

Gog and Magog - Another Og? Bulls of Bashan

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

An important end-times event involves someone named “Gog” (Hebrew: גֹּג – pronounced “Gōg”, rhymes with “vogue”). This Bible study seeks to unwrap some of the mystery surrounding Gog, which also may be useful in understanding other prophetic scriptures.

1. Read **Revelation 20:7–11**. These are the only NT verses that specifically mention Gog.

And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (NASB)

- a. When do the events described in these verses take place? What is their context?
- b. Who was released “from his prison” (Greek: φυλακη’, – pronounced “fulacae”). How did he get there? (Hint: see **Revelation 19:21–20:2**). How long was he imprisoned before his release?
- c. What’s the first thing he does when he’s released? What does this tell you about him? Why do you think he was released?
- d. Whom does he deceive when he’s released? What names are given to them? What do they do?
- e. What happens as a result of their deception? What is their fate? Where does the main action of these verse take place? Against whom is this action directed?
- f. What do you think is the “beloved city”? Hint: the “beloved city” is the place of the “camp” (Greek: παρεμβολη’ – pronounced “parembolae”) – which the same word translated in **Hebrews 13:11**, as “camp” in the NASB and NIV.
- g. What happens after all this takes place?

2. Read **Ezekiel 37:27–38:9; 38:14–39:8**.

My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.

And the word of the LORD came to me saying, “Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. “And I will turn you about, and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords; Persia, Ethiopia, and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops — many peoples with you. Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them. After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them. And

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you will go up, you will come like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you. Therefore, prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "On that day when My people Israel are living securely, will you not know it? And you will come from your place out of the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great assembly and a mighty army; and you will come up against My people Israel like a cloud to cover the land. It will come about in the last days that I shall bring you against My land, in order that the nations may know Me when I shall be sanctified through you before their eyes, O Gog." Thus says the Lord GOD, "Are you the one of whom I spoke in former days through My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for many years that I would bring you against them? And it will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel." declares the Lord GOD, "that My fury will mount up in My anger. And in My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. And the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground. And I shall call for a sword against him on all My mountains," declares the Lord GOD. "Every man's sword will be against his brother. And with pestilence and with blood I shall enter into judgment with him; and I shall rain on him, and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire, and brimstone. And I shall magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the LORD. And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal; and I shall turn you around, drive you on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north, and bring you against the mountains of Israel. And I shall strike your bow from your left hand, and dash down your arrows from your right hand. You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops, and the peoples who are with you; I shall give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field. You will fall on the open field; for it is I who have spoken," declares the Lord GOD. "And I shall send fire upon Magog and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety; and they will know that I am the LORD. And My holy name I shall make known in the midst of My people Israel; and I shall not let My holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. Behold, it is coming and it shall be done," declares the Lord GOD. "That is the day of which I have spoken. " (NASB)

- a. When do the events described in these verses take place? Where does God live when these events begin?
- b. God says He opposes Gog. Who is Gog?

Note: The NASB says Gog is from Magog, and is the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. The NIV is probably a better translation of the Hebrew, saying Gog is the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. (Hebrew: נָשִׂיא רֹשׁ מֶשֶׁחַ וְתוּבַל – pronounced “*nashi rosh meshech tubal*”). In Hebrew, “nashi” means “leader, or prince” and “rosh” mean “head, or chief”. Thus, among the leaders of Meshech and Tubal, Gog is the “boss”.

- c. Who or what is Magog?

Note: The meaning of the name “Gog” is not known. Many semitic names are derived from verbs or verb phrases. For example, the Hebrew name “Jonathan” (יְהוֹנָתָן) means “Yahweh gives”. When the Hebrew equivalent of an “M” is placed in front of a verb, it often converts it into a proper name or place. For example, putting the Hebrew equivalent of an “m” in front of the Hebrew verb “to sacrifice” changes its meaning to “altar”, the place of the sacrifice. Therefore, “Magog” may simply mean “the place or

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land of Gog”, although “Magog” is listed as a son of Japheth, as are Tubal and Meshech (Genesis 10:2).

d. Read **Ezekiel 39:18**. The gruesome feast described here refers to a feeding on Gog and his army. What does this verse call them? (Hint: see underlined portion of the verse.) Remember this phrase, for later in this lesson.

You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs, goats and bulls—all of them fattened animals from Bashan. (NIV)

3. Now compare what you’ve learned about Gog from Ezekiel to what you’ve learned in Revelation. Do you think these verses describe the same event? Why or why not?

4. Read **Psalms 22**. What do you think the psalmist, King David, may be describing prophetically? (Hint: See **Matthew 27:39–46**; **Mark 15:29–35**; **John 19:24**; **Hebrews 2:12**).

a. Now read **verse 12 of Psalm 22**.

*Many bulls have surrounded me;
Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. (Psalm 22:12, NASB)*



Note: Bashan – (Hebrew: בָּשָׁן – pronounced “ba-sháhn”) means “light soil”. It refers to a territory that extends from Gilead in the south to Hermon in the north to Jordan on the west to Salcah on the east. (Easton) Encompassing the modern Golan Heights, at an elevation of about 2000 feet, this area receives about 24 inches of rain per year, thus growing lush grass and vegetation. Bashan had dense oak tree forests and rich plains inhabited by well-fed wild cattle, and became symbolic of human pride (*Expository Bible Commentary*).

b. The first time Bashan appears in the Bible is in **Numbers 21**, in reference to Og, king of Bashan.

Then they turned and went up by the way of Bashan, and Og the king of

*Bashan went out with all his people, for battle at Edrei. But the LORD said to Moses, “Do not fear him, for I have given him into your hand, and all his people and his land; and you shall do to him as you did to Sihon, king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon.” So they killed him and his sons and all his people, until there was no remnant left him; and they possessed his land. **Numbers 21:33–35, NASB***

a. Who is mentioned as the king of Bashan?

b. What did this Amorite king do and what happened to him?

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c. Now read what **Deuteronomy 3:11** has to say about Og (Hebrew: עֹג – pronounced **ōg**, rhymes with “vogue”).

*For only Og king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim. Behold, his bedstead was an iron bedstead; it is in Rabbah of the sons of Ammon. Its length was nine cubits and its width four cubits by ordinary cubit. **Deuteronomy 3:11, NASB***

- How long was Og’s bed? (Note: a cubit is the length of a man’s forearm, or about 18 inches)
- From what was his bed constructed? Why do you think it was made from this material?
- From this information, what do you conclude about Og?

*Note: Og was said to be of the Rephaim. The Hebrew word translated Rephaim (רִפְאִים – pronounced “refai’m”) is of obscure meaning. The *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, by Koehler and Baumgartner, says the term is derived from either RP’ (רפא, pronounced “rafa”), which means “he healed”, or from RPH (רפה, also pronounced “rafa”), which means “he was weak, he perished, he wavered or abandoned, he fell”. Brown, Driver, and Briggs say “rephaim” means “giants”. Thus, the Rephaim may have been a pre-Israelite population in Palestine with enormous physical size who were regarded as having unusual physical and spiritual powers, such as some cults ascribed to dead spirits. The NIV and NAB translations render “rephaim” as “spirit of the dead” or as “departed spirits” in **Isaiah 14:9** (So does **Is 17:5; 26:19; Ps 88:10; Job 26:5; Prov 2:18; 9:18; 21:16**).. Some commentators hypothesized that Isaiah 14 prophetically refers to Satan (Tertullian, Gregory the Great, Thomas Aquinas, Wycliffe, etc.), while other commentators postulate that these verses symbolically refer to Antichrist (Cyprian of Carthage, Albert Barnes, Keil and Delitzsch, etc.).*

5. Summing it all up (hopefully).
- What do Og, Gog, and Magog all have in common?
 - What is different about them? Explain.
 - How might they relate to the “bulls of Bashan”?
 - Do you think **Psalm 22** could have any prophetic relevance to Gog? Why or why not?
 - Do you see a consistent prophetic message in God’s word? Explain.

