

Russia in Bible Prophecy

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Russia in Bible Prophecy

Where is Russia identified in the Bible? Many people believe that Russia is Gog of Ezekiel 38. Is this true? Can Russia be traced back to the book of Beginnings, the book of Genesis? Absolutely! And, I believe that the identity of Russia has been one of the best kept secrets next to the identity of the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel that has ever been uncovered!

Origins of the Russian People

Let's start with who the Russians are not! As mentioned above, many people believe that Russia is Gog of Ezekiel 38. Many evangelicals interpret the second verse of Ezekiel 38 as "the prince of Rosh," meaning prince of Russia. The New American Standard Version translates it this way and others as well. Yet in our King James Translation it says, "Chief Prince OF Meshech and Tubal." The King James says he is "chief prince" of *Meshech and Tubal*, not prince of *ROSH*! Which one is correct?

Proponents of the "Prince of Rosh Theory" claim that an eminent Hebrew scholar C. F. Keil Wilhelm Gesenius translates it this way. *But this is not from a linguistic point of view, but from a purely historical point of view.* "The appeal to Gesenius is impressive, but it must be remembered that Gesenius was a *great lexicographer and grammarian, not an authority on ancient history.* His statement was but a guess..." (*The Nations of Ezekiel 38 - 39, by Fred G. Zaspel, emphasis added*).

The word *rosh* in Ezekiel can be translated as *either a proper noun or an adjective.* Many translations take *rosh* as an adjective and translate it as the word "chief." Bible versions with this rendering include the KJV, NIV, TNIV, NRSV, HCSB, ESV, NET, NAB, NJB, CJB & JPS. While the paraphrases (CEV, GNB, NLT, NLV, GWN, NIRV, MSG & NCV) generally read something along the lines of: "...Gog, **the prince who rules the nations of Meshech and Tubal.**"

Bible Translations that render it "prince of Rosh" are NKJV, NASB, AMP & WEB. They all translate *rosh* as a proper name indicating a geographical location. The latter translations that claim "prince of Rosh" *all base it on Gesenius and his historical point of view!*

Which one is correct? The Septuagint version of the "prince of Rosh"? Or the Masoretic Hebrew Text of "chief prince of Meshech and Tubal"? Even Sir Lancelot Brenton's Protestant Septuagint scholar in his footnote reads: "*Or: chief prince; Or: Gog and the prince of Ros*" (p.1030)." So there are two possibilities for this difference between the LXX and the Masoretic Hebrew text:

- 1) The Masoretic scribes accidentally missed a name in their editing process, the LXX reading is the correct one.
- 2) The LXX reading is a scribal error, the LXX scribes mistakenly *transliterated*, [transcribe (a word, etc., in one alphabet) into corresponding letters of another alphabet] *instead of translated* the Hebrew word *rosh*.

Let's examine the evidence. In Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words describes how *Rosh* is used in the Bible. Under "Head" it says, "(Strong's# 7218), 'head; top; first; sum.'

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Cognates of *ros* appear in Ugaritic, *Akkadian*, Phoenician, biblical Aramaic, Arabic, and Ethiopic. *Ros* and its alternate form *res* appear about 596 times in biblical Hebrew.

“This word often represents a ‘head,’ a bodily part (Gen. 40:20). *Ros* is also used of a decapitated ‘head’ (2 Sam. 4:8), an animal ‘head’ (Gen. 3:15), and a statue ‘head’ (Dan. 2:32). In Dan. 7:9, where God is pictured in human form for his ‘head’ - is crowned with hair like pure Wool (i.e., white). “*Ros* sometimes means ‘leader’ whether appointed, elected or self appointed. The word can be used of the tribal fathers, who are the leaders of a group of people...” (pp.105-107). It is quite lengthy but **not** once does Vines use *Ros* to describe a nation known as Rosh. Rather it emphasizes a person, *being the “head” or “chief” of his clan or nation.*

Many like Thomas Ice in his paper Ezekiel 38 and 39, feel that in the time of Ezekiel there were a people known as the “Rashu.” These people were dwelling north of Ezekiel, and was known to him, therefore they come to the conclusion that Ezekiel meant “prince of Rosh” and not the “chief prince of Meshech and Tubal” Is this correct?

If Ezekiel called these peoples “Rosh” which means “leader” or “head” then there should be some indication that the name “Rashu” should mean the same thing, and the “Rashu” should acknowledge this as being so. Yet the evidence lacks. The “land of Rashu” was the land of the “Kingdom of Mitanni.” This kingdom dwelt just west of Assyria, in the area of Syria, (see Encyclopedia Britannica under “Mitanni.”). The reason they called this land “Rashu” is for the simple reason that the Mitanni were an “Aryan ruling class” (see Encyclopedia Britannica under “Hurrian Language”), and “The Mitanni were of the Aryan branch of the Indo-Europeans with their fair skin and *often-times blonde hair*” (*Bashan 1959:29 & Kalyanraman 1969:1:79 emphasis mine*). This is the meaning of “Rashu,” the land of the “blondes.” (*Orr 1939, art. ‘Rosh’*). The word “Rus” for Russia also means “blonde” (*Poliakov 1974:113*). According to Lubachko, the name of Belaia Rus or Belarus derives from the fact that they are a people with light-colored hair (*Lubachko 1972:1*). In fact “A Slavic word *rusy* (refers only to hair color — from dark ash-blond to light-brown)” (*Wikipedia under “Rus’ people.”*). So the meaning of the word “Rashu” has nothing to do with meaning of the word “Rosh” meaning “chief” or “head.” ***The Russians are in fact from the Mitanni/Hurrian peoples which no “prince of Rosh” proponent will admit!***

What Historians say?

Many historians recognize the fact that the Rus, are not Gog of Ezekiel 38. “Edwin M. Yamauchi, noted Christian historian and archeologist, writes that *rosh* [Hebrew word not the Indo-Aryan word Rashu] can have nothing to do with modern ‘Russia,’ and ‘all informed references and studies acknowledge that the association with Moscow and Tobolsk is untenable.” (*Last Days Madness Obsession of the Modern Church, Atlanta, GA: American Vision, 1996, p. 363*).

Unger admits, “Linguistic evidence for the equation [of Rosh with Russia] is confessedly only presumptive.”

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Meshech and Tubal?

Through the scriptures you nearly always see Meshech and Tubal together. In the book of Ezekiel of course, but also other places in the Bible as well, see Genesis 10:2; 1 Chronicles 1:5; Ezekiel 27:13; 32:26. The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says under “Tubal,” “As the text stands, Tubal and Meshech are *always coupled*, except in Isa_66:19 (Masoretic Text) and Psa_120:5. In the former passage Tubal is yoked with Javan...” (*Emphasis added*). The Smith Bible Dictionary under “Tubal” says the same, “Tubal is *reckoned with Javan and Meshech*, among the sons of Japheth. Gen 10:2; 1Ch 1:5. The *three are again* associated in the enumeration of the sources, of the wealth of Tyre, Eze 27:13; Tubal and Javan, Isa 68:19; Meshech and Tubal, Eze 32:26; Eze 38:2-3; Eze 39:1;” (*emphasis added*). Only in Isaiah 66:19 Tubal is mentioned and not Meshech. Though many other nations are implied in Isaiah, “the isles a far off,” so Meshech can be bunched in with them, although not mentioned, its automatically implied since Meshech and Tubal are always together.

If Meshech and Tubal are supposed to be the modern cities of Moscow and Tobolsk, where is Rosh? Why isn't Rosh with them? You would think that if these tribes stayed together and Rosh meant Russia, that Rosh would be mentioned with them? But there is no mention of Rosh!

Is Tiras Russia?

In the table of nations in Genesis 10:2, Magog is mentioned, as well as Meshech, Tubal, and Tiras. Three are listed in Ezekiel 38. Gog is not mentioned, (explained later). Neither is Rosh. Yet Thomas Ice and Others try to prove that Tiras is Russia. Is this true?

First of all, Thomas Ice says “...there is considerable historical evidence that a place known as Rosh was very familiar in the ancient world. While the word appears in a multitude of various languages, which have a variety of forms and spellings, it is clear that the same people are in view” (*ibid*). Of course he is speaking of the “Rashu” people who we have proved above are not “Rosh” from Ezekiel but a different people. ***The Bible clearly says that Gog is the “chief prince” of Meshech and Tubal, not a ruler of Rosh!***

The same author writes that, “It is very likely that the name Rosh is actually derived from the name Tiras in Genesis 10:2 in the Table of Nations. Billington notes the *Akkadian tendency to drop or to change an initial ‘t’ sound in a name especially if the initial ‘t’ was followed by an ‘r’ sound. If you drop the initial ‘T’ from Tiras you are left with ‘ras’*” (*ibid, emphasis added*). Based on this “Tiras” theory he says, “This means Jerome’s claim that Rosh did not appear in the Bible or in Josephus is erroneous. Since Tiras and his descendants apparently are the same as the later Rosh people, then Rosh does appear in both the Table of Nations and Josephus [as Tiras]” (*ibid, my addition for clarity*).

The theory that Tiras is Russia is new to me. This is a prime example of people willing to do anything to make their pet theories work. Ice quotes Billington who says in the Akkadian language the “T” is dropped and you are left with “ras” therefore “Russia” That is quite a stretch. Problem with that theory however is, the tablet in which the tables of nations is written on was

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most likely written in Sumerian not Akkadian. (*For a full explanation of this please refer to our booklet "Who wrote the book of Genesis" for further study*).

David Rohl, an Egyptologist and author of many books on ancient peoples writes, "Scholars acknowledge that by Abraham's time Sumerian had fallen out of use as a spoken language. The *lingua franca* of his day was East Semitic (Akkadian). *If the earliest generations of Abraham's ancestral line had spoken Sumerian, then we could not know it from the language of Abraham's distant descendants (West Semitic Hebrew)...Abraham and his descendants no longer spoke their ancestral tongue - the language of Noah and Adam.*

"...it is dangerous to insist that the earliest traditions of Genesis lie down the Semitic linguistic ancestral line. Indeed, if the Sumerian literary traditions are anything to go by, *there are clear indications to the contrary*" (Legend: The Genesis of Civilization, by David Rohl, pp.134-135, emphasis added). The *lingua franca* by 2000 B.C. was Akkadian, before this was Sumerian, the language of Noah and Adam.

When Moses translated the tablet of Noah when he was compiling the book of Genesis, he would have translated it from Sumerian to "Archaic Hebrew." Since Tiras "seems to have disappeared from the Near East soon after the Flood" (Origins of Nations, Vol. 1 Issue.4, White), this seems to be the reason why no tribal names are given for Tiras. The encyclopedia of Creation Science under "Tiras" asks the question, "...why is there but, *one brief reference to Tiras in the Bible and that is in the Table of Nations?* He then disappears from Scripture, unlike the other nations, *which persist in the Near East for some time.* Is it because he disappeared so far from the Near East that he had no consequence on the course of events in the Old World? If this is the case, then we should look for a people ***far removed from the Old World.***" Since they left the Middle East soon after the flood, *did the Akkadian language even have a chance to develop for the name Tiras or "ras"?* In addition to this, "Tiras" (see Browns Driver Briggs Hebrew Definitions), means "desire." The "Rashu" means "blondes," and Rosh means "Chief, leader, Head," in Hebrew and *Akkadian* as confirmed by Vines quoted above. Where is the connection?

The tribal names as well where are the connections? There are no similarities in the tribal names, as well as no mention of GOG OR MAGOG! Notice the chart below:

<i>Smith's Classical Dictionary</i> tells us that the family of Tiras subdivided into various tribes. They are listed as follows:	These are the tribal names of the Russians (Eastern Slavic Peoples):
<p>Dyras</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazons • Teres • Maias • Milyaes • Carians • Maori • Gasgars • Calybes (Caribes) • Thyni • Tauri (Names are gotten from different sources outside the Bible). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dregovichs •Drevlians •Ilmen Slavs •Krivichs •Polans •Radimichs •Vyatichs •Severyans •Tivertsy •Ulichs •Volhynians •Dulebs • Buzhans • Polochans (Wikipedia article "Early East Slavs).

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With the evidence I agree with Jerome and others that say there is no evidence of a nation named “Rosh” either in the Old Testament, or Josephus. In fact Josephus identifies Tiras, not as Rosh or Russia but with the Thracians of Greece. “Tiras also called those whom he ruled over Thirasiens; but the Greeks changed the name into Thracians.”(Josephus *Antiquities* 1:6:1). The Thracians were a people that were not white but red skinned, an early writer, Julius Firmicus, wrote: “In Ethiopia all are born black; in Germany, white; and in Thrace, red (quoted in Hoeh 1969 vol 2:86). Are the Russians red skinned? No! The Thracians migrated to the Americas and became the American Indians of Today. Read a very well documented article on Tiras in the Creation Wiki website for further details (http://creationwiki.org/Tiras#cite_note-25).

Based on the evidence we agree with the second point that the LXX reading is a scribal error, the LXX scribes mistakenly *transliterated*, [transcribed (a word, etc., in one alphabet) into corresponding letters of another alphabet] *instead of translated* the Hebrew word *rosh*, which is “chief” not a name of a nation called Rosh. The evidence shows that Rosh is NOT Russia, but Gog is the “Chief Prince of Meshech and Tubal.” If you want to know who is Gog in this end time Read our booklet *China in Prophecy* for further details!

History shows that the “present day Russians Ukrainians; and Belarusians-[are] the ancestors of the eastern Slavs” (The Making of Modern Russia, Lionel Kochan, John Keep, p.2). There was one original group called the “Slavs,” but then they all split into three groups, “by AD 800, three main geographical and linguistic divisions had arisen; the ***East Slavs inhabiting a large part of European Russia***, the South Slavs who settled in the Balkan Peninsula, and the West Slavs who settled in what is now Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany” (*History Of Poland Mieczyslaw Kasprzyk Chapter one, emphasis added*). Where did these Eastern Slavic people come from?

Tracing their Steps

It’s interesting to see that the Eastern Slavic peoples can be traced back to the Middle East, through which these people began, and then migrated through the Black and the Caspian Seas into the regions that they dwell in now.

Keep writes: “The most dynamic eastern Slav groups were those living in the area of the middle Dnieper on the border between forest and steppe [southern Russia]” (The Making of Modern Russia, p.2). These are the ones who created the “Kiev Rus” empire in the 9th century A.D. after the fall of “Kiev Rus” these same Eastern Slavs chose “...Moscow...as nucleus of the future Russia” (ibid, p.11). The Kiev Rus Empire was a time of great expansion for the Russian people, and its Christianization.

“The region of Kiev dominated the state of Kievan Rus’ for the next two centuries. The grand prince (kniaz’) of Kiev controlled the lands around the city, and his theoretically subordinate relatives ruled in other cities and paid him tribute. The zenith of the state’s power came during the reigns of Prince Vladimir (r. 980-1015) and Prince Yaroslav (the Wise; r. 1019-1054). Both rulers continued the steady expansion of Kievan Rus’ that had begun under Oleg. To enhance their power, Vladimir married the sister of the Byzantine emperor Basil II...Vladimir’s greatest achievement was the Christianization of Kievan Rus’, a process that began in 988. He built the

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first great edifice of Kievan Rus', the Desyatinnaya Church in Kiev. Yaroslav promulgated *the first East Slavic law code, Russkaya Pravda (Justice of Rus')*; built Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kiev and Saint Sophia Cathedral in Novgorod; patronized local clergy and monasticism; and is said to have founded a school system. Yaroslav's sons developed the great Kiev Pechersk Lavra (monastery), which functioned in Kievan Rus' as an ecclesiastical academy.

“The annals of Rus state that when Vladimir had decided to accept a new faith instead of the *tradition idol-worship (paganism) of the Slavs...*” (Article “The Golden Age of Kiev” Wikipedia, emphasis added).

The primary source for the history of these Kiev Rus people is from what scholars call the “Primary Chronicle,” “...which is often translated in English as Tale of Bygone Years), is a history of the early East Slavic state, Kievan Rus, from around 850 to 1110 originally compiled in Kiev about 1113...the Tale of Bygone Years is unique as the *only written testimony on the earliest history of East Slavic peoples*. Its comprehensive account of the history of Kievan Rus is unmatched in other sources. It is also valuable as a prime example of the Old East Slavic literature” (ibid, article “Primary Chronicle, emphasis added). To this we find the earlier origins of the “Kiev Rus.”

The Kiev Rus believed according to their historical chronicles that they descended from the “KHORIV.” Edwin M. Yamauchi comes to an amazing conclusion, “Mitanni/KHURRI became the East Slavic (Russian)... **Kievans** (who traced their ancestry to KHORIV per the (“Russian Primary Chronicle”). (Edwin M. Yamauchi, 1982: 23; *History Research Projects, “Nations of Central Asia and the Middle East”, copyright 1994, 2001; Suppiluliuma: Sattiwara Treaty, “PD” no. 1, 22-5, rev. 14-21, trans.Liverani (1990: 82)*). KHURRI, KHORIV, are the Kievans of Russia!

The reason why they are called “**RUS**”-As mentioned earlier in the booklet, the “land of Rashu” the land of the “blondes.” It was the land of the “Kingdom of Mitanni.” This kingdom dwelt just west of Assyria, in the area of Syria. The Mitanni Empire was one of the greatest ancient empires and is mentioned in the Bible by their tribal names in the book of Genesis!



Kiev Slavic Warriors.

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Map of the Kiev Rus-The Kiev Rus migrated from the Middle East into Southern Russia, and eventually into Russia itself. Known as the Mitanni/ KHURRI, these peoples, as Pliny wrote of the Matiani, were moving into southern Russia over the Caucasus (Pliny Bk vi .sec18).

The Mitanni Empire

The Mitanni Empire controlled the territory of Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia between 1530-1330 B.C. It was a “Major kingdom between 1500 and 1300 B.C.” (Holman’s Bible Dictionary, under Mitanni). One of the major tribes of the Mitanni was the “Hurrians,” in fact, “In around 1600 BC an Indo-Aryan Iranian people called the Mitanni established themselves amidst the Hurrians as a warrior class. *The two peoples quickly merged together and came to dominate their neighbors...*The later Hurrian Empire of Mittani became *a world power a little before 1500 BC, but survived for less than three hundred years.*” (Article “Hurrian Empire of Mitanni,” Kessler Associates, emphasis added). Their homeland was “Centered on eastern Asia-Minor & northern Mesopotamia” (ibid). This empire occupied “northern Mesopotamia and Asia Minor traversed Syria and had several Jordanian settlements. *Palestine is ‘Hurru’ in New Kingdom documents of Egypt*” (A.H. Gardiner, “Ancient Egyptian Onomastica”, 1947, 3 vols., I, pages181-187). A Hittite fragment, probably from the time of Mursili I, mentions a “King of the Hurri”, or “Hurrians.” Can we find the Biblical origins of these peoples to whom the Russian peoples descend? Yes we can!

As noted by *Edwin M. Yamauchi*, the words Kievans, Khoriv, Khurri, come from the Hurri, or Hurrians. These tribal names we find in the bible from the family of Midian, one of the sons of

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Abraham and Keturah, “Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. “And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and *Midian*, and Ishbak, and Shuah. “And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim. “*And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Epher, and Hanoch, and Abidah, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.*” (Gen 25:1-4).

Joshua 13:21 and Numbers 31:8 shows the kings of Midian that were slain, “...kings of Midian... namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and **Hur**, and Reba, five kings of Midian:” One of the Kings names was “Hur,” the tribal name of the Hurrians! *These people dwelt, the Bible shows, in the same area history shows the Hurrians dwelt as we shall see.*

What of the name “Mitanni”? Dr. Crowley in his book “The Hittites,” says in his footnote, “In Gen. 37 the Midianites who bought Joseph are called so...*Is it possible that in one of the original sources they were so named and that they are Mitanni? The name would be altered to the more familiar... but preserved here by an oversight of the Masoretes*” (p.9, emphasis added). The Book of Tobit (1:14) says, “His descendants, the *Midianites*, settled in the *territory of the Mitanni* (hence the name) east of the Jordan River (Tobit 1:14) and also much of the area east of the Dead Sea...,” (Wikipedia under “Midianites,” emphasis added). All the tribes of Midian with their main tribe of the Hurrians were all one, merged into one empire called the “Mitanni Empire” also called the “kingdom of the Hurri,” the leader tribe. Interesting, “...to note is that the *first King of Mitanni is born from Kitra. Kitra sounds close to Kutra, the wife of Abraham who was the mother of Median and Midian*” (Goran Nowicki, April 5, 2004, *KurdistanObserver.com*, article “*On Kurdistan and Israel Alliance,*” emphasis added).

Ishmael and Midian

The Mitanni Empire was named and was comprised of the Midianites. But, there was also another group of the sons of Abraham that formed the Mitanni Empire as well, Ishmael, the son of Abraham.

We find very early in the time of the book of Genesis, the Midianites, and the Ishmaelites that formed a tribal league and became one people. In the days of Joseph, when he got sold into slavery in Egypt, “And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; “And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. “And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. “And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? “***Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites,*** and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. “Then there passed by ***Midianites merchantmen;*** and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph ***to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver:*** and they brought Joseph into Egypt” (Gen 37:23-28). Midian and Ishmael are used interchangeably. Although spelled Ishmeel.

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Strong's and other newer versions of the Bible have "Ishmael" son of Abraham, (*see Strong's # 3459; International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*).

In the book of Judges the same thing is revealed. In the days of Gideon, when he fought for the freedom of Israel from the Midianites, "Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the **hand of Midian**."

"And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.

"And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (**For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.**)

"And they answered, We will willingly give them. And they spread a garment, and did cast therein every man the **earrings of his prey**."

"And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred shekels of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that was on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that were about their camels' necks.

"And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, even in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.

"*Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more.* And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon" (Judges 8:22-28).

Notice, the bible when speaking of the jewelry, used Midian and Ishmael interchangeably! The Jameison Faucette and Brown Commentary notes, "*Ishmaelites and Midianites being synonymous terms.*"

Gills Commentary writes, "Midianites and Ishmaelites are spoken of as the same, they being mixed and dwelling together, or very near each other."

The Ishmaelites with the Midianites "formed a tribal league" (cf Judges 8:22-24)" (JFB, p.52)

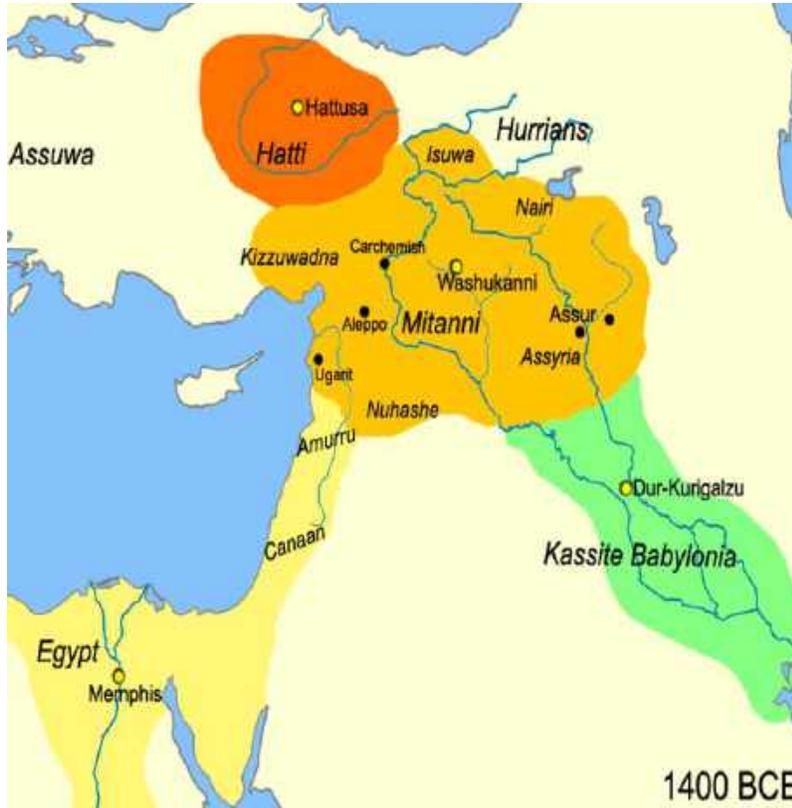
Holman's Bible Dictionary, p.961 says they became "interrelated" with Midian.

The Bible Reveals their Homeland

As noted earlier, the Mitanni Empire was situated "northern Mesopotamia and Asia Minor traversed Syria and had several Jordanian settlements. *Palestine is 'Hurru' in New Kingdom documents of Egypt*" (A.H. Gardiner, "Ancient Egyptian Onomastica", 1947, 3 vols., I, pages 181-187).

In the Bible the Midian/Ishmaelites come from "Gilead" (Gen 37:25), which is "east of Jordan" (Strong's #1568). Ishmael "...settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite, of Egypt, in the direction of ASSYRIA..." (Gen 25:18 NRSV). That is northwestern Arabia, in the lands of Syria, Moab and Jordan, exactly where history shows the Mitanni Empire once was. Abraham sent his other children to the "east" (Gen 25:6) of Palestine. "Syria, Midian and Moab," and are "clearly DISTINGUISHED FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF JOKTAN WHO PEOPLED THE ARABIAN PENINSULA" (The Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible, under "Ishmaelites," p.749, emphasis mine).

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Map shows the Mitanni “in the direction of ASSYRIA” (Gen 25:18). The Bible is accurate when it’s describing the nations of its day and the locations where they dwell.

The Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible also shows that when the Assyrians and the Babylonians conquered the Middle East they found the people of Ishmael North of Arabia dwelling near Assyria see under articles “Ishmael and Kedar.”

In the book of Judges, what you are really reading in the days of Gideon was a war between the Israelites and the Mitanni Empire that occupied Israel at the time. But the Bible uses their biblical names, the names that the Israelites would have called them.

The Mitanni Empire then fell and became part of the Assyrian provinces. In Fact the peoples of Kedar firstborn of Ishmael are mentioned in, “The stele of Tiglath-Pileser III (737 B.C.) mentions Kedarites among the tribute-paying peoples. In 691-689 B.C. Sennacherib fought King Hazael of Kedar at Duma in Arabia. In 653 B.C. the Kedarites, under the leadership of Yutha son of Hazael launched marauding raids *across the borders of Transjordan and Syria, but were beaten back by the Moabite and Assyrian garrisons* stationed along the frontier from Lebanon to Edom. In 652-646 B.C. the Kedarites, together with the sons of Nebajoth (the firstborn son of Ishmael, Gen 25:13) and other nomadic tribes, exerted pressure on the western borders of the Assyrian empire. This forced the king of Assyria to conduct a campaign against an Arabian confederation in 645...” (*Illustrated Dictionary & Concordance of the Bible, edited by Geoffrey Wigoder “under Kedar” emphasis added*). Notice the places where Ishmael dwelt according to the Assyrians. The same places the Bible and secular history reveal the place where the Mitanni dwelt! How did they get into the area of Southern Russia?

In the days of Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon was conquering all the territories of the Assyrians. One of those Territories was the former Mitanni Empire. There is a prophecy in Jeremiah that predicts the invasion of the Ishmaelites by the Babylonians. God told Jeremiah, speaking of Kedar a son of Ishmael (Gen 25:13) “Concerning Kedar, and concerning the

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kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon shall smite, thus saith the LORD; ***Arise ye, go up to Kedar, and spoil the men of the east.***

“Their tents and their flocks shall they take away: they shall take to themselves their curtains, and all their vessels, and their camels; and they shall cry unto them, Fear *is* on every side.

“***Flee, get you far off***, dwell deep, O ye inhabitants of Hazor, saith the LORD; for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon hath taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you.” (49:28-30). First, we see Ishmael dwelling in the “east” not the south in Arabia. These people dwelt in the north east toward Assyria. God tells them to “flee” which they did towards southern Russia as secular history tells us. The International Bible Commentary, p.795, says of this passage of scripture that, “The prophecy was fulfilled in Nebuchadnezzar’s sixth year (599-8 B.C.) when the Babylonian Chronicle relates that the king of Babylon in Syria ‘sent out companies and scouring the desert they took much plunder from the Arabs, their possessions, domestic animals and gods.’” More specifically Northern Arabia, “Niebchr (*Ate. u. Bab.*, S. 209, 10) and Duncker (*Genh. det. Alterth.*, I. S. 827) are of opinion that Nebuchadnezzar, after returning from the victory of Carchemish, had strengthened his internal dominion, first taking into consideration ‘the extension of his dominion over the Arabs on the lower Euphrates, in North Arabia and the Syrian desert’ (duncker). It is to be remarked in this connection, that according to Ctesias, whose statement Duncker regards as credible (*S. 804, 806 Anm. 2, etc.*), the Babylonians had already brought Arabs with them to the siege of Nineveh.—***The expression ‘sons of the East’ is the ‘general designation of the Arabs, especially the nomad tribes of northern Arabia’*** (AnxoLD in Hass., *R.-Enc.* I. S. 460).” (*The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah By Carl Wilhelm Eduard Nägelsbach, Samuel Ralph Asbury, William Henry Hornblower, Johann Peter Lange, Philip Schaff, p.399, emphasis added*). This can be deceiving, if one does not understand that the Arabs spoken of here are *not* the Arabs of today, but the Mitanni people, who we know to be Midian and Ishmael.

But many of the Ishmaelites and Midianites fled to southern Russia between Assyria and Media. “The southwestern most district of *Media Atropatené*, along the mountains separating *Media* from *Assyria*, inhabited by the *Matiani*.” (Harpers Dictionary of Classical Antiquities under article “Matina”).



***Media Atropatené is located in
Southern Russia***

In the 5th century B.C. Herodotus writes an account of Aristagoras “tyrant of Miletus” who shows Cleomenes a map of the known world, and the next to the “Armenians” were the “Matieni” (bk.5, v.49).

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In the days of Pliny the elder, A.D. 79, we find the “Matiani” “From the mountain heights of this district, along the range of Caucasus...Below the district...we find the nations...the Matiani...” (Natural History, bk. 6 chpt. 18, vv.9, 10, 17).

Also of Kedar, the Ishmaelites, we find them in the same place. ***But these are named “Moschi.”*** Later in the booklet we prove that Meshech of Shem “dwell in the tents of Kedar” and these “Moschi” are dwelling *with* Ishmael. Pliny writes, “Beyond these are the deserts of Colchios, on the side of which that looks towards the Ceraunian Mountains dwell the Armenochalybes; and there is the country of the Moschi...Chalybes of Armenia...” (*Footnotes bk. 6, chpt.11, vv.8-9*). These became the Khurri, Kiev, of the Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussians, and created the Kiev Rus Empire. This empire was started by the “Muscovy” who “hateth peace” and loved to conquer. The Muscovy itself was once a small north-easterly corner of an earlier entity, the Grand Principality of Kiev, the Kievan Rus, the first Russian state and the cradle of the three branches of the East Slavs: the Great Russians, Ukrainians and White Russians (or Belorussians).



The City of Moscow-The Moscovites are the Meshech of Shem, and Kedar, son of Ishmael dwelt with them. Today Meshech and Ishmael dwell together, in Russia, and its capital is Moscow. “*Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!*” (*Psalm 120:5*).

After the Fall of Kiev Rus

Now, after the fall of the Kiev Rus Empire by Batu Khan, Genghis Khan’s grandson in 1240, they split into three groups, “the Great Russians, the White Russians (Byelorussians) and the Little Russians (Ukrainians).” (Russia’s Roots, p1, Steve Sampson).

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“Batu set up his own capital hundreds of miles away, *at Sarai*, not far from the Caspian Sea. There he founded the so-called ‘Golden Horde’ khanate, which enjoyed near-complete autonomy within the Mongol Empire. For more than 200 years, the Golden Horde ruled Russia, often indirectly, with local princes and tax collectors paying tribute to the khans,” then “Daniel Aleksandrovich, the youngest son of a local prince and war hero, who founded the principality of Muscovy in 1301.

Following his father’s lead, Daniel worked out a deal with the khans to serve as their vassal. “Daniel’s son, Ivan I (a.k.a. ‘Ivan Money Bags’), also worked closely with the Mongols. He put Muscovy in a position of regional superiority by collecting tribute from other Russian princes on the khan’s behalf. He also convinced the local head of the Orthodox Church to move to Moscow in 1327.

“Over the next 150 years, the principality’s power expanded. Meanwhile, the Golden Horde began to weaken. Finally, in 1480, the Muscovite prince Ivan III (a.k.a. ‘Ivan the Great’) stopped paying tribute and gained full sovereignty over most ethnically Russian lands. The Golden Horde Disintegrated. As it did, Ivan III was increasingly called ‘czar’—though the word wasn’t part of a Russian ruler’s official title until Ivan IV (a.k.a. ‘Ivan the Terrible’) adopted it in 1547.

“The Russians had previously used ‘czar,’ which derives from ‘Caesar,’ to describe both khans and Byzantine emperors. But Constantinople had collapsed in 1453, leaving Muscovy as the world’s only independent Orthodox state. When the mighty khan crumbled, too, Muscovy’s monarchs began to see themselves in grand terms—not only as rulers of ‘the whole Rus,’ but also as rightful heirs to the Byzantine Caesars and defenders of Orthodoxy. Over the next four centuries, they and their successors built an empire that, at one point, covered nearly a sixth of the land on Earth.” (ibid). This began the legacies of the Tsars of Russia between 1547-1721. Then the emperors of Russia between 1721-1917. Imperial Russia ruled a huge land mass from Eastern Europe all the way to China and the Pacific Ocean.

Now, there are specific prophecies concerning Midian and his blessings, but they do *not* line up with Russia’s history. In these three groups of Russian people, the “Greater Russians” *achieved the Empire*, but the Ukraine and Belarus did not! So who are the Great Russians that built an empire, and eventually the Soviet Union? The only tribe of the Mitanni Empire that contains many prophecies about its end time destiny and greatness, and has fulfilled them in these last days, ISHMAEL, THE SON OF ABRAHAM!

Prophecies of Ishmael

In the Bible, God promised Abraham and Hagar that Ishmael would become a *great nation*: “And the angel of the LORD said unto her, ***I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.*** “And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. “And he will be a ***wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man’s hand against him***; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren [“***defying all his kinsman***”] (James Moffatt Translation)]....And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and

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will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation...”(Gen 16:10-12;17:20). When we discover the meaning of these prophecies about Russia, you will see that God is true to his promises that he made to Abraham concerning his sons!

First God promised that Ishmael would become a “great nation.” Russia of course was and still is a great nation of at least 100 million people. A huge empire that covered eastern Russia all the way to the Pacific coast near China, to the north into Siberia and so on. God multiplied Ishmael/Russia “exceedingly” with a huge population of people.

Now what does God mean when he says, “And he will be a **wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man’s hand against him**; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren [“**defying all his kinsman**”] (James Moffat Transl)]...” Ishmael would become a wild ass of a man, meaning a “free man” (Ferrar Fenton translation). The book of Job describes it, “*Who hath sent out the wild ass free? or who hath loosed the bands of the wild ass?*”



Of Ishmael God said, “...I will make him a great nation...”

“Whose house I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwellings.
“He scorneth the multitude of the city, neither regardeth he the crying of the driver.
“The range of the mountains is his pasture, and he searcheth after every green thing.” (Job 39:5-8). What a perfect description of the Russian wilderness and dwellings. Most commentaries say this passage alludes to the meaning of Ishmael’s prophecy.

Notice the description of the geographical landscape of Russia: “The Russian Federation stretches across much of the north of the supercontinent of Eurasia. Although it contains a large share of the world’s Arctic and sub-Arctic areas, and therefore has less population, economic

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activity, and physical variety per unit area than most countries, the great area south of these still accommodates a great variety of landscapes and climates. *Most of the land consists of vast plains, both in the European part and the Asian part that is largely known as Siberia. These plains are predominantly steppe to the south and heavily forested to the north, with tundra along the northern coast. Mountain ranges are found along the southern borders, such as the Caucasus (containing Mount Elbrus, Russia's and Europe's highest point at 5,633 m) and the Altai, and in the eastern parts, such as the Verkhoyansk Range or the volcanoes on Kamchatka. The more central Ural Mountains, a north-south range that form the primary divide between Europe and Asia, are also notable* (Wikipedia "Russia."). This is the perfect description of the "free man" land that Job described. Mountain ranges, barren land, and forests (every green thing).

But why is he called a "free man." What is he "loosed" from? Adam Clarke's Commentary p.186 writes of Ishmael: "God himself has sent them out free — he has loosed them from all political restraint." The "bands" are the "bands of love" God uses to draw people to him and his ways, his 'commandments' (Hosea 11:4; 1 John 5:3). *Ishmael as a nation will not subject itself to God's laws.*

The Apostle Paul called himself the "Prisoner" of the Lord. A prisoner of Jesus Christ, see Ephesians 3:1; 4:1; 2 Tim 1:8; Philemon 1:1, 9. Paul was subject to Jesus Christ and his obedience to him. For Ishmael to be "free," means he was to break "free" from God and his laws- the **complete opposite of what Paul or any follower of Jesus Christ was and is**. What description do you give a person who wants nothing to do with religion? **AN ATHEIST!** The Soviet Union was the biggest Communist Atheistic Empire the world has ever seen. They broke free from God, once Orthodox, but *turned* Atheists, not subject under the laws of God!

A Red Army officer who defected to the United States said: "You know in Russia we teach that religion is the opiate of the people and that there is no God...and *that Atheist Moscow is the Capital of the world* [not Jerusalem]" (Thomas Foster, *When Russia Attacks America*, pp.65-66, emphasis added).

Another quote that Communism was: "...to instigate a worldwide *system of man-made law and order outside of God's laws and of Jesus Christ* as shown by Matthew Haberson as early as 1828" (*The Ascendancy of Russia*, p.257, emphasis added). Ishmael was teaching its people that they were "Free" from God, because there was no God.

This source writes, "*Hostility to all religion, especially Christianity, has been a characteristic of communism from the start. Marxism calls religion a false consciousness, an illusion created by those in power to justify their oppression of everybody else. Marxism also predicted that religion will die a natural death when communists create a natural society, but that hasn't kept communists from actively struggling against religion; they see it as a reactionary social force that will prevent progress if it is not smashed....*The Bolsheviks responded quickly, by confiscating Church property, canceling state subsidies to the Church, decreeing civil marriages (as opposed to church weddings), and nationalized the schools. They converted many church buildings into factories, cinemas, houses, and museums.

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“In 1925 the Bolsheviks sponsored an atheist movement, the *League of Militant Godless*. This group spread *anti-Christian propaganda, promoted classes in science and philosophy, and produced antireligious films, plays, talk shows, literature and exhibits; often they displayed the exhibits in former churches*. Four years later the government passed the Law on Religious Associations, which banned churches from engaging in educational, social or charitable work. It also prohibited Bible studies, women’s’ or young people’s meetings, and even material assistance to church members. *All they allowed to remain was public worship, effectively cutting away the Church’s influence on society.*” (A History of Christianity Chapter 8, Kimball, *emphasis added*). Communism was basically Ishmael/Russia fulfilling the prophecy of the wild ass breaking the “bands” of Christianity, its official religion *before* the Communist movement. *Communism was predicted by God through Ishmael centuries in advance!*

There is also another meaning to the “wild ass” or “donkey” pertaining to Ishmael. The Ishmaelites were to have the characteristics of a “wild ass.” One of those The International Bible Commentary by F.F. Bruce writes, “The metaphor of a wild donkey may in part suggest *nobility and courage..*”(p.126, *emphasis added*).

The Russian nobility during the time of the Romanovs who ruled “Russia for the next 304 years, until the Russian monarchy was ended by the revolutions of 1917.” (A History of Russia, chapter 1, Charles Kimball). This was a time when the nobles of Russia, the Tsars, had great expansion, especially under Peter the Great. During these centuries the Imperial Russian Empire was formed.



Peter the Great

“Of all Imperial Russia’s rulers, the one who made the most memorable use of the autocracy and most deeply shaped its [Russia’s] character was Peter the Great...when he died something had been done to Russia which could never be quite eradicated...his attention focused on victory in war...and he accepted that the road to that goal ran through westernizing and modernizing...his reforms have ever since served as something of an ideological touchstone; generation after generation of Russians were to look back with awe and ponder what he had done and its meaning for Russia” (History of the World, p.596)

Russian courage- A great example the Battle of Stalingrad. This battle against the Germans in World War Two cost Russia, “...in excess of 1,000,000 Soviet soldiers died” (Britannica.com). “Courage” is the word used to describe what happened when Russia went up against the Germans in this decisive battle that cost so many lives, said President Putin in Moscow on May 7th, 2005.

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“‘Courage, resilience and unity of the multi-national people became the major force that destroyed Nazism,’ Putin stressed” (RIA Novosti). “German forces invaded the Soviet Union in 1941 and had advanced to the suburbs of Stalingrad (now Volgograd) by the summer of 1942. *Met by a determined Red Army defense commanded by Vasily Chuikov*, they reached the city’s centre after fierce street fighting. In November the Soviets counterattacked and encircled the German army led by Friedrich Paulus, who surrendered in February 1943 with 91,000 troops” (Britannica.com, emphasis added).

The Cold War Prophesied

“his hand will be against every man, and every man’s hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren [**“defying all his kinsman”**] (James Moffatt Translation)]....” This characteristic of Ishmael would be found in the end time and would prove to be very important when it came to world politics, war, and the Cold war. What does this verse mean?

The definition is, “to resist (a powerful person, authority, etc) ***openly and boldly..formal to challenge or provoke***” (Dictionary.com, emphasis added)

Notice the NRSV Bible, “with his hand against everyone, and everyone against him; and he shall live at *odds* with all his kin” His hand shall be against *everyone of his kinsman* is what the context really is here. The latter half of the International Bible Commentary by F.F. Bruce writes, “... the overall impression is of an unruly *spirit of independence*, setting him at *odds* with his brothers or kinsmen” (p.126, emphasis added). What a perfect description of the Cold War between Russia and the West!

Did Ishmael defy his brother Isaac, The U.S.A and the British? *The Cold war, Communism against capitalism, was a perfect example of this!* Don’t you think that something like the Cold War, that put all nations on alert for potential nuclear war, would be mentioned in the pages of the Bible? Something as life threatening as this on a global scale as the Cold War should be mentioned!

“**Cold War**, term used to describe the post-World War II struggle between the United States and its allies and the (USSR) and its allies. During the Cold War period, which lasted from the mid 1940s until the end of the 1980s, international politics were heavily shaped by the intense *rivalry between these two great blocs of power and the political ideologies they represented: democracy and capitalism in the case of the United States and its allies, and Communism in the case of the Soviet bloc*. The principal allies of the United States [Manasseh] during the Cold War included *Britain, [Ephraim] France [Reuben], West Germany, Japan, and Canada [Ephraim]*. On the Soviet side were many of the countries of Eastern Europe—including Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, East Germany, and Romania—and, during parts of the Cold War, Cuba and China “ (*Microsoft Encarta article “Cold War,” emphasis added*). During this time of the Cold War, we saw Ishmael defying, being at *odds* and *provoking* his brethren. His hand was against his brethren, and his brethren against him.

During this time of the Cold War, the Soviets resisted the spread of capitalism by setting up Russian satellites along Eastern Europe. And when the “Marshall Plan” was invented to help

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Europe recover by the aid of the United States, the “Russians would not participate, nor did they allow their satellites [Eastern European countries dominated by Communist Russia] to do so. *Instead they bitterly attacked the plan...*To handle the Marshall plan the *Russians replied by organizing their own half of Europe in Comecon*, a Council of Mutual Economic Assistance...[it was] a denunciation of what it termed a ‘frankly predatory and expansionist course...to establish world supremacy of American imperialism’” (History of the world, pp.939-940, emphasis added). Do you see Ishmael resisting his brothers, defying them on every front, militarily and economically? Also, Russia maintaining its independence from them, creating their own economic plan for Europe instead of joining his brethren in the Marshall plan? This is prophecy fulfilled to the letter.

Another example of this is the creation of NATO. By reason of the Soviet threat, NATO was created “to contain the Soviet Union and the spread of Communism” (The Origins of NATO (Part 1), which also includes the Scandinavian countries, which are also part of the Ten tribes of Israel! And in **resistance** to NATO, the Soviets created the Warsaw pact, each “sought to contain each other’s expansion and win worldwide predominance for capitalism (US) or communism (USSR)” (The Cold War, Roza Germain). Again Russia maintaining its independence from his brethren, not to be overrun by them and taken over by the west. This also produced the great arms race of the accumulation Nuclear weapons.



The Cold War prophesied in the Bible as Ishmael “defying all his kinsmen”

There is a dual meaning to this verse, as the Keil & Delitzsch Commentary writes, “*denotes, it is true, to the east of (cf. Gen_25:18), and this meaning is to be retained here; but the geographical notice of the dwelling-place of the Ishmaelites hardly exhausts the force of the expression, which also indicated that Ishmael would maintain an independent standing before (in the presence of) all the descendants of Abraham*” (emphasis added).

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The secondary meaning is of Ishmael's geographical location. This source agrees, the "original Hebrew, which runs literally, 'he shall before the faces of all his brethren,' i.e., (according to the idiom above explained, in which '*before the face*' denotes the east), *the habitation of his posterity shall be 'to the east' of the settlements of Abraham's' other descendants...*These prophecies found their accomplishment in the fact of the sons of Ishmael being located, generally speaking to the *east of the other descendants of Abraham, whether of Sara or of Ketuah.*" (McClintock and Strong, Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature, (Vol. I:339). Young's has it "before the face [east] of all his brethren he dwelleth"

The brother of Ishmael is Isaac. Isaac's descendants are the modern Day U.S.A. and the British Commonwealth (*Read our booklet USA & British in prophecy for proof*). **Who dwells exactly east of Britain, Scandinavian and other Israelite European countries, as well as North America where Abraham's descendants live? Russia!**

Interesting also is, the prophecies of Genesis are for the end time. The birthright blessings of Isaac, Esau, and Ishmael all have the same time element to them. ***And the rise of Russia is in exact sequence to Britain and America. Russia's rise to world power actually began before World War II, It began back in the Great European Colonial Expansion of the 17th thru the 20th centuries with the Russian Empire and Russian Revolution.***

The fall of the Soviet Empire Prophesied

During the time of the 1980's Michail Gorbachev introduced reforms into the Soviet Union. These were called "Glasnost" "openness" and "Perestroika" "restructuring." A restructuring of the Soviet political and economic system and an openness to make the country's management transparent and open to debate, and a greater freedom of speech: a radical change, as control of speech and suppression of government criticism had previously been a central part of the Soviet system. There was also a greater degree of freedom within the media. These reforms played a key role in the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The spillover from the Revolutions of 1989, caused WITHIN ONE YEAR, THE SOVIET UNION TO COLLAPSE! From ***February to December 1989*** the Iron Curtain fell over Europe, and free and open elections were taking place, and the Berlin Wall fell. These events "...refer to the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe, the end of the period of the Cold War and the removal of the Iron Curtain between Eastern and Western Europe." (New World Encyclopedia, under article "The Revolutions of 1989"). Although the Soviet Union was still intact. "...the Revolutions of 1989, which were the *final cataclysm that ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union itself just two years later.*" (ibid).

The real "...**dissolution of the Soviet Union** was the disintegration of the federal political structures and central government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), resulting in the independence of all fifteen republics of the Soviet Union ***between March 11, 1990 and December 25, 1991.*** The dissolution of the world's largest socialist state also marked a formal end to the Cold War." (Wikipedia, under article "Dissolution of the Soviet Union," emphasis mine and theirs). *Within That One Year that caused the Soviet Empire to collapse.*

Was this prophesied in the Bible? Yes it was!

Russia in Bible Prophecy

In the Book of Isaiah, several prophecies came to him by God about various nations, and what would happen to them, then, and also in the end time. Many prophecies are dual in nature. In Isaiah 22 is a perfect example of Shebna and Eliakim, it clearly speaks of those two people in Isaiah's day, but then adds a prophecy of Jesus Christ and end time Eliakim, and the "nail" in a sure place that has the "Key of the house of David." This is just one example.

Isaiah 21 is no different. In verse 9 it speaks of "Babylon is fallen is fallen." This is the same language as Revelation 17-18.

Isaiah 21:16-17 is a prophecy of "Kedar" the son of Ishmael. Remember "Meshech" and "Kedar" dwell together see Psalms 120:5. More detail later in the booklet. These are the "moschi" who became the Moscovy of Moscow that dwell with the Russians [Kedar]. Isaiah says, "For thus hath the Lord said unto me, ***Within a year***, according to the years of an hireling, and ***all the glory of Kedar shall fail***:

"And the residue of the number of archers, the mighty men of the children of Kedar, shall be diminished: for the LORD God of Israel hath spoken it."

First, many believe that this prophecy belongs with verses 13-15 of Arabia. But in the coming pages we will show you that the Arabian tribes belong to Sheba and Dedan of the Joktanites and the Cushites and not Ishmael. But because of the belief that Ishmael is the Arabs, the modern translators of the Bible but no break between verses as they do with others separating the prophecies.

However, in Steve Collins article he writes about Ezekiel's prophecies that, "This book contains a lengthy series of individual visions and/or prophecies given by God to the prophet Ezekiel. The Bible nowhere indicates that these prophecies are to be understood sequentially or chronologically. Instead, *each prophecy in the book of Ezekiel has its own subject matter and time-setting. Each prophecy is also clearly marked by specific language so the reader can understand when each prophecy begins and ends.* Ezekiel 2 begins a long series of prophecies which God gave to Ezekiel and the first prophecy is introduced with these words of God in verse 1: 'Son of man...I will speak to you.' Another prophecy is introduced in Ezekiel 6:1 with the words: '***And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying...***' indicating that God was giving a new prophecy to Ezekiel ***which was distinct from the previous one.*** Another prophecy is introduced with the same wording in Ezekiel 7:1. New prophecies are introduced to the reader with similar language in Ezekiel 12:1, 13:1, 14:1, 14:12, 15:1, 16:1, etc.

"Approximately 26 such individual prophecies are introduced with similar introductory language between chapters 16 and 37. Some chapters contain two prophecies and other prophecies involve more than one chapter. ***Many subjects and time-settings are contained within these prophecies.*** It is obvious that they are not connected by any sequential flow. ***A key to understanding prophecies in the book of Ezekiel in their proper context is the realization that each time one encounters distinctive wording like 'The word of the Lord came unto me, saying...', a dividing mark is made between the previous prophecy and the new one.*** It is vital to understand this fact..." (Article, *What Ezekiel 38-39 Reveals About a Future World War III*, emphasis mine and his). *Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Isaiah have some of the same prophecies, why should the pattern be any different?*

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And what we have after verse 15 of Isaiah 21, in verse 16 is, “*For thus hath the Lord said unto me*” the “dividing mark” between the previous prophecy and the new one.

Now, notice “within a year” (v.16), God says, “all the glory of Kedar shall fail:” Fail means in the Hebrew to come to an end, “*kaw-law*’ A primitive root; to *end*, whether intransitively (to *cease, be finished, perish*) or transitively (to *complete, prepare, consume*):” (Strong’s #3615). This happened to the Soviet Union, within one year the Soviet Empire dissolved!



The Fall of the Soviet Empire was Prophesied in the Bible!

Then in verse 17 it says, “And the residue of the number of archers, the mighty men of the children of Kedar, shall be diminished: for the LORD God of Israel hath spoken *it*.” The archers are those who launch arrows. Arrows were projectiles. The prophet would not have said “missiles” in his day, but would have described modern warfare with the language of his day. During the Cold War the Nuclear Arms race resulted in both superpowers stock piling nuclear weapons into the thousands. But God says that the “archers” and the “mighty men” of Kedar “shall be diminished.” Throughout the Cold War (1945–91), Western intelligence estimates calculated that the Soviet strength remained ca. 2.8 million to ca. 5.3 million men. (see *William E. Odom, The Collapse of the Soviet Military, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1998, p.39*).

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Army dissolved and the USSR’s successor states divided its assets among themselves. The divide mostly occurred along a regional basis, with Soviet soldiers from Russia becoming part of the new Russian Army, while Soviet soldiers originating from Kazakhstan became part of the new Kazakh Army. *As a result, the bulk of the Soviet Ground Forces, including most of the Scud and Scale board Surface-to-surface missile forces, became incorporated in the Russian Ground Forces. By the end of 1992, most remnants of the Soviet Army in former Soviet Republics had disbanded.* Military forces garrisoned in Eastern Europe (including the Baltic States) gradually returned home between 1992 and 1994. This list of Soviet Army divisions sketches some of the fates of the individual parts of the Ground Forces. (See, *The Military Balance 1992–93, Brassey’s, London, 1992, p.72, 86, 96, emphasis added*). Amazing how the Bible predicted the fall of one of the greatest superpowers

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the world has ever seen, yet it surprised everyone when it fell. But God knows the fate of nations, and has revealed it in his bible.

Now what of the Arabs? Christians, Muslims and Jews Believe they are of Ishmael. Let's examine the evidence.

The Ishmael Myth

Many Arabs today claim to be descendant of Ishmael Abraham's son, is this true? McClintock and Strong's a well known Encyclopedia of Religion comments: "There is a prevalent notion that the Arabs, both of the south and the north, are descended from Ishmael; and the passage Gen 16:12...is often cited as if it were a prediction of that national independence which, upon the whole, the Arabs have maintained more than any other people. But this supposition ...is founded on a misconception of the original Hebrew...these prophecies found their accomplishment in the fact that the sons of Ishmael being located ...EAST OF THE OTHER DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM whether by Sarah or by Keturah. But the idea of the southern Arabs being of the posterity of Ishmael is ENTIRELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION, and it seems to have originated in the *tradition invented by Arab vanity that they, as well as the Jews, are of the seed of Abraham-a vanity which besides disfiguring and falsifying the whole history of the patriarch and his son Ishmael, has transferred the scene of it from Palestine to Mecca...*The vast tracts of the country known to us under the name Arabia gradually became **peopled by a variety of Tribes in different lineage**" (Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature, I:339, emphasis mine).

Robert Morey writes: "Most standard reference works on Islam REJECT the Arab claim to Abrahamic descent. ...[The] Encyclopedia of Islam traces the Arabs to non-Abrahamic origins.

Even the Dictionary of Islam questions the whole idea that the Arabs are descendants of Ishmael" (Islamic Invasion p.24, emphasis mine).

Warraq writes: "As for the Historian, the Arabs are NO MORE descendants of Abraham, then the French are of Francus, son of Hector" (Why...p.131, emphasis mine).

Morey writes: "*Nowhere in the Koran does it state that Ishmael is the progenitor of the Arab race. Since it is not taught in the Koran, it cannot be a true Islamic belief...Arabian literature has its own version of prehistoric times, but it's entirely legendary*" (Britannica, vol. 2:176)... The belief that the Arabs descend from Ishmael came from primarily Muhammad, the prophet of the religion of Islam. He basically wanted his religion to be Abrahamic in origin like the Jews and the Christians, so made up his version of Arab history by claiming descent from Ishmael, thus making his pagan religion Abrahamic in origin. Clearly, "Muhammad was not informed about the family of Abraham." (Encyclopedia of Islam) I:184. See also pages 544-546.

So who do the Arabs really descend from?

"The pure Arabs are those who claim to be descended from Joktan or Qahtan, whom the present Arabs regard as their principle founder...The 'Arabu 'l-Musta'ribah, the mixed Arabs, claim to be descended from Ishmael... They boast as much as the Jews of being reckoned the children of

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Abraham. This circumstance will account for the preference with which they uniformly regard this branch of their pedigree, *and for the many romantic legends they have grafted upon it...The Arabs, in their version of Ishmael's history, have mixed a great deal of romance with the narrative of Scripture.*" (A Dictionary of Islam, pgs. 18-19, emphasis added). Pre-Islamic literature shows that the Arabs came from Joktan. Joktan can be found in the tables of nations in Genesis the 10th chapter, and his dwellings are described as well. Ishmael however, the claim that the Arabs descend from there is purely based on myth and legend.

This source also states that the Southern Arabs come from Qahtan, not Ishmael (The Concise Encyclopedia of Islam, p. 48).

Unger's Bible Handbook says, Seba is connected with South Arabia and is mentioned in the Assyrian inscriptions in the 8th century B.C. Havilah was ancestor to a people in central and southern Arabia partly Cushite and partly Semitic Joktanite..." (pp.53, 56).

The New Bible Commentary Says: "In so far as they can be identified Joktan and his descendants seemed to have lived in southern Arabia" (p.68).

Pliny writes, "Catabanes...Beni Kahtan, the great tribe which mainly peoples, at the present day, central and southern Arabia" (Natural History bk. 5, v.4 footnote).

See also:

- The Encyclopedia of Religion, Vol. 7, pg. 296 where the connection between the Midianites and the Ishmaelites is noted.
- The Shorter Encyclopedia of Islam, pgs. 178-179.
- A Popular Dictionary of Islam, p. 127.

The Bible is clear that Ishmael with Midian dwelt in northern Arabia in the areas of Syria, Moab toward Assyria as we noted earlier in the booklet. Secular sources as well make that distinction, Ishmael is "...clearly DISTINGUISHED FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF JOKTAN WHO PEOPLED THE ARABIAN PENINSULA" (The Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible, under "Ishmaelites," p.749, emphasis mine). The Ishmaelites, "...settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite of Egypt, in the direction of ASSYRIA..." (Gen 25:18 NRSV).

Again the same source in another article writes when the Assyrians and the Babylonians conquered the Middle East they found the people of Ishmael North of Arabia **dwelling near Assyria**, see under articles "Ishmael and Kedar."

Other sons of Abraham as well migrated into the north along with Midian and Ishmael since they all dwelt to the east of Isaac, and formed the Mitanni Empire. Josephus mentioned that one of Abraham's great-grandsons joined with the Assyrians. ("Antiquities", book I, ch. xv § 1.) His name was Asshur, the son of Dedan, the son of Jokshan. Jokshan was the son of Abraham. Genesis 25:3 says, "And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim." From Sheba have come the Swabian Germans. From Letushim are descended the Lettish people along the Baltic. These are all together in Jeremiah's

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prophecy separate from Arabia, “Dedan, and Tema, and Buz, and all *that are* in the utmost corners,” (Jer 25:23). Dedan - Was son of Abraham, by Keturah, Gen_25:3. Tema - Was one of the sons of Ishmael, in the north of Arabia, Gen_36:15. Buz - Brother of Uz, descendants of Nahor, brother of Abraham settled in the north as well, Gen_22:21; 24:10. Arabia is mentioned v.24 with the mixed people of the desert.

In the Bible we find Ishmael in the confederacy with Assyria, (see Psalm 83:1-8). Assyria dwells “north” not south. “And he will stretch out his hand *against the north, and destroy Assyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation, and dry like a wilderness*” (Zephaniah 2:13). In ancient times ***Assyria dwelt in the north, and the end time Assyria dwells in the north.*** Ishmael then and now dwells in the north, never in the south where the Arabs dwell.

In Ezekiel 27:21 mentions Arabia, and the princes of Kedar. This is an historical not a prophetic setting. As shown in previous pages Ishmael did dwell in northern Arabia. Gill writes, “Arabia was a large country, divided into three parts, Arabia Deserts, or the desert; Arabia Petraea, or the rocky; and Arabia Felix, or the happy. Kedar was in Arabia Petrea;” When the Bible mentions Arabia it does get specific, as we have seen in other scriptures. Arabia with mixed peoples. Arabia with the Dedanites, and Arabia with Kedar. Sheba and Dedan are mentioned in verses 15, 20, 22. These are the Arabians of today. These are the tribes of Joktan and Cush that eventually took all of Arabia, while Ishmael and Midian Migrated out of the land.

One more note. How can the Arabs be descendants of Ishmael, for when Ishmael was born the ARABS ALREADY EXISTED! This alone shows that the Arabs cannot be Ishmael.

Genesis the tenth chapter shows the true Arabian origins as confirmed by secular histories, “And ***Joktan*** begat Almodad, and Sheleph, and Hazarmaveth, and Jerah, “And Hadoram, and Uzal, and Diklah, “And Obal, and Abimael, and Sheba, “And Ophir, and Havilah, and Jobab: all these were the sons of Joktan. “***And their dwelling was from Mesha,*** as thou goest unto Sephar a mount of the east” (Gen 10:26-30). What is “Mesha”? R. Zacuth (s) “says, Mesha in the Arabic tongue *is called Mecca;* and it is a point agreed upon by the ***Arabs that Mesha was one of the most ancient names of Mecca;*** they believe that all the mountainous part of the region producing frankincense went in the earliest times by the name of Sephar; from whence Golius concludes this tract to be the Mount Zephar of Moses, a strong presumption of the truth of which is that *Dhafar, the same with the modern Arabs as the ancient Saphar, is the name of a town in Shihr, the only province in Arabia bearing frankincense on the coast of the Indian ocean (In Juchasin, fol. 135. 2. (t) Universal History, vol. 18. p. 353., emphasis added).*

And ““from Mecca till you come to the city of the eastern mountain, or (as in a manuscript) to the eastern city,” meaning perhaps *Medina, situate to the east;* so that the sense is, according to this paraphrase, that the sons of *Joktan had their dwelling from Mecca to Medina* (In Pocock. Specimen Hist. Arab. p. 34. emphasis added). The Bible clearly identifies the people of Joktan dwelling in Mecca and Medina in the east; these are the Arabs today and NOT THE PEOPLE OF ISHMAEL.

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Moscow: A Case of Mistaken Identity

Many believe that Meshech (Ezekiel 38:2) is the founder of Moscow, and the Moscovites. This is true, **but it is not founded by the Meshech of Japheth**, but from the Meshech of Aram. Clearly the Russians are Semitic (White), not Japhetic (Oriental).

I Chronicles 1:17, says, “The sons of **Shem**; Elam, and Asshur, and Arphaxad, and Lud, and Aram, and Uz, and Hul, and Gether, and **Meshech**.”

We find them dwelling with one of the tribes of Ishmael, “Woe is me, that I sojourn in **Mesech**, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar!” (Psalm 120:5). We know they dwell together because it says “with one who hates peace” (verse 6) or “among **those** who hate peace” (NIV), the plural meaning supported by the “they” in verse 7. “I *am* for peace: but when I speak, **they** are for war.” So he dwells among them both and both want war.

Also, we know this is Meshech of Shem and not of Japheth because Meshech of Japheth is always mentioned with Tubal, see Ezekiel 38 as one example. Other examples, they have traded with Tyre together, see Ezekiel 27:13. Together they are in the pit with their slain, Ezekiel 32:26. They are together in the table of nations, Gen 10:2; 1 Chronicles 1:5. Isaiah 66:19, these two tribes are not mentioned together, though many other nations are implied in Isaiah, “the isles a far off,” so Meshech can be bunched in with them, although not mentioned, its automatically implied since Meshech and Tubal are always together.

But here in Psalms, Tubal is not mentioned and other nations are NOT implied. Instead Kedar is dwelling together with Meshech, two Semitic tribes. Kedar is a tribe of Ishmael, see Genesis 25:13. These “hateth peace.” (v.6). Moscow never wanted peace with the west, but had the world on edge for many decades we called the “Cold War.” This is the Meshech that founded Moscow!

Milner in his book Japheth traces Meshech from southern Russia to Moscow, but unfortunately he thinks its Meshech of Japheth, not of Aram who is Semitic not Japhetic. But his work is valuable in tracing Meshech’s steps into Moscow, as he writes, “Here for a moment I will pause. The *Musk-a.i* of the Assyrian Inscriptions is admitted by the translators to represent the Biblical Meshech (Table I., 4). The only question is, where precisely were they settled? The usual answer is, in the highlands of Armenia” (p.59, emphasis his). Dwelling in South Russia, these are the ones who fled from the Babylonian invasions.

He also traces the name, “The name of Moscow is the name of Meshech. That the reader may understand how exact the correspondence is...of some of the variant forms under which the name transliterated ‘Meshech’ might appear—the word in the Hebrew text being a word of three letters, which may be written MShCh, MSC, or MSK...consider the following list of names:—

“*Mosc-ovf*, the spelling familiar in English works (Table I., 4). *Afosk-a.n*, the form in Stieler’s Hand- Atlas (German), for both city and province. *Mosk-va.*, or *Mosk-wa.*, the river on which Moscow stands. *Novo Mosk-oitss.*, on a tributary of the Dnieper, in South Russia (Table I., 4). *Musc-ovy*, and *Musc-ovite*, the English designation of the district, the character, the policy, and the empire (Table I., 4). *Musk-o*, an island of the Baltic near to Stockholm (Table I., 4). *Mosch-*

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a.isk, on the Moskva, near Borodino. *Mosch-ok*, half-way between Moscow and Nijni Novgorod. *Mosch-adi*, on a tributary of the Volga, near the city of Kazan (Table I., 3). *Mischetski*, between Moscow and Tula. *Mischiritschi*, on the Muscovite border of the Ukraine (Table I., 3). *Maschk-owo*, near Tula, south of Moscow (Table I., 3). *Mesch-a.*, one of the head-streams of the Dwina, west of Moscow. *J/ac/fctschowsk*, near Tula, and south-west of Moscow.

“...Most of these forms are taken from Stieler’s German Hand Atlas, and in some the guttural is not so hard as in others. But all are good transliterations of the Hebrew; and the whole district within five hundred miles of Moscow seems to be saturated with the name of Meshech. May it not even lie concealed under the designation of the Russian peasant, which in a recent standard work, Wallace’s *Russia*, is written under the form of *Muzhik*?” (*ibid*, pp.84-85).

What’s next for Russia?

So what is Russia’s future role in Prophecy? Although the Bible shows that Gog (China) will be the leader in this huge alliance against the USA and the West in Ezekiel 38. Russia is *not* mentioned in Ezekiel 38, but it is mentioned by another prophet and in this prophecy Russia appears in this alliance with Gog.

Jeremiah 49 as noted earlier was the attack of Babylon against Kedar, son of Ishmael from verses 28-30. This prophecy may be divided into *two sub-sections*, which closely correspond in length, sense and structure. Each consists of three verses, and the three consecutive thoughts in each are (i) a summons of the enemy to the attack, (ii) a promise of booty, (iii) an intimation that safety would be sought only in flight. (pp.314-15 *The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah with Lamentations*, by Annesely William Streane).

However, the last verse, verse 33 is the “concluding element” that “round[ed] off the prophecy” (*Australian Journal of Biblical Archaeology*, article *Jer 49:28-33*, by W.J. Dumbrell, pp.107-108). It is a summary of God’s command to Nebuchadnezzar to attack Kedar in verses 28-30.

But what of verses 31& 32 in the second subdivision?

The Geneva Bible Commentary the greatest commentary of the Reformation says, in verse 31, “Arise, get you up” means *not* Nebuchadnezzar but “they of Hazor.” (Geneva Translation Notes).

Here, God, in future tense says that they of Ishmael would “Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the LORD, which have neither gates nor bars, *which* dwell alone.” (v.31). This perfectly describes Israel in the end time being attacked by Gog, see Ezekiel 38:11; Numbers 23:9; Deut 33:28.

The condition of this nation as “wealthy” and dwells “alone” cannot mean Kedar and Hazor as some suggest. The Pulpit Commentary says, “The tribes of Hazer are not, indeed, **a wealthy nation**, for they have but little wealth to tempt either the conqueror or the merchant;” (emphasis theirs and mine).

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In secular history, we see The Ishmaelite tribes as a people under the yoke of Assyria and became one of their provinces. So correctly the Geneva Bible Commentary says “they of Hazor” will go up unto a wealthy nation who “has neither gates nor bars.” This language is exactly the same as in Ezekiel 38:11 that describes Gog and the alliance invading the “mountains [nations] of Israel.” Russia will be a part of that alliance. Russia already is part of the SCO, *The Shanghai Cooperation Organization* led by China! Although not mentioned in the prophecy in Ezekiel 38, it does say, “and many people with thee.” (Ezekiel 38:6), after many nations are listed, this can include the people of Ishmael. But the Bible is written “here a little there a little” Isaiah 28:10, like a jig saw puzzle and the pieces have to be put together.

Now we can understand why China will be attacking from the “North parts.” (Ezekiel 38:15). Russia’s land is north of China and they are in an alliance with them; verse 15 includes them as “many people with thee.” China will have access to Alaska, and will go via the Russian side of Alaska to the North American side of Alaska and begin their march and invade Israel in North America. (*Read our Booklet China in Prophecy for details*).

Jeremiah 49:32 continues, “And their camels shall be a booty, and the multitude of their cattle a spoil: and I will scatter into all winds them *that are* in the utmost corners; and I will bring their calamity from all sides thereof, saith the LORD.” Again, Ezekiel 38 has literally the same prophecy about Gog, “To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places *that are now* inhabited, and upon the people *that are* gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land” (v.12).

The “camels” are interesting. “*Camels*” were always used as vehicles of trade, as they hauled away goods, they were known as ships of the desert. Today it's ships, oil tankers, 18 wheelers etc... That carry all goods, and these goods will be taken as spoil and booty by the Gog Alliance including Russia. This is the Great Tribulation, Jacob’s Trouble, and the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia will be “scattered” and calamity will hit them on all sides. They will go into slavery and captivity. You will find the same prophecy in Ezekiel 39:23-29. The language is exactly the same!

These nations of Russia and China will take as spoils all the riches of the nations of the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. They will be like locusts to devour all the riches of these nations and carry them off, including the populations that are left in those lands.

Ishmael Repents

God will give Ishmael a chance to repent, and they do. In Isaiah 60 we read: “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

“And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

“Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.

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“Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

“The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries *of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba* shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall show forth the praises of the LORD.

“All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee.

“Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought.

“For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.

“The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel” (vv.1-7, 10-12,14).

These places mentioned are all places of the Midianties and the Ishmaelites. Russia, and the Ukraine, will come before the Lord bending their knees in service to him. Offering gifts and sacrifices to God in their repentance. The people that warred against Israel will repent for what they have done, and will minister to his people, and turn to Almighty God, but first there are some terrible times ahead.

Argument

Psalm 83?- In the days of the Worldwide Church of God, and some of the British-Israel assemblies, and even mainstream Christian churches taught and teach that Psalm 83 was a prophecy of the coming end time Beast, and these nations would be part of that beast. One of these nations included “Ishmael.” This led us to believe that Russia would be part of that Beast power. But upon further investigation of this scripture, Psalm 83 is NOT A PROPHECY! There is no language in that chapter which indicates that it is a prophecy. The Psalm which David wrote was about the war that he fought in I Chronicles 19 against the Assyrians, Mesopotamians and their allies when they came to “help the children of Lot” (the Ammonites of I Chronicles 19). There is just no prophetic language here at all!

What kind of Psalm? The MacArthur Bible Commentary, p.651 says that “This Psalm [is] a national lament which includes prayer and imprecations, Second Chronicles 20:1-30 may record the specific historical event prompting this Psalm...”

It should be further noted that a national lament Psalm is usually composed of the following structure:

- 1) An introductory cry to God.
- 2) A lament.

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- 3) A confession of the Psalmist trust.
- 4) A petition.
- 5) A vow of praise or expression of praise. Psalm 83 has all of these elements, except for the last item.

The Psalm is divided as follows:

- 1) An introductory cry to God (83:1).
- 2) A lament or complaint to God (83:2–8).
- 3) A confession of the Psalmist trust in God (83:9–12).
- 4) A petition or request of God (83:13–18). Do you notice something missing from this Psalm? There is no response by the Lord to Asaph's request recorded in Psalm 83. Since there is no response by God then the Lord did not provide a prophecy in Psalm 83. The biblical text of Psalm 83 does not contain a prophecy no matter what some contend when they call it the Psalm 83 war.

We have to remember that the Psalms were written long before the prophets began to write and give specific prophecies concerning the nations. The prophets are where we look to find specific prophecies concerning the nations and end time events. *There are certainly messianic prophecies in the Psalms, but of other specific prophecies in the Psalms concerning the Gentile nations in the end times there are none.* Constructing a separate end time war out of Psalm 83 is just reading too much into a text and that is simply saying that Israel has been and always will be surrounded by enemies and that someday the Lord will finally deal with them. It could be that this national lament during the Davidic reign is raising the ubiquitous question for Israel—why does everyone hate us? When will it ever end? God will one day judge these enemies mentioned in Psalm 83, but it's not based upon this Psalm. Actual prophecy relating to the nations of Psalm 83 and their judgment do appear in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, and others. There is no prophecy in this Psalm, simply a petition to God by Asaph to judge those enemies that are against Israel.