusalem and Israel. This attack will take place in two phases.

First the surrounding nations will invade Jerusalem and Israel. The Psalm 83 describes how the neighbouring Muslim nations will come against Israel trying to destroy Israel so that “the name of Israel will be remembered no more”, and take possession of God’s dwelling place, Jerusalem.

The names of the attacking nations are given in the Psalm: Edom, Moab, Ammon (i.e.Jordania), Gebal, and Tyre (i.e.Lebanon), Philistine (i.e.Palestinians), Assur (i.e.Syria) and Iraq,

the Ishmaelites and the Hagrites (i.e. Egypt). The Psalmist asks God to terrify them with His fire and storm so that they may seek the God of Israel.

(There are at least three different interpretations of this Psalm 83. One says that it became true in Israel's war of independence and the wars following it. According to another, it is part of the enemy forces' attack at the End of Days. The third interpretation suggests there will be a separate war at the End of Days, when the surrounding nations try to destroy Israel. After this war there will be an even greater attack led by Gog and his allies, as Ezekiel chapters 38-39 prophesy. This third interpretation seems most

likely.)

Besides the Psalm 83, also Zechariah's prophecy speaks about enemy nations attacking Israel.

Their horses (fighter planes) will be stricken with panic, steering systems will go wild, and pilots will go mad (See Rev.9 flying horses).

The leaders (generals) of Judah will eventually use atom weapons against the enemy and fire will consume them and the surrounding nations (Isa. 17:1-2; Jer. 46-50). T

his is how God will destroy all Gentile nations which come against Jerusalem. There are many other biblical prophecies that tell us how God will prepare a pla-

ce for the vast number of Jews returning to Israel in the End time Exodus; they will inhabit Samaria, Lebanon, Golan, the east coast of Jordan (Edom), and the south (Zech.12; Obad. 12-21; Isa. 26:15-21; Gen. 15:18).

"And this will be the plague with which the LORD strikes all the peoples who have warred against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

On that day a great panic from the LORD will come upon them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of one will rise against the other. Judah will also fight at Jerusalem, and the wealth of

all the surrounding nations will be collected—gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance. And a similar plague will strike the horses and mules, camels and donkeys, and all the animals in those camps" (Zech. 14:12-15).

Zechariah's text makes one think of the use of a neutron bomb that will "roast" all living creatures, men and animals, in their places, but that causes no great harm to the infrastructure.

Let me remind you that the father of the first atom bomb, the so-called fusion bomb, was a Jew by the name of Robert Oppenheimer, in the U.S.; the H-bomb was developed in the U.S. by Edward Teller (non-Jew), and the neut-



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ron bomb was developed by Samuel Cohen, a Jew. We can be certain that Israel is not without knowledge and skill concerning nuclear weapons, even if Israel does not officially confess to being a nuclear weapon nation.

In the middle of all these tribulations the Spirit of grace and supplication will be poured over the nation of Israel, and the remnant will be saved.

They will receive their pierced Messiah, Yeshua Son of David, as their King and Saviour.

"Then I will pour out on the house of David and on the people of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and prayer, and they will look on Me, the One they have pierced. They will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

On that day the wailing in

Jerusalem will be as great as the wailing of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land will mourn, each clan on its own: the clan of the house of David and their wives, the clan of the house of Nathan and their wives, the clan of the house of Levi and their wives, the clan of Shimei and their wives," (Zech. 12:10-13)

According to Zechariah, repentance will start from the house of David, i.e. administrators of Israel, from the house of Nathan, the prophets, the house of Levi, the clergy, and the house of Shimei, government officials.

They will be followed by the rest of the people, and the whole nation will repent and receive the crucified and resurrected Son of Man, Yeshua Hamashiah, as their Saviour and King. That is when the message of apostle Paul in Romans

will be fulfilled: after the full number of the Gentiles has come in, "all Israel will be saved" (Rom. 11:25-27, Greek UT).

You may have wondered why the prophet Zechariah writes "and their wives" separately after each name of the tribe he gives.

If we ask the Rabbies what reasons they give for the custom of men and women sitting separately in orthodox synagogues, they refer to this passage of Zechariah.

Interestingly this means that the synagogues and gatherings in the synagogues will play a central part in the repentance of the people of Israel when they receive their crucified and resurrected Messiah.

Please remember that along with home groups synagogues were important places for the early church gatherings, as it reads in

the letter to the Hebrews and in James's letter in their original Greek (episy-nagogen = synagogue; gathering in Heb.10:25; synagogen= to the synagogue, to the meeting, James 2:2).

Christian denominations and organizations have done much to help Israel and for Israel to be saved, but at the end of this age God no longer wants to have these thousands of various denominations and faith movements propagating their favourite doctrines in Israel.

His desire is that the people of Israel be saved from her own national and cultural ground according to the model of the early church as one Messianic people of priests in the coming Messianic Thousand year Kingdom of the Son of Man (Isa. 61:4-6).

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To Know the Son of God ep. 4

Yeshua - The Son of David, part 2



Photo: Jasmina Nurmesniemi

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Keijo Lindeman

The Son of David will come with His holy ones to rescue Israel from destruction.

"Behold, a day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided in your presence. For I will gather all the nations for battle against Jerusalem, and the city will be captured, the houses looted, and the women ravished.

Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be removed from the city. Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle.

On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Oli-

ves, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half the mountain moving to the north and half to the south. You will flee by My mountain valley, for it will extend to Azal. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD [YHWH, Yahweh] my God will come, and all the holy ones with Him" (Zech. 14:1-5).

"Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: 'See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly

acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him'" (Jude 14-15).

In the second phase, according to Zechariah's prophecy, all the nations will come against Jerusalem and Israel.

The city of Jerusalem will fall into the enemy's hands and half of the city will go into exile. This is when the Son of Man, Yeshua the Messiah, Yahweh, will come with His holy angels and His holy ones (believers) in their resurrection bodies, to rescue Israel, to judge the world, and to establish His Thousand-year Messianic Kingdom on

the earth. It was from the Mount of Olives that the Messiah ascended to heaven on a cloud, and in the same way He will return to the Mount of Olives with His holy ones (Acts 1:9-11).

In this connection, Zechariah calls the Son of Man returning to the Mount of Olives by the name of YHWH.

When the feet of the Lord (YHWH) touch the Mount of Olives, the mountain will be split in two, leaving in between a valley where the Israelis will flee to escape the enemy.

It is probable that the Islamic abominations, Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa, as well as Catholic abomi-

Photo: Jasmina Nurmesniemi



nations, will fall into that ravine. The late Messianic pioneer Moshe Immanuel Ben Meir had an interesting theory concerning the split in two of the Mount of Olives and the flight of the Israelis.

The words "you will flee" is "nastem" in Hebrew, but because the vowels were not marked, this word can also be read "nistam", which means "it will close up".

In other words, the Israelis will flee "nastem" to find refuge in the ravine caused by the splitting of the mountain, the enemy will pursue them, and the Mount of Olives will close up "nistam".

The enemy will perish like the Egyptians in the Red Sea when they were chasing the Israelites (Ex. 14; 15:12).

The Book of Revelation also refers to this possibility (Rev. 12.15-16). The river, i.e. the troops the enemy sends against the woman

Israel, will perish when the earth swallows them like it swallowed Korah who rose against Moses (Num.16).

The Mount of Olives will close up and swallow the enemy. Israel will be saved and the Messianic Kingdom will be established.

Will two-thirds of Israel perish?

"And in all the land, declares the LORD, two-thirds will be cut off and perish, but a third will be left in it. This third I will bring through the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'" (Zech. 13:8-9).

Let us consider this prophecy a bit closer. There are many interpretations of this text. One of them assumes that two-thirds of mankind will perish in the final judgement and only

a third of mankind will remain.

There is no solid ground for this theory as the context speaks unequivocally of the Jewish people and Israel.

Another interpretation says that this happened in 70 CE when the Roman forces invaded Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple.

Two-thirds of the Jews died and one third were taken captive and deported to Rome where they were sold in slave markets.

Zechariah's prophecy, however, refers to the End times, which, as I see it, means that the interpretation was only partially fulfilled in 70 CE. According to the third interpretation two-thirds of Jews have already died in Europe and in the whole world in pogroms, persecutions, and the nazi Holocaust.

The fourth interpretation suggests that two-thirds of the Jews in the world or

Israel will perish at the End of Days, and only one third will survive and receive their Messiah.

Which interpretation, if any, is correct? We get help from the original Hebrew text in verse 8: "...pi shnaym bah yikartu yigvau vehashlishit yivater bah veheviti et hashlishit baesh utsraftim..."

"Pi shnaym" is a mathematical term meaning "two times". The text is not easy to translate, but it could be interpreted like this: "...two times there will be destruction and (people) starve/die, and the third time I will give up/reject/back off/agree/accept/forgive there and bring the third or the third time to the fire and cleanse..."

We have also Jeremiah's prophecy that gives us more light.

"Yet behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Isra-

elites up out of the land of Egypt.’

Instead they will say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and all the other lands to which

He had banished them.’ For I will return them to their land that I gave to their forefathers. But for now I will send for many fishermen, declares the LORD, and they will catch them. After that I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill, even from the clefts of the rocks.

For My eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from My face, and their guilt is not concealed from My eyes. And I will first repay them double their iniquity and their sin, because they have defiled My land with the carcasses of their detestable idols, and they have filled My inheritance with their abominations” (Jer. 16:14-18).

We read here that before the great End time Exodus from the northern country

and from other countries, fishermen will try to persuade Jews to return to Israel, and hunters i.e. persecutors will chase them forcing them thus to return to Israel.

God will first repay them double their evil deeds and sins. The prophet Isaiah uses a similar expression.

“Comfort, comfort My people,” says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her forced labor has been completed; her iniquity has been pardoned. For she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins” (Isa. 40:1-2).

Before Israel and Jerusalem hear these words of comfort, the Jewish people and Jerusalem have been repaid twice (Heb. kiflaim) their sins by the hand of God. This has happened twice. Two times have Israel and the Temple been destroyed, two times has the people gone to exile. The first exile took place in two parts.

* The northern kingdom of

the divided Israel, the ten tribes (Ephraim/Joseph), were deported to Assyria in 722 BCE.

* The southern kingdom, Judah, was deported to Babylon for 70 years in King Nebuchadnezzar’s time in 586 BCE, the year in which Solomon’s temple was also destroyed.

The second time God sent the Romans against Israel in 70 CE. The Temple was destroyed and the Jews who had survived were deported to Rome and sold as slaves. The country was left desolate for almost two thousand years.

Now at the End of Days, the third time is near. The people of Israel will have to suffer the purification of God’s fire in order to be cleansed from their sins and in order to humble themselves to receive their Messiah Yeshua. The Prophet Malachi speaks about this.

“Behold, I will send My messenger, who will prepare the way before Me. Then the Lord whom you seek

will suddenly come to His temple—the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight—see, He is coming,” says the LORD of Hosts.

But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He will be like a refiner’s fire, like a launderer’s soap. And He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver. Then they will present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will please the LORD, as in days of old and years gone by” (Mal. 3:1-4).

On the eve of the Messiah’s coming the people of Israel will be purified in fire for them to be a holy nation of priests in the Messiah’s Kingdom.

The same applies to the Lord’s church; the church also needs to be purified in fire so that they will be holy and unblemished for the coming of the Messiah and the rapture.

Photo: Jasmina Nurmesniemi



The eternal Kingdom of the Son of David

"Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "And you, son of man, take a single stick and write on it: 'Belonging to Judah and to the Israelites associated with him.' Then take another stick and write on it: 'Belonging to Joseph—the stick of Ephraim—and to all the house of Israel associated with him.' Then join them together into one stick, so that they become one in your hand.

When your people ask you, 'Won't you explain to us what you mean by these?' you are to tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel associated with him, and I will put them together with the stick of Judah. I will make them into a single stick, and they will become one in My hand.'

When the sticks on which you write are in your hand and in full view of the people, you are to tell

them that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'I will take the Israelites out of the nations to which they have gone, and I will gather them from all around and bring them into their own land.

I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel, and one king will rule over all of them. Then they will no longer be two nations and will never again be divided into two kingdoms.

They will no longer defile themselves with their idols or detestable images, or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all their apostasies by which they sinned, and I will cleanse them.

Then they will be My people, and I will be their God. My servant David will be king over them, and there will be one shepherd for all of them.

They will follow My ordinances and keep and observe My statutes.

They will live in the land that I gave to My servant Jacob, where your fathers lived. They will live there forever with their children

13

and grandchildren, and My servant David will be their prince forever.

And I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place [Hebrew OT "mishkan"; also Tabernacle in OT] will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be My people.

Then the nations will know that I the LORD sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is among them forever" (Eze. 37:15-28).

Ezekiel's prophecy reveals us God's plan for the people of Israel as far as eternity. The ten tribes of the northern part of the divided Israel will be joined with the southern kingdom of Judah into one kingdom.

This is what has already happened; when the State of Israel was born, it gathered all the tribes together after almost two thousand years of diaspora (14.05.1948). (This process is still in progress, but it will

have its ultimate fulfillment in the End time Exodus, Eze.39:28-29.)

The people of Israel will be cleansed of their sins and they will receive their King and Saviour, Yeshua the Messiah, the Son of David. David will be their king forever.

This David will be the Son of David, Yeshua the Messiah, or the resurrected King David will reign as king of Israel under the authority of Yeshua, the Son of David, who is the King of kings, King over all the earth (Luke 1:32-33; Rev. 19:11-16).

Yeshua's twelve apostles will rule over the twelve tribes of Israel in the Messianic Kingdom (Luke 22:28-30).

"Look," Peter replied, "we have left everything to follow You. What then will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, in the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have fol-

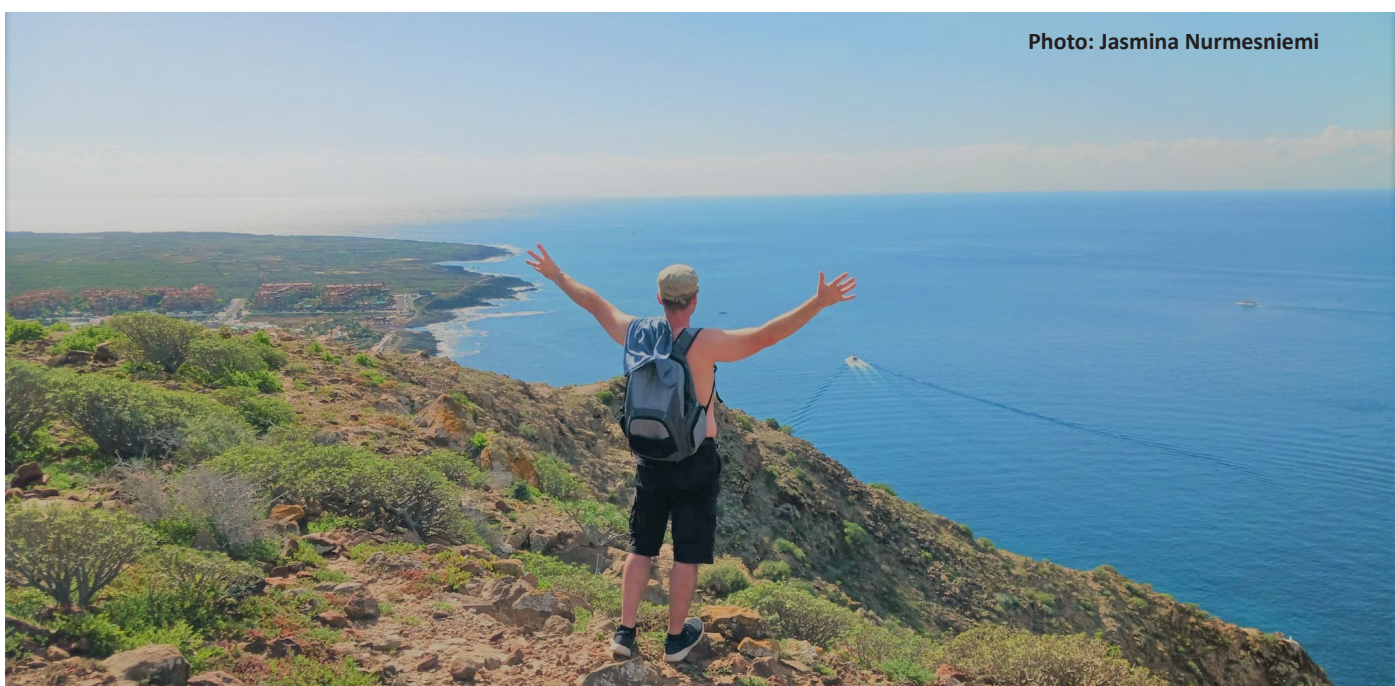


Photo: Jasmina Nurmesniemi

lowed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for the sake of My name will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first" (Mat. 19:27-30).

According to Ezekiel the sanctuary will be among them (Israel) for ever. The land of Israel will be allotted between the tribes (Eze. 48).

The third Temple, the Temple of the Thousand-year Kingdom of David, will be built in Jerusalem like Micah and Isaiah have prophesied (Mi. 4:1-4).

"This is the message that was revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

And many peoples will come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us His ways so that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. Then He will judge between the nations and arbitrate for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer take up the sword against nation, nor train anymore for

war" (Isa. 2:1-4).

All nations will stream to the Temple of Jerusalem to listen to the Lord's word delivered to them by the believing Messianic people of priests of Israel.

Thus the knowledge of God's word and the Torah, taught by the Israelis, will spread over all the earth from Jerusalem.

Righteousness and peace will reign over the earth among nations when the Son of David with His holy ones rules over the world with an iron sceptre (Rev. 2:26-29).

God's faithful servants, resurrected holy ones who have obeyed God's word, will rule for a thousand years over the Messianic Kingdom together with the Son of David, one over ten cities, another over five etc. (Luke 19:11-28; Mat. 25:14-30).

"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the Abyss, holding in his hand a great chain.

He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

And he threw him into the Abyss, shut it, and sealed it over him, so that he could not deceive the nations until the thousand years were complete.

After that, he must be released for a brief period of time. Then I saw the thrones, and those seated on them had been given authority to judge.

And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus and for the word of God,

and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image, and had not received its mark on their foreheads or hands.

And they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years were complete. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection!

The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years" (Rev. 20:1-6).

The enemy of our souls with his allies will be thrown into the Abyss where they are kept in chains for a thousand years, so that he cannot come and deceive the nations and disturb the peace and righteousness on the earth (Isa. 24:21-23).

The resurrected holy ones, who have the blessed and unique privilege of being in the first resurrection, will reign with the Son of David.

Ezekiel writes that God's dwelling place will be with them (Eze. 37: 27).

This would mean that the heavenly Jerusalem, which is called God's dwelling place (Hebrew NT mishkan) in Revelation 21:3, will descend from heaven and stay in the air (space) over the earthly Jerusalem in order to be a base for the holy ones from which they will come to the earth to do the work Yeshua gives them.

There will be life on two levels then. Those from the nations and their descendants who have survi-

ved the last judgment will live in flesh on the Edenic earth, and the holy ones, believers in their resurrected state, will reign with the Messiah for a thousand years (Rev. 21:1-3; Isa. 11; 65:17-25).

The Kingdom of the Son of David in the new heaven and the new earth

"When the thousand years are complete, Satan will be released from his prison, and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to assemble them for battle.

Their number is like the sand of the seashore. And they marched across the broad expanse of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them.

And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, into which the beast and the false prophet had already been thrown.

There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and the One seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from His presence, and no place was found for them.

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne. And there were open books, and one of them was the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their deeds, as recorded in the books.

The sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead, and each one was judged according to his deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown

into the lake of fire.

This is the second death—the lake of fire. And if anyone was found whose name was not written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man, and He will dwell with them.

They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. (Rev. 20:7-21:3).

When the thousand years have gone by, Satan and his followers will be released from the Abyss for the final sifting; the rebellious will be separated from the God obeying righteous.

Satan and his followers will work up against God those people who harbour

thoughts of rebellion in their hearts, and they will come against Jerusalem and the camp of the saints across the breadth of the earth.

But fire comes down from heaven and consumes the enemy. This would be the so-called End of the world, when the old heaven and earth disappear.

The dead will be summoned in front of the throne of the Son of David in order to be judged; this would be the so-called Last Judgment in which the resurrected holy ones will judge with Christ, and every one will be judged according to their deeds (John 5:26-29; 1 Cor. 6:1-3).

Satan and his followers will be thrown into the lake of fire. All the ungodly people whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be thrown into the lake of fire as well.

Believers will not be condemned; their sins have been forgiven by grace because they have put their trust in Yeshua (Rom. 8:1-

15

4).

After this, God will create a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness lives (2 Pet. 3:13).

The new heavenly Jerusalem will descend from heaven on the new earth to be the eternal dwelling place and administration center of God and the Lamb. The Son of David will hand over the Kingdom to God the Father so that God may be all in all (1 Cor. 15:20-28).

” Then the angel showed me a river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the main street of the city. On either side of the river stood a tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit and yielding a fresh crop for each month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse.

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be within the city, and His servants will worship Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night

in the city, and they will have no need for the light of a lamp or of the sun. For the Lord God will shine on them, and they will reign forever and ever” (Rev. 22:1-5).

The old world has disappeared; griefs and troubles from the old world won't come into mind (Isa. 65:17).

In the new world God the Father sits on His throne with the Lamb. Thus the Kingdom of the Son of David will continue in the new world for ever, and there is no end to it. This is the final, eternal destiny of all God's own who believe in Yeshua.

”He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end” (Luke 1:32-33).

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The War of Gog

Part 1

PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVES

"For we know in part and we prophesy in part" (1 Cor. 13:9)

Written by:
Keijo Lindeman

"And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, set your face against Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

Prophecy against him and declare that this is what the Lord GOD says: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws, and bring you out with all your army—your horses, your horsemen in full armor, and a great company armed with shields and bucklers, all brandishing their swords. Persia, Cush, and Put will accompany them, all with shields and helmets, as well as Gomer with all its troops, and Beth-togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you. Get ready; prepare yourself, you and all your company gathered around you; you will be their guard" (Eze. 38:1-7).

In 2014 Russia, supported by separatists, launched a military operation in the eastern part of Ukraine, and took over Crimea. A

more dangerous period began on February 24th in 2022 when Russia invaded barbarically Ukraine occupying parts of eastern Ukraine, but so far they have not succeeded in taking the Ukrainian capital Kyiv.

The Russian troops have committed many serious war crimes plundering, raping, and murdering civilians, whose bodies have been found in mass graves. Furthermore, Russians have deliberately bombed hospitals and other civil buildings and energy and water supplies, and they have also used forbidden arms.

Ukrainian civilians have been transported to Russia by force, even children, just like in Stalin's days in the USSR. Believers have experienced persecution, especially protestant pastors, who have been taken prisoners and deported to unknown destiny or murdered. Russia threatens the West with the use of nuclear weapons, and makes hybrid attacks also against Western countries.

Media blames Russia for having blown up the Nord Stream pipeline in the territorial waters of Denmark and Sweden.

This war has caused energy and food crisis and inflation

mainly in Europe but also in the rest of the world, and also a refugee crisis as Ukrainians flee the war to other countries and within their country. Many Russians flee from their own country as well, to escape from being sent to the front and eventually be killed, and having to fight against their sister nation.

For President Putin this war is not only against Ukraine but against the whole Western world.

At this moment we do not know if the war will expand and how it will continue. We don't know if this war will escalate to Gog's war, or if there will be times of peace or some local wars in the Middle East. One big question mark is whether the Russian President will stay in power or if he will be replaced.

If he is replaced there is no reason for a sigh of relief, because an even worse dictator might rise to power. The war in Ukraine has changed the world's situation for good and there is no return to yesterday in sight.

All this bears resemblance to what we read about Gog's war in prophet Ezekiel's book, chapters 38 and 39. In any case, in the light of Ezekiel's prophecy, we know that Gog will

wage war in Europe, also in the Northern countries in near future, and eventually the war will escalate to a nuclear war to all corners of the earth.

When Gog and his troops attack Israel, they will meet their destiny there and be doomed.

Only God knows the exact timing, details, and order, but we do well if we get prepared and trust that God controls everything.

He will protect His own and everything will happen just as He wills. We will study now more closely some common features and events of Gog's war in the light of Ezekiel's prophecy. We should bear in mind that our interpretations are imperfect which, however, should not stop us from taking a closer look on prophecies.

We should also remember that Gog's war according to Ezekiel is not the same as the war of Gog and Magog after the Thousand-year Kingdom of the Messiah, described in the Book of Revelation chapter 20. These wars do have similar features, e.g. the attack against Jerusalem, but they are different wars. The war of Gog in Ezekiel's book takes place before the beginning of the Thousand Year Kingdom. The corres-

ponding event in Revelation is found in the beginning of chapter 7 in which four angels are holding back the stormy winds of Gog's war to prevent them from raging freely until the 144,000 Israelites have been sealed and the End time revival has come true.

Russia is the land of Magog

We know from historical sources that the Scythians, i.e. Gog and Magog, lived in southern Russia over 2500 years ago. There have been Scythians also in China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Ukraine.

Biblical maps locate Gog and Magog in modern-day Turkey, but there are also old maps where Gog and Magog are located in Russian Siberia. Ezekiel writes that, seen from Israel, the land of Magog is in the far north, which seems to confirm that Magog is Russia (Eze. 38:14-15).

Around 880 – 1100 CE there was in eastern Europe a state called Kievan Rus' or Kyivan Rus'. It was also called by the name of Rus, from which come the words russki, russkaya, meaning the inhabitants of Rus. This Kyivan Russia may be historically considered as the predecessor of Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine (wikipedia). Ukraine has had a remarkable role in the birth of Russia, and it was a part of the great empire of the Soviet Union.

Among others this seems to be a reason why it is so hard for Russia to accept that Ukraine is now an in-

dependent state.

Gog – the Prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal

In his prophecy Ezekiel calls Gog the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal in the land of Magog. The original Hebrew reads: "nesi rosh mesekh ve'tuval". "Nesi" or "Nasi" means tribal leader, chairman of Sanhedrin, High priest, head or president of a state. In our modern days the term is mainly used in the meaning of "president".

"Rosh" means "head, the most high, beginning". The text may be interpreted from Hebrew as follows: "the most high president of Meshech and Tubal". Some interpret the word "Rosh" to mean Russia.

According to this interpretation the text would read: "president of Russia, Meshech and Tubal". There are interpretations which take Meshech for Moscow and Tubal for Tobolsk, former capital of Siberia.

Gog's Allies in the War

The prophet Ezekiel names Persia as one of Gog's ally. The territory of ancient Persian empire was wide; Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Iran, which is the heart of the ancient Persia.

The modern-day Shia Muslim Iran is now Israel's primary enemy, and it is constantly and openly threatening to destroy the Zionist state to which end it keeps rearming with rockets, missiles, and drones, aiming to manufacture nuclear weapons.

We read in Daniel's book

¹⁷ how the evil prince of Persia will rise against Israel at the End times (Dan. 10:13-14, 20-21).

Among the allies there is also Ethiopia, Cush in Hebrew, which is most likely the Islamic Sudan. Ezekiel mentions Put, today's Libya, which Daniel also names among the military forces attacking Israel at the End times (Eze. 38:1-5). Gomer, one of the allies, is found in Turkey's territory. Some assume that Gomer consists of Germanic peoples.

Beth Togarmah, mentioned in the prophecy, is Turkey, the Islamic land of Togar. As a member state of NATO, Turkey is in the wrong camp; eventually it will attack Israel with Gog's troops. Besides these countries there are other countries in Gog's army, as well, possibly some of former Soviet republics from the region where the Scythians lived in Middle Asia. Gog and his allies are preparing and rearming for a war against Israel, Europe, and the U.S. as well at the End of Days, the time we are now living in.

Lucifer's thrones in the land of Gog and in Togarmah

"How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the ground, O destroyer of nations. You said in your heart: 'I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mount of assembly, in the far reaches of the north. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will

make myself like the Most High."

But you will be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will stare; they will ponder your fate: "Is this the man who shook the earth and made the kingdoms tremble, who turned the world into a desert and destroyed its cities, who refused to let the captives return to their homes?" (Isa. 14:12-17).

"He [Yeshua] replied: 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven'" (Luke 10:18).

"Then a war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But the dragon was not strong enough, and no longer was any place found in heaven for him and his angels.

And the great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ.

For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down—he who accuses them day and night before our God. They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

And they did not love their lives so as to shy away from death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea; with great fury the devil has



come down to you, knowing he has only a short time" (Rev. 12:7-12).

Isaiah chapter 14 is an epigram of the king of Babylon, when he is being judged. The verses 14-17, however, speak prophetically of a second person who desires to be equal to God and rise up to heaven but will be thrown out of heaven.

Most interpreters of Biblical word agree that this person is Satan, Lucifer, also called "morning star" (as Yeshua in Rev. 22:16). Yeshua Himself tells how He saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning. In Isaiah's prophecy "morning star", i.e. Lucifer, Satan, is thrown from heaven because he rebelled against God.

We find a corresponding text in Revelation chapter 12; the dragon (Satan) is persecuting the woman Israel, and at the end time he is hurled down from heaven. Isaiah tells that Lucifer wants to establish his throne "on the Mount of Assembly far away in the north" (Isa. 14:13,

Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern). "Far away in the north" is in Hebrew "yarktey tsafon", which means "to the most far-away north" or "to the far north". We find the same expression about Gog and Togarmah. (Eze. 38:6 says about Gog in Hebrew "yarktey tsafon" "in the far north", and in Eze. 38:6 about Togarmah "from the far north".) The Book of Revelation places Satan in Pergamon, which is in Turkey (Rev. 2:12-13).

This means that at the End of Days, on the days of Gog's war, Lucifer, or Satan, wants to establish his throne in the camp of Gog, in the land of Magog and in the land of Togarmah.

This explains why Russia and Turkey behave as they do. All that is happening around us also speaks about the approaching second coming of our Messiah and the taking up of the church.

As we know from the Bible, Satan's ultimate goal is to establish his throne in Jerusalem, in the city of the great King, Yeshua the

Messiah, on Mount Zion, which is also "to the north" (Hebrew OT "yarktey tsafon"). Satan wants to take the Messiah's place and prevent His coming, but he will fail.

The Almighty God of Israel tells Gog to attack

"After a long time you will be summoned. In the latter years you will enter a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and all now dwell securely. You and all your troops, and many peoples with you will go up, advancing like a thunderstorm; you will be like a cloud covering the land. (Eze. 38:8-9).

"As for you, O son of man, prophesy against Gog and declare that this is what the Lord GOD says: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. I will turn you around, drive you along, bring you up from the far

north [Hebrew OT "yarktey tsafon"], and send you against the mountains of Israel (Eze. 39:1-2).

People are worried and afraid that the Russian invasion of Ukraine will escalate to the third world war, or Gog's war, which will be terrible and devastating.

Many Christians pray that God would stop the war and let peace cover the world. Peace is a good thing, and we should indeed be children of peace, but we shouldn't forget that what is written in the Bible will come true. In ancient times God made the Persian king Cyrus take over the Babylonian empire and rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple.

The Temple was rebuilt by Jews returning from the exile (Isa. 44:28-45:7). In the same way God will command, in the End times, the ten kings mentioned in Revelation to accomplish His purpose in order to condemn the ungodly world (Rev. 17:15-18). (Notice that Islam is also under



God's authority.)

We need to understand that it is the Almighty God of Israel who tells Gog and his allies to fight. He puts hooks in Gog's jaws and forces him and his army to attack and go even to the mountains of Israel to meet their destiny.

Gog will come like a thunderstorm, like a cloud converging the land, which refers to the use of airforce. The attack will be violent, but Gog will perish.

Why does God allow the war of Gog?

Why does God allow Russia's barbaric invasion of Ukraine, and eventually of Europe and Israel? It is a crucial question; the Bible offers us a few answers. First, we have come to the time when God's judgments start to manifest in the ungodly world, which is filled with wickedness and

sin in all its forms.

The prophet Isaiah writes about that time:

"Behold, the Day of the LORD is coming—cruel, with fury and burning anger—to make the earth a desolation and to destroy the sinners within it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light. The rising sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light.

I will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their iniquity. I will end the haughtiness of the arrogant and lay low the pride of the ruthless. I will make man scarcer than pure gold, and mankind rarer than the gold of Ophir. Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken from its place at the wrath of the LORD of Hosts on the day of His burning anger" (Isa. 13:9-13).

God's judgments will hit

the world at the End time according to God's order and timing.

The wickedness and violence of the days of Noah and the horror of Sodom's sins have filled the earth. Several political and Christian leaders have been among the first to favour this ungodly lifestyle. This war Russia is waging against Ukraine would seem to be a turning point in God's agenda of judgments; there is no return to what has been before.

We have come to the times of distress. God uses the beastly bear of Russia to carry out His judgements on the corrupted West and the corrupted Christendom.

Once he has accomplished this mission he will himself be judged and condemned, like all who practise evil and violence.

The northern countries will have their share of Gog's wicked intentions in days to come. There will be no permanent peace on earth until the coming of the Messianic Millennium of peace (Isa. 2:1-4; Rev. 20).

Second, this war and increasing anti-semitism accelerate the Exodus of Jews from Ukraine, Russia, and other countries, to their homeland Israel. Tens of thousands of Jews have immigrated to Israel from Ukraine and Russia since the war began.

As a consequence of constantly increasing global anti-semitism and hatred against Israel, Jews from all over the world are returning to Israel, the land of their forefathers.

The season of fishermen is ending and the hunters, or persecutors, are summoned (Jer. 16:14-16). God

will see to it that no Jews are left among the nations, as we read in Ezekiel's prophecy about Gog's war.

"Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, when I regather them to their own land, not leaving any of them behind after their exile among the nations. And I will no longer hide My face from them, for I will pour out My Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD" (Eze. 39:28-29).

Thirdly, this war in Ukraine has caused many people to seek God in Ukraine and elsewhere in the middle of this shocking war, and they have found faith in Christ.

Believers from Ukraine and from other countries evangelize Ukrainians also at the eastern frontline, and many people, soldiers and civilians, have received Yeshua and been saved.

In the middle of this time of turmoil and of these divine judgments God is waking up mankind so that as many as possible would turn to God and receive salvation in Yeshua the Messiah.

Fourthly, Ukraine must now pay for the Jewish blood they have shed in the course of last decades even centuries. When we went to Ukraine to hold meetings for the first time almost twenty years ago, The Lord spoke to me clearly in Kyiv the first night in the country, saying: "Ukraine has a huge blood debt."

During our visit, a small Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center was opened in Kyiv to commemorate

the mass murder of Jews under the Nazi occupation. In 1941 Nazis murdered 100.000 – 200.000 people in Babyn Yar.

According the first estimation about 34.000 of them were Jews, later 17.000 more were discovered after which the victims were no longer counted. Besides Jews, also Romani people, psychiatric patients, prisoners of war and other civilians were murdered.

The massacre was carried out by German Nazi force, but thousands of Ukrainian nationalists had joined the Nazis and took part in persecutions and massacres.

Eventually the Nazis killed them, too. German Nazis and later the Russian army tried to conceal the mass murders, but in 1961 reservoirs collapsed and the flood brought up human remains to the surface of the ground.

It is estimated that during the last decades and centuries nearly one million Jews have been killed in Ukraine either by Ukrainians or the murders have been organized by Ukrainians or carried out in collaboration with other quarters.

Babyn Yar gives us just a glimpse of the persecutions of Jews practised in the country.

Corruption and moral decadence are alarmingly common in Ukraine (like in so many other countries), but it is also a country with wonderful people and believers.

A quite recent burst of An-

tisemitism touched Babyn Yar Memorial Center which was vandalized.

Part of political leaders, churches and denominations, and the Ukrainian people have repented and asked forgiveness for those atrocities.

The present President of Ukraine is of Jewish background. Despite all this we should pray for the Ukrainian people and offer them our help and support during this hard time.

It is good to pray also for Russia; that many Russians would find Yeshua the Messiah as their Saviour in the middle of this evil time.

We should not forget that all other nations will also have to pay and satisfy the blood debt in their turn, because they, too, have shed innocent blood and persecuted members of God's own people (Isa.26:15-21; Ob. 12-15; Rev 6:9-11, 16:4-7).

Gog will devise a wicked scheme

"This is what the Lord GOD says: On that day, thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will devise an evil plan. You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwallled villages; I will come against a tranquil people who dwell securely, all of them living without walls or bars or gates' (Eze. 38:10-11).

The prophet Ezekiel receives from God that Gog will devise an evil scheme in order to attack people who live in peace and are unprepared for war.

This concerns the entire Western world, and Israel,

to which we return later. When the Soviet Union collapsed in early 1990's, hopes were high that a new, democratic Russia would emerge.

Many former Soviet republics declared independence and joined EU and NATO, e.g. the Baltic countries Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The political situation seemed stable and optimistic even during the first years Vladimir Putin was in power.

For Putin, however, the dissolution of the Soviet empire was a great geopolitical catastrophe, and behind the curtains he began to plan the return of the empire.

The naive West, unaware of President Putin's thoughts, made itself dependent on Russian energy thinking perhaps that this would bring peace in Europe.

Now we are paying for our naivety as Russia is using this energy card as a weapon. When the war broke in Ukraine in February 2022, Finland's president said: "Masks have been taken off and the cold face of war has been revealed."

The West has been caught in Gog's trap, and we don't know how many new traps have been set.

The God of Israel is the fortress of believers in these evil days, and we can completely trust in Him and in His care even in evil times.

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The War of Gog

Part II

PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVES

"For we know in part and we prophesy in part" (1 Cor. 13.9)

Written by:
Keijo Lindeman

Gog's troops invade Israel

"After a long time you will be summoned. In the latter years you will enter a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and all now dwell securely. You and all your troops, and many peoples with you will go up, advancing like a thunderstorm; you will be like a cloud covering the land. This is what the Lord GOD says: On that day, thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will devise an evil plan. You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwallled villages; I will come against a tranquil people who dwell securely, all of them living without walls or bars or gates'(Eze. 38:8-11).

Gog and his allies will attack the land of Israel at the end of years when the Israelites have been gathered from among the nations to their own country. The ancient Israelites were deported into exile in two

main parts. The ten tribes living in the northern part of the divided Israel were taken into captivity to Assyria in 722 BCE while the southern Judah went into exile among the nations in 70 CE when the Roman army occupied Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and deported Jews as prisoners to Rome to be sold on the slave market.

Since then the land of Israel has been more or less deserted for almost two thousand years. Several biblical prophecies assure that the people of Israel will be gathered from among

the nations to their own country at the End of Days (Jer. 16:14-16; Eze. 36:24-28; 37; 39:28-29). The state of Israel was born on 14th May 1948 as a result of this end time Exodus. The war of Gog has not been possible until Israel became independent, but in our days we may see it happening.

Gog goes after plunder

"In order to seize the spoil and carry off the plunder, to turn a hand against the desolate places now inhabited and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired lives-

tock and possessions and who live at the center of the land" (Eze. 38:12).

The prophet says that Israel lives in the center of the land, in a strategically crucial place between Africa, Asia, and Europe.

That is where Gog will go after plunder. We have a good example of this right before our eyes; Russian soldiers plundering people's homes, shops, and offices.

Plundering is not an uncommon thing in war, but what the Russian troops are doing in Ukraine - not only plundering but destroying the infrastructure and executing civilians - is exceptionally barbaric.

Why go to Israel after plunder? The entire region of Middle East is rich in gas and oil, both very important to the West and to the whole world.

Israel has found natural gas in her territorial waters off the Israeli coastline, which has made Israel a remarkable energy supplier. Already Moses, when blessing Israel before he died, prophesied of these "treasures of the sea and of the sand":

"This is the blessing that Moses the man of God pronounced on the Israelites

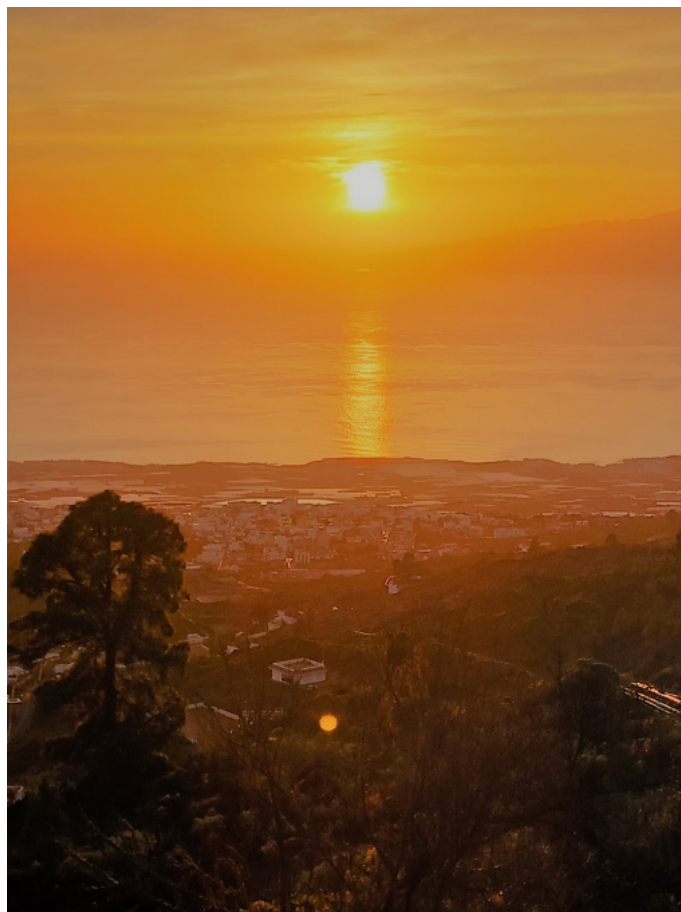


Photo: Markus Nurmesniemi

before his death. ... 'Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, and you, Issachar, in your tents. They will summon peoples to the mountain and there offer sacrifices of righteousness; they will feast on the abundance of the seas on the treasures hidden in the sand'" (Deut. 33:1, 18-19).

"Lift up your eyes and look about you: all assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth of the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come" (Isa. 60:4-5).

Besides oil and gas Israel has huge mineral sources of the Dead Sea, such as potassium, which is important for farming. The very location of Israel is important.

Gog is after all this, because once he has it in his possession, he will have a trump card against the West and also partly against the rest of the world.

Sheba, Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish will ask

"Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish with all its villages will ask, 'Have you come to capture the plunder? Have you assembled your hordes to carry away loot, to make off with silver and gold, to take cattle and goods, to seize great spoil'" (Eze. 38:13).

During Gog's war and plundering raids, merchants and

businessmen will ask him what is going on. We read in the Bible how the Queen of Sheba came to see King Solomon (1. Kin.10).

The Queen of Sheba is often connected to Ethiopia. Different sources of information locate Sheba's ancient people of merchants to the south-western part of the Arabian peninsula, where also ancient Dedan lies in central Saudi-Arabia. Its name is today Al Ula.

Ezekiel also speaks of merchants of Tarshish, who had business relations with Tyre and Israel. Their fleet brought gold to Israel in Solomon's days (1.Kin. 10:22-23). Tarshish is in the town of Alosno in Spain, which is a member of EU, the modern-day European business union with its own fleet.

Considering all this we may assume that when Gog's troops make raid strikes to Israel, many oil states of the Arabian Peninsula and the modern-day merchants of Tarshish, or the European Union, will be asking what Gog is doing.

It seems, in the light of Ezekiel's prophecy, that all they do is ask and possibly protest, but they will not come to defend Israel. In the Middle East many things have been changing, and several oil states of the Arabian Peninsula are warming up their relations with Israel, and are no longer her enemies. In 2020 Israel, United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain signed the Abraham Accord and established diplomatic relations. Other states may follow

this example, as part of the development Ezekiel describes in his prophecy. Where, then, stands the United States?

Will they help Israel in the days of Gog's war, or have the wings of the U.S. eagle been torn away from the Lion of Judah, as Daniel prophesied (Dan. 7:1-6)?

Is the United States for some reason (natural catastrophe?) so weakened that Gog uses the opportunity to attack Israel and the West?

God's wrath will flare up when Gog attacks Israel

"Therefore prophesy, son of man, and tell Gog that this is what the Lord GOD says: On that day when My people Israel are dwelling securely, will you not take notice of this? And you will come from your place out of the far north—you and many peoples with you, all riding horses—a mighty horde, a huge army. You will advance against My people Israel like a cloud covering the land. It will happen in the latter days, O Gog, that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me when I show Myself holy in you before their eyes.

This is what the Lord GOD says: Are you the one of whom I have spoken in former days through My servants, the prophets of Israel, who in those times prophesied for years that I would bring you against them?

Now on that day when Gog comes against the land of Israel, declares the Lord GOD, My wrath will flare up. In My zeal and fiery rage

I proclaim that on that day there will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. The fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, every creature that crawls upon the ground, and all mankind on the face of the earth will tremble at My presence. The mountains will be thrown down, the cliffs will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground. And I will summon a sword against Gog on all My mountains, declares the Lord GOD, and every man's sword will be against his brother" (Eze. 38:14-21).

God's wrath will flare up when Gog attacks Israel with his troops. God allows this to happen so that Gentile nations would see God's holiness and power when Gog's camp perishes in Israel.

A mighty earthquake will shake Israel, and not only Israel because we read that the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, every creature that crawls upon the ground and all people on the face of the earth will tremble. Mountains, cliffs, and walls will collapse.

This must be an unbelievably powerful earthquake. Gog's war will expand to the entire world when God summons His sword to all His mountains. Sword against sword; Gog's troops will fight against the armies of all other nations.

Revelation chapter 6 describes a similar event

"And when I saw the Lamb open the sixth seal, there was a great earthquake,

and the sun became black like sackcloth of goat hair, and the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth like unripe figs dropping from a tree shaken by a great wind.

The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the commanders, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and free man hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. And they said to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to withstand it?" (Rev. 6: 12-17).

After the opening of the sixth seal in Revelation 6, similar things happen as in Ezekiel's prophecy concerning Gog's war. Mountains and islands are moved from their places.

An incredibly powerful earthquake not only shakes the earth but causes cosmic shaking as well so that stars fall to the ground. It is also a time of war (Gog's war) as people are seeking refuge in the caves and bomb shelters to escape war, and to flee from God's wrath. Believers will be rescued from God's wrath; they will be taken up in rap-

ture, away from the time of distress (1. Thes. 1:10; 5:9; Mat.24:20-22, 29-31; Rev. 7:9-17).

The war of Gog will escalate to the whole world

"And I will summon a sword against Gog on all My mountains, declares the Lord GOD, and every man's sword will be against his brother... "As for you, O son of man, prophesy against Gog and declare that this is what the Lord GOD says: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. I will turn you around, drive you along, bring you up from the far north, and send you against the mountains of Israel.

Then I will strike the bow from your left hand and dash down the arrows from your right hand. On the mountains of Israel you will fall—you and all your troops and the nations with you. I will give you as food to every kind of ravenous bird and wild beast. You will fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD" (Eze. 38:21, 39:1-5).

The war will expand to the whole world, to all mountains of the earth. God will summon a sword against Gog, which means that the armies of other nations will turn against Gog.

There is a prophetic text relating to this in Daniel's

book.

"At the time of the end, the king of the South will engage him in battle, but the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots, horsemen, and many ships, invading many countries and sweeping through them like a flood. He will also invade the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall. But these will be delivered from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the leaders of the Ammonites. He will extend his power over many countries, and not even the land of Egypt will escape. He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and over all the riches of Egypt, and the Libyans and Cushites will also submit to him. But news from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will go out with great fury to destroy many and devote them to destruction.

He will pitch his royal tents between the sea and the beautiful holy mountain, but he will meet his end with no one to help him" (Dan. 11:40-45).

Daniel describes how in the last days the king of the North will invade the lands of the king of the South covering them like a flood. In Daniel's prophecy the king of the South refers most likely to the countries of Western Europe and of Western alliance.

The Middle East will be the

scene of war as well, and Gog will invade Israel, the Beautiful land (Num.14:7; Ps. 106:24; Zech. 7:14). The king of the North will be alarmed by news coming from the east and the north.

The news coming from the east may be news of Japan, an ally of the U.S., launching an attack against Russia.

Now Gog would be squeezed between two fronts, the East and the northern forces of NATO. Japan and Russia have an unsettled dispute dating from the times of World War II, when Russia took over Kurile Islands which belonged to Japan.

Now Japan would have a chance to take them back, but with disastrous consequences. Gog, angered, will use nuclear weapons. It will be the end of Gog. No one will help him.

(At some stage other kings of the Levant, such as China, will take part in the war and attack the West; Rev. 16:12-16. In recent times China and Russia have come closer - a bipolar world is taking shape.)

The war will culminate in a global nuclear war

"I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed. I will pour out torrents of rain, hailstones, fire, and sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. I

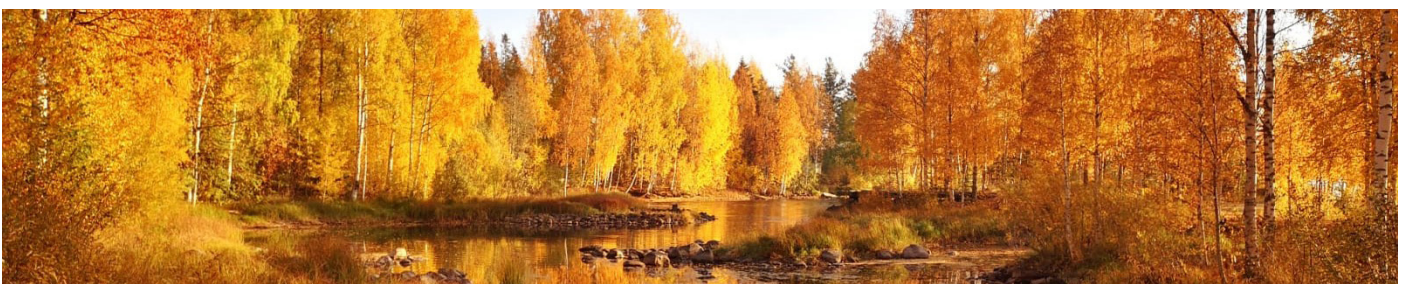




Photo: Markus Nurmamäki

will magnify and sanctify Myself, and will reveal Myself in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD... I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands [Hebrew OT ha'ijim, "islands, coastlands, coast"] and they will know that I am the LORD." (Eze. 38:21-23; 39:6).

Gog's war will escalate into a nuclear war. Fire and sulfur, or fire from atom weapons, will rain over Gog's troops. Nuclear bombs will rain over the nations that have taken part in Gog's camp and invaded Israel with Gog. Israel has plenty of nuclear weapons, although it does not admit it officially, and it will surely use them against the invaders and enemy nations.

Ezekiel makes a point of saying that fire will be sent to the land of Magog and to those who live securely in the coastlands.

The land of Magog is Russia, but what are the coas-

tlands living securely? We see from the Hebrew word used here that the word islands (plural) comes with a definite article (ha'y'im), which makes them certain, definite islands. We read in the first Book of the Bible how after the great Flood one continent (Pangaya) was divided or broken into islands in the days of Peleg (Gen. 10:5.25; 11:16-17).

We might say that North America is in this sense the island or the coastlands which was ripped off in that process. Because Russia and the U.S. are the biggest nuclear powers in the world it is quite natural to assume that Gog's war will culminate in a devastating nuclear war between Russia and the U.S..

United Kingdom is also an island and they have nuclear weapons. The Book of Revelation also describes the horrors of a nuclear war.

"Then the sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four

horns of the golden altar before God saying to the sixth angel with the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

So the four angels who had been prepared for this hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.

And the number of mounted troops was two hundred million; I heard their number. Now the horses and riders in my vision looked like this: The riders had breastplates the colors of fire, sapphire, and sulfur.

The heads of the horses were like the heads of lions, and out of their mouths proceeded fire, smoke, and sulfur.

A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur that proceeded from their mouths.

For the power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; indeed, their tails were like snakes, having heads with which to inflict harm.

Now the rest of mankind

who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the works of their hands.

They did not stop worshipping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk. Furthermore, they did not repent of their murder, sorcery, sexual immorality, and theft" (Rev. 9:13-21).

Four evil angels who have been bound at the river Euphrates are released according to God's exact agenda and timing, and the war will escalate all over the earth.

Two hundred million soldiers will be fighting in a global war which will culminate in a nuclear war and kill one third of mankind.

There are no winners in a nuclear war, only shattered and traumatized survivors.

Even more judgments are coming over the ungodly world until only a remnant remains (Isa. 13:9-13, 24:1-6; Zech. 14:16-19).

We are comforted by the knowledge that believers

will be taken up (experiencing resurrection) and escape thus the global nuclear war (Luke 17:26-30).

Israel gets plunder

"So I will make My holy name known among My people Israel and will no longer allow it to be profaned. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. Yes, it is coming, and it will surely happen, declares the Lord GOD. This is the day of which I have spoken.

Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out, kindle fires, and burn up the weapons—the bucklers and shields, the bows and arrows, the clubs and spears.

For seven years they will use them for fuel. They will not gather wood from the countryside or cut it from the forests, for they will use the weapons for fuel.

They will loot those who looted them and plunder those who plundered them, declares the Lord GOD." (Eze. 39:7-10).

One of the consequences of Gog's war is that Israel gets a huge amount of plunder. Armies have brought with them plenty of fuel and other material that Israelis will use for fuel.

Tanks and arms can be melted into tools used in times of peace, as Isaiah says in his prophecy (Isa. 2:1-4).

Big burial in the Valley of Gog's hordes

"And on that day I will give Gog a burial place in Israel, the Valley of the Travelers, east of the Sea. It will block those who travel through, because Gog and all his

hordes will be buried there. So it will be called the Valley of Hamon-gog.

For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land. All the people of the land will bury them, and it will bring them renown on the day I display My glory, declares the Lord GOD.

And men will be employed [Hebrew OT *ve'anshey tamid yavdil*], permanent men are employed and separated] to continually pass through the land to cleanse it by burying the invaders who remain on the ground. At the end of the seven months they will begin their search.

As they pass through the land, anyone who sees a human bone will set up a pillar next to it, until the gravediggers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog. (Even the city will be named Hamonah.) And so they will cleanse the land" (Eze. 39:11-16).

After Gog's war is over, a big burial will take place in the Valley of the Travelers, which will thereafter be called the Valley of Hamon -gog (the Valley of Gog's hordes).

The burial and cleansing will take seven months because Gog's whole army has perished on the mountains of Israel.

There is an interesting mention in Ezekiel's prophecy concerning this burial operation. The Hebrew uses the verb "*badal*" that means "to separate, to be separated, to withdraw".

Those men who were employed for the task are separated to bury the remains

of Gog's troops.

Actually the text refers to the bones of the dead which will be marked and buried.

This text makes one wonder why these men need to be separated? Do they need protective equipments because the bodies of the dead are still radioactive at this stage?

Let us see what Zechariah has to say.

"And this will be the plague with which the LORD strikes all the peoples who have warred against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.

On that day a great panic from the LORD will come upon them, so that each will seize the hand of another, and the hand of one will rise against the other. Judah will also fight at Jerusalem, and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected—gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance.

And a similar plague will strike the horses and mules, camels and donkeys, and all the animals in those camps" (Zech. 14:12-15).

The prophet writes what will happen to those who invade Jerusalem; they will be stricken by a plague that makes the flesh of people and animals rot so that only bones remain.

This text refers, as does Ezekiel's text, to the use of nuclear weapons, and more precisely to the use of neutron bomb which consumes the flesh of people and animals with its neut-

ron radiation, but touches infrastructure only little.

The Jewish scientist Samuel Cohen is one of the developers of the neutron bomb, and it is likely that Israel also has neutron bombs.

A great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel

"And as for you, son of man, this is what the Lord GOD says: Call out to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field: 'Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great feast on the mountains of Israel.

There you will eat flesh and drink blood. You will eat the flesh of the mighty and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as though they were rams, lambs, goats, and bulls—all the fattened animals of Bashan.

At the sacrifice I am preparing, you will eat fat until you are gorged and drink blood until you are drunk. And at My table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, of mighty men and warriors of every kind,' declares the Lord GOD" (Eze. 39:17-20).

Vultures and other birds of prey and beasts of the field will gather on the mountains of Israel to enjoy the sacrificial feast God is preparing for them. Birds of prey and predators will be feeding on the carcasses of Gog's troops.

Bashan or Golan is mentioned in this connection, which means that battles will be fought also on the Golan Heights. The Book of Revelation speaks about the sacrificial feast, as well.



"Then I saw heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse. And its rider is called Faithful and True. With righteousness He judges and wages war. He has eyes like blazing fire, and many royal crowns on His head. He has a name written on Him that only He Himself knows. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is The Word of God.

The armies of heaven, dressed in fine linen, white and pure, follow Him on white horses. And from His mouth proceeds a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out in a loud voice to all the birds flying overhead, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings and

commanders and mighty men, of horses and riders, of everyone slave and free, small and great."

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies assembled to wage war against the One seated on the horse, and against His army.

But the beast was captured along with the false prophet, who on its behalf had performed signs deceiving those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

Both the beast and the false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. And the rest were killed with the sword that proceeded from the mouth of the One seated on the horse" (Rev. 19:11-21).

The King of kings and the Lord of lords Yeshua the Messiah with His holy angels and His royal people of priests in their resurrection bodies will come to destroy the troops that have attacked Israel and Jerusalem (Jude 14-15; Zech. 14:1-5).

The Messiah will convict

the enemies of God and Israel and establish His Thousand-year Messianic Kingdom, in which the resurrected holy ones reign under the authority of Yeshua the Messiah.

Satan and his gang are then in the abyss from where he cannot come and deceive the world.

The God of Israel will get the glory

"I will display My glory among the nations, and all the nations will see the judgment that I execute and the hand that I lay upon them.

From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God. And the nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile for their iniquity, because they were unfaithful to Me.

So I hid My face from them and delivered them into the hands of their enemies, so that they all fell by the sword.

I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and transgressions, and I hid My face from them. There-

fore this is what the Lord GOD says: Now I will restore Jacob from captivity and I will have compassion on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for My holy name.

They will forget their disgrace and all the treachery they committed against Me, when they dwell securely in their land, with no one to frighten them.

When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them out of the lands of their enemies, I will show My holiness in them in the sight of many nations" (Eze. 39:21-27).

The God of Israel will get all the glory when He shows His holiness and power by judging all Gog's troops and allies that have attacked Israel. God will show Israel His grace, and they will know their God and Messiah who has atoned their transgressions (Zech. 12:9-13).

Israel, the priestly people in the Messiah's Kingdom

"Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, for

though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD” (Eze. 39:28-29).

” I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you will not be conceited: A hardening in part has come to Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come from Zion; He will remove godlessness from Jacob. And this is My covenant with them when I take away their sins” (Rom. 11:25-27).

”They will rebuild the ancient ruins; they will restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities, the desolations of many genera-

tions. Strangers will stand and feed your flocks, and foreigners will be your plowmen and vinedressers. But you will be called the priests of the LORD; they will speak of you as ministers of our God; you will feed on the wealth of nations, and you will boast in their riches” (Isa. 61:4-6).

”This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say:

’Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths’. The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between

the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more” (Isa. 2:1-4).

Everything ends with the coming of Yeshua the Messiah.

He will come with His resurrected holy ones to judge the world and establish His Thousand-year Messianic Kingdom of Peace (Jude 14-15).

Gog’s war ushers in also the great End time Exodus. All Jews return to the land of Israel from among the Gentile nations. God does not hide His face, or Yeshua the Messiah, from them any more.

The Spirit of grace and supplication will be poured

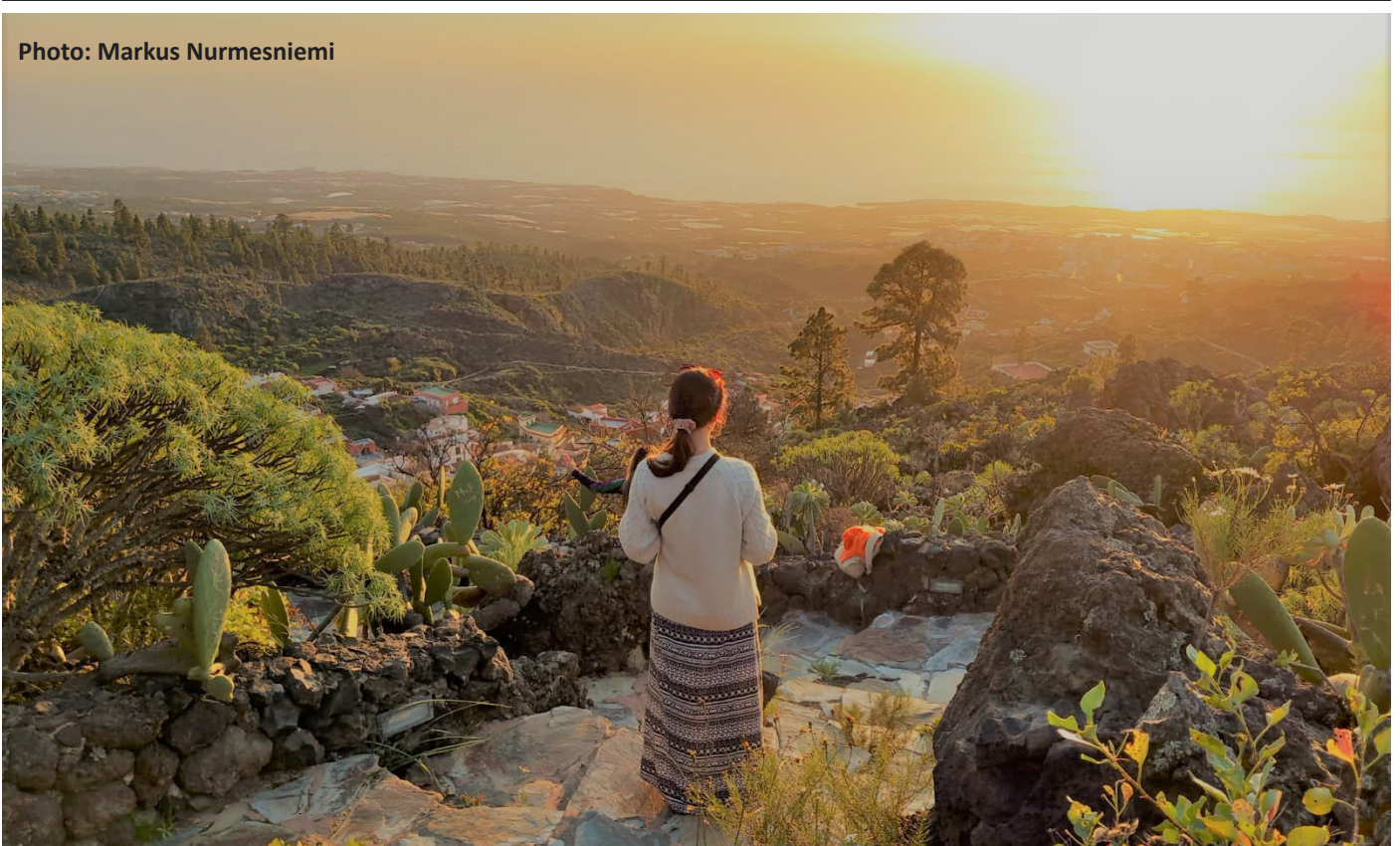
on the Israeli people and they will receive their pierced Messiah (Zech. 12:9-13).

They will be priests of God in the Kingdom of Peace of the Messiah (Rev. 20). Jerusalem will be the heart of this Kingdom of Peace and from there the Messiah will rule over the world together with His resurrected holy ones (Luke 19:11-18). God’s teaching (the Torah) and the Word of the Lord will go out to the whole world. We will have the privilege to live in this Kingdom when we have received Yeshua the Messiah as our Saviour and Lord.

Let us watch and pray that we will be prepared and ready when the Messiah comes. Let us not forget to pray for Ukraine and Russia that as many as possible would find Yeshua as their Saviour and Lord in those countries (Luke 21:25-36).

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Photo: Markus Nurmesniemi



Yovel

19th issue / May 2023



”...that all of them may be one (echad)...” John 17:21

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New edition published in every six months.

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