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## Russia: Her Invasion of Palestine in the Last Days and Her Final Destruction at the Return of Christ

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# **RUSSIA**

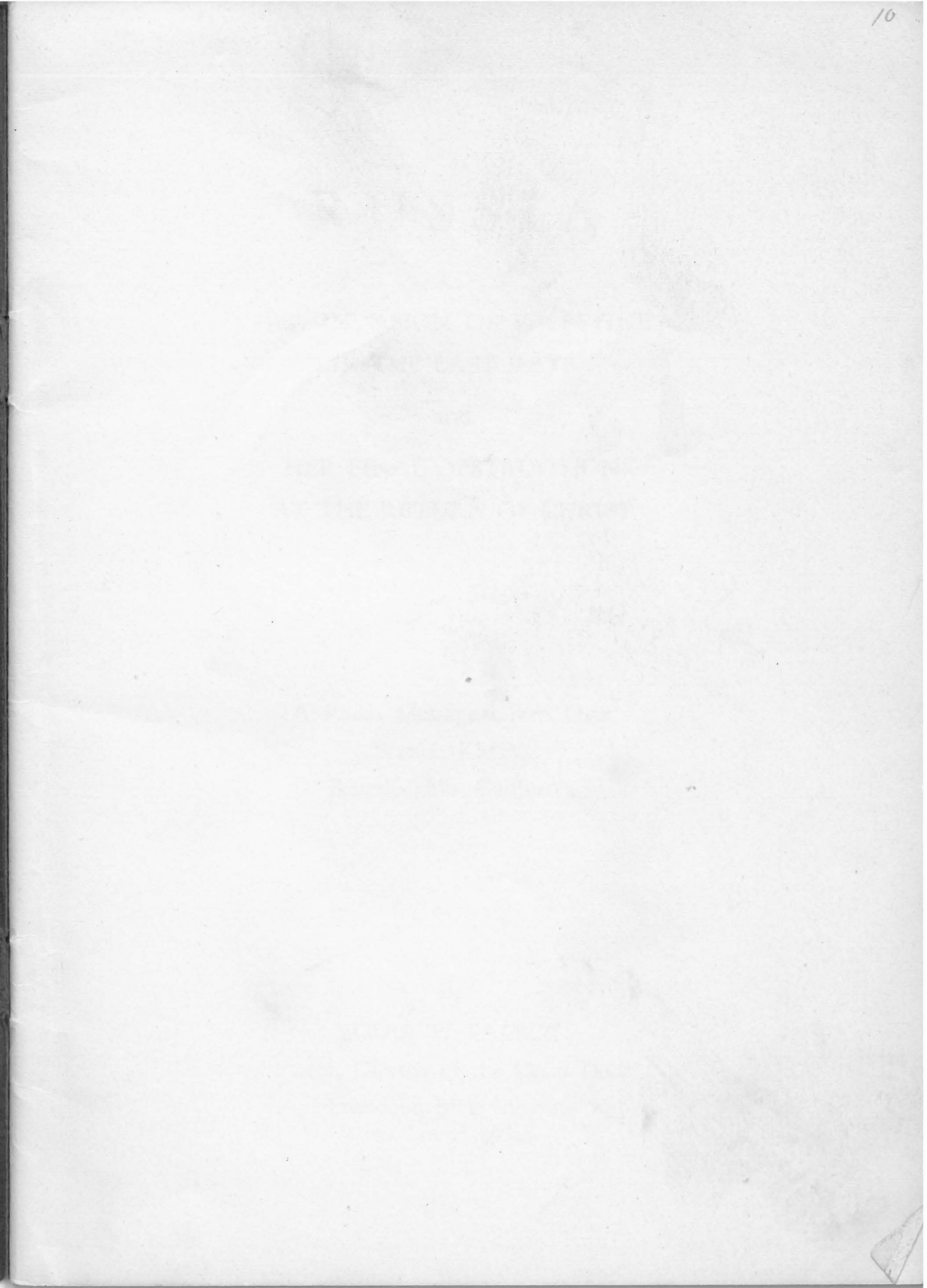
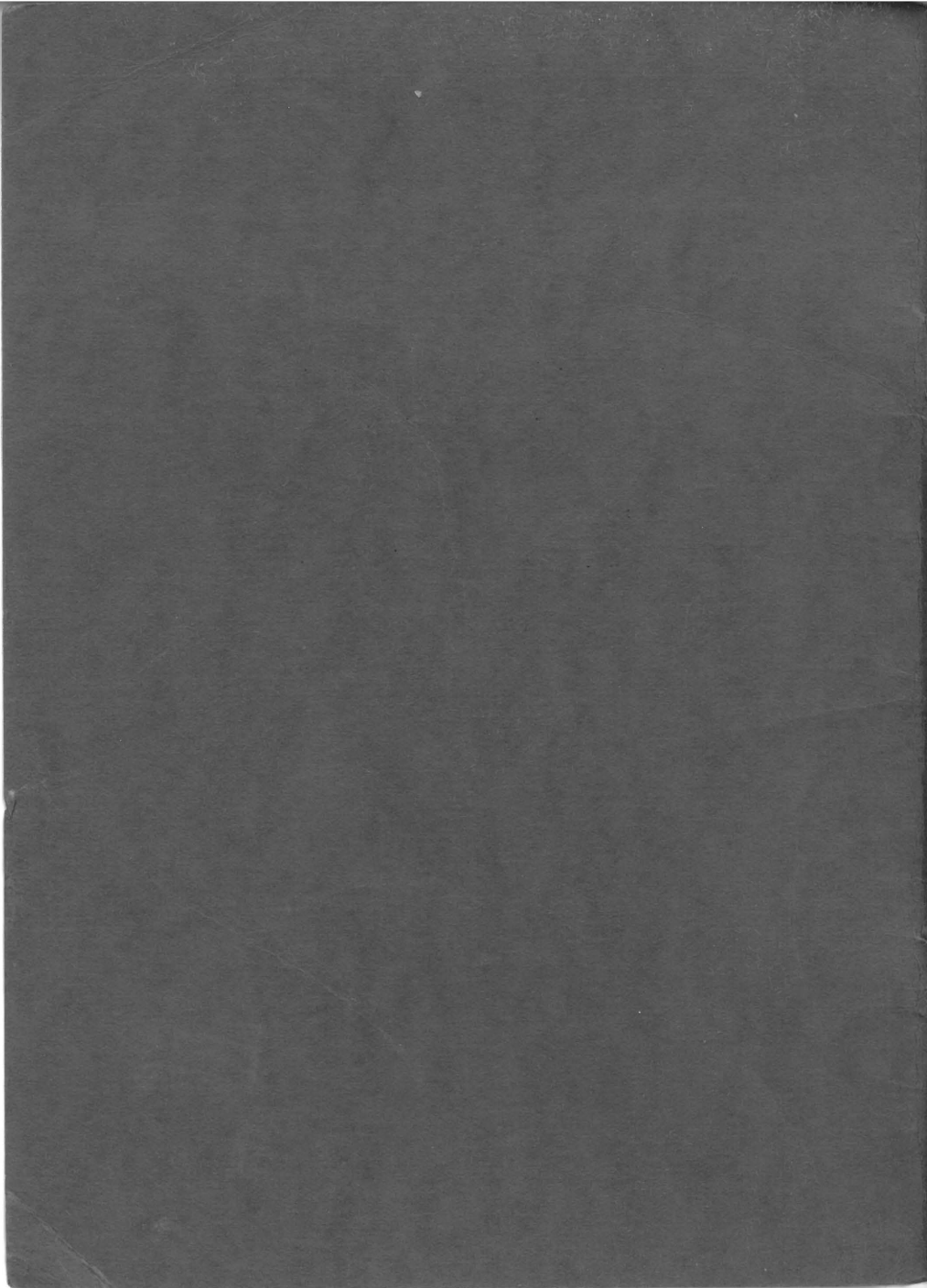
**Her Invasion of Palestine  
in the Last Days  
and  
Her Final Destruction  
at the Return of Christ**



*By*

***Louis T. Talbot***

**Pastor, Church of the Open Door  
President, Bible Institute  
of Los Angeles**



# R U S S I A

HER INVASION OF PALESTINE  
IN THE LAST DAYS

and

HER FINAL DESTRUCTION  
AT THE RETURN OF CHRIST

A Radio Message Given Over  
Station KMPC  
Beverly Hills, California

By

LOUIS T. TALBOT  
Pastor, Church of the Open Door  
President, Bible Institute  
of Los Angeles

## A Moving Picture of Israel's Past, Present and Future

**I**N Ezekiel 36:1-48:35 the Holy Spirit has given us a moving picture of Israel's history, past, present and future, with special emphasis upon the part Russia will play during "the time of Jacob's trouble," which is the great tribulation. It is a picture which dovetails perfectly with other portions of the prophetic Word of God concerning His ancient people and His dealings with them. But nowhere else does the Holy Spirit speak in so much detail concerning Russia and her relationship to Israel in the last tragic world-drama to be enacted upon the earth. Let us read these chapters, noting first the broad outline facts which they present:

- Ezek. 36 —1. The long desolation of Palestine because of Israel's sin and idolatry.  
2. Divine deliverance promised.
- Ezek. 37 —The picture enlarged upon; the method by which Israel will be restored, as a nation alive from the dead.
- Ezek. 38, 39—The part Russia will play in world events in the last days, especially in her relation to Israel.
- Ezek. 40-48—A marvelous description of the millennial reign of Christ.

As we read these significant chapters, we are impressed with the minute details which the Holy Spirit has recorded for us concerning things to come. Then as we read this inspired record of future events in the light of present day movements and present day world conditions, we realize with ever-increasing conviction that we are rapidly approaching the time of their fulfillment.

This picture of things to come, which God has given to us through His prophet, fills us with sorrow for sinning, persecuted

Israel; with wonder for our Lord's patience and kindness toward His covenant people; with awe at the thought of the terrible judgments yet to fall upon the nations which defy Jehovah; with praise for the sure promise of Christ's reign of peace and righteousness over the purified earth. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Rom. 11:33). Let us be much in prayer as we study together these heart-searching pages from God's infallible Word.

### Israel's Sin—Desolation—and Promised Deliverance

Ezek. 36:1-38

**A**S in many portions of the prophetic Word of God, so also in the thirty-sixth chapter of Ezekiel we read that the long desolation of the land of Palestine has been the direct result of Israel's sin and idolatry; but that their covenant-keeping God will deliver them from all their affliction. Verse 19 gives us the heart of the message of this chapter:

"I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them."

In this verse and throughout the entire passage under consideration the word "*heathen*" means "*nations*," and refers to the *Gentiles* among whom God's chosen people have long been scattered. (We shall so translate the word in the quotations which follow.) For nearly two thousand years the Jews have been the people of the wandering feet, hunted, persecuted, despised. Why? Because "when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings" (verse 17). "Wherefore," the Lord said further, "I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it: and I scattered them among the nations (R. V.), and they were dispersed

through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. And when they entered unto the nations, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the Lord, and are gone forth out of his land" (verses 18-20).

This would be a dark picture, indeed, but for the promised deliverance foretold in the words which follow:

"But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations, whither they went . . . And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the nations, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord God, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God" (verses 21-28).

In these wonderful words the Holy Spirit is revealing to us something which has not yet taken place, but which will come to pass when the Son of God returns to this earth and stands on the Mount of Olives. It is a marvelous prophecy regarding the return of Israel to their own land. Verses 19 and 20 tell us how the nation was to be scattered, and that prophecy was fulfilled literally. Therefore, we know that the yet unfulfilled portions of this divine utterance will surely come to pass. Israel will be regathered from all the countries of the world, into their own land. Their hearts will be changed, and they will know that Christ Jesus is their Messiah and Lord.

"And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited" (verse 35).

All this will come to pass at the close of the tribulation period, when Christ returns to the earth to rule. Zechariah wrote of that great event when he said:

“His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, . . . And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem, . . . And the Lord shall be king over all the earth” (Zech. 14:4, 8, 9).

No longer the people of the wandering feet, Israel will be the most honored of nations; for they shall have looked upon Him whom they pierced, and a fountain of cleansing will forever be opened for them.

This is the message of Ezekiel 36:1-38, and it is God's oft-repeated message to His covenant people, Israel.

### **The Significance of the Zionist Movement In the Light of Ezekiel's Vision**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

**I**N chapter 37 the Holy Spirit continues to unfold this great prophecy, giving the method by which Israel will finally be restored to the everlasting purpose of God. Here we see the picture enlarged upon, and what a marvelous portrait it is! Let us read the chapter again, noting especially Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones:

“The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, and caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: and I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And

when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army” (Ezek. 37:1-10).

What Ezekiel saw was a threefold picture:

1. “The valley was full of bones . . . and, lo, they were very dry.”
2. “The sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.”
3. “The breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.”

Now let us consider the explanation of this strange vision, given to us by the Spirit of God Himself in verses 11-14. We must get the connection here if we are to understand chapters 38 and 39:

“Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.”

In the light of this interpretation of the vision, which the Holy Spirit is careful to give, the threefold picture which Ezekiel saw is very striking:

1. The valley of dry bones represents “*the whole house of*

Israel," which has long been buried *nationally* among the Gentiles.

That the vision which Ezekiel saw does not refer to a physical resurrection, is thus made very plain; because here the dry bones are speaking. For centuries the Gentile countries have been Israel's national cemetery. This is what God meant when He spoke to His people through the prophet saying that He would open their "*graves*," and return them to their own land. The "*graves*" are such countries as Russia, Germany, and the nations of the world where Israel has long been "buried."

2. The covering of the dry bones with sinews and flesh and skin—yet with "*no breath in them*,"—represents what we are witnessing today in the Zionist Movement. Israel as a nation is returning to Palestine, but in unbelief. Not knowing Christ as their Messiah, they are still dead in their sins. There is no spiritual "*breath*" in them. In other words, the Zionist Movement is a *political*, a *national*, movement, not a *religious* movement.

For all these centuries the cry of their heart has been, "Our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts" (v. 11). Israel's only hope is their Messiah; their "*parts*," their land. They forsook God, thrusting their Messiah out of the world at the point of a spear. For nearly two thousand years they have been groping in blindness, crying, "Our hope is lost."

3. But when Christ returns in glory, they shall look upon Him whom they have pierced, and they shall live. God will breathe into them new life in Christ Jesus, the Lord; and He will rule over redeemed Israel, even as He said. Then they will look upon the glorified Lord Jesus. Isaiah 53 will be their penitential prayer, and they will know their Redeemer "by the print of the nails in His hands." He will restore them to their own land, and rule over them as their Lord and King.

## The Symbol of the Two Sticks

Ezekiel 37:15-28

WHAT the Holy Spirit of God teaches His people through this vision He amplifies further in the remainder of chapter 37, where He gives the symbol of the two sticks. Let us read the passage carefully in verses 15-28. They are self-explanatory. Even as the two sticks were joined "one to another into one stick," so also the Lord will reunite the long-divided tribes of Israel when He returns to be their King. How reassuring is His promise!

"Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: and I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God . . . And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant . . . Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the nations shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore" (verses 21-28).

What impresses us especially in such a passage as this is the fact that God has so often repeated these words of promise to His covenant people, Israel. They are found over and over again throughout the prophetic Word, foretelling a full and complete deliverance for the chosen people of God.

But before the day of their restoration, they are to pass through the darkest period of the world's history, at which time Russia will be one of their most bitter foes. That is why the



Spirit of God pauses just here to foretell the part which Russia will play in Israel's history and in the history of the world in the last days. Chapters 38 and 39 are devoted to the terrible time of sin and suffering and bloodshed, just prior to the return of Christ in glory. Then chapters 40-45 go on to tell of the blessings of the millennial reign of Christ on earth. Let us consider now chapters 38 and 39, which deal with Russia's final, futile struggle against Jehovah and His people, Israel.

### **Russia and the Last World Conflict**

Ezekiel 38:1-39:24

**T**HERE will be four great confederacies on the earth at the time of the end: (1) The confederacy of the West, or the revived Roman Empire, will be headed by the Antichrist. (2) Russia will control the confederacy of the North; (3) the confederacy of the East is called the "sun-rising kingdom"; and (4) the countries south of Palestine will form the confederacy of the South. As the tribulation period draws to a close, the Antichrist, ruling over the western confederacy, will subdue the other three.

These things we read in different portions of the Scriptures, but Ezekiel 38 and 39 have to do particularly with the part Russia will play in this last world conflict, especially in her relation to Israel.

We are reading in the papers today a great deal about Russia, a country which has been the center of turmoil and chaos in recent years. We do not know what she will do in the immediate future, but there is One who knows all about Russia. The Lord knows what takes place in the secret councils of the Soviet government, and in all the governments of the earth. Three thousand years ago He wrote about things that are beginning to take shape today, things that will reach their climax and consummation when Christ returns. There is no book so up-to-date as the Word of God!

Just prior to the time of the end, Israel will be surrounded by all the nations of the earth. Zechariah 14 tells us that the armies of the nations will be gathered around Palestine. There the battle of Armageddon will be fought, and Russia will be found in that battle. Ezekiel 38 and 39 give a detailed account of her part in this struggle.

In our own day Russia is striving to lay hold of Jerusalem and Palestine. Why? Because Palestine is the richest spot in the whole world. There is no question but that Russia under the last and yet future Czar, or dictator, will be in the great confederacy of the North. Let us look now at these chapters in Ezekiel which tell us this. First we shall read Ezek. 38:1, 2 as translated in the Revised Version; and the Greek Septuagint Version of the Old Testament, which our Lord used when He was on earth, renders these verses as does our Revised Version today:

"And the Word of the Lord came unto me saying, Son of Man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the Prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him."

A comparison of these words with Gen. 10:2 shows us that the names of three of the sons of Japheth, mentioned at the beginning of nations in the earth, are also listed here: Magog, Tubal, and Meshech. When the nations were divided according to the sons of Noah after the flood, these sons of Japheth moved north, in the direction of modern Russia.

Now let us look again at Ezek. 38:1, 2. In these words we have a marvelous example of the divine foreknowledge of God. At the time they were written what human being could have imagined that an unknown tribe, then so isolated, would become the head of a great world power? "The Prince of Rosh" refers to the ruler of Russia at the end of time. Later on we shall see that he is to come out of the North.

The word "Moscow" was first "Meshech"; then "Mosoch." The word "Tubal" was once "Thobol"; then "Tobolsk."

It is significant that Leningrad, formerly St. Petersburg, is not the capital of Russia today. Within recent years, as we well remember, it was changed to Moscow. This is all the more striking because Russia had every reason to keep Leningrad as the capital. There is no name so revered in Russia today as that of Lenin.

From verses 1 and 2, which we have just read, we note that Gog will rule over these cities of Russia. Who is Gog? He is evidently to be the last Czar of Russia, a contemporary of the Antichrist. According to these verses, his name was given three thousand years ago. Often in the Word of God men are named before they are born. Josiah was named three hundred years before he was born, and Cyrus was named long before his day. God has evidently given us in Ezekiel 38:2 the very name of the last Czar of the North.

Now look at verse 3, where God says, "Behold, I am against thee, O Gog." The question here is: Why is God against Gog? He is long-suffering; He is kind. But it is possible for man to resist the striving of the Holy Spirit in so far that judgment must be meted out to him. When Russia comes out of the North and moves against Palestine, Gog will be actively against God and His people. Therefore, judgment must come upon him. God will be against Gog because Gog will be irrevocably, defiantly, against God.

What is taking place in Russia today is only a shadow of what will take place later. Communism is against God. The most blasphemous words ever uttered have come from Russia. There was a manifesto sent out recently from New York, but any communistic theory has its origin in Russia, no matter where it is uttered. This manifesto said: "We hate religion and God. If God Himself were to appear before us, we should refuse to worship Him. But we should consider Him equal with us." That philosophy appears everywhere in the world today. And so far as Russia is concerned, her leaders are endeavoring to make the country absolutely godless. They con-

sider all religion as an opiate of the people, maintaining that no nation can have an ideal government until this opiate has been entirely eliminated.

Scores of quotations from current newspapers and periodicals might be cited to bear out the truth of this fact. The following excerpts from the booklet, "God and Gog," by Dr. Louis S. Bauman, will suffice. Quoting from the decree announcing Russia's "five-year plan," he writes:

"On May 1, 1937, there must not remain on the territory of the U. S. S. R. a single house of prayer to God, and the very conception 'God' will be banished from the boundaries of the Soviet Union, as a survival of the Middle Ages which has served as an instrument for the oppression of the working masses."

Quoting from a proclamation issued by Lounatcharski, Commissar of Education, Dr. Bauman further states:

"We hate Christians. Even the best of them must be regarded as our worst enemies. They preach love to one's neighbor and pity, which is contrary to our principles. Christian love is a hindrance to the development of the revolution. Down with love for one's neighbor, what we want is hatred. We must know how to hate, for only at this price can we conquer the universe. We have done with kings of the earth; let us deal now with the kings of the skies. All religions are poison. They intoxicate and deaden the mind, the will, and the conscience. A fight to the death must be declared upon religion. Our task is to destroy all kinds of religion, all kinds of morality."

Comrade Solz, a high Soviet official, proclaims:

"Faith in God, whether it be Jewish or Christian, only weakens the will of men for the fight. All gods are the same as poison. War without quarter should be declared upon all."

Hessel Tiltman, a Christian man, editor of "Answers" in England, wrote, after his return from a 2,500 mile tour through Russia:

"No lie is too despicable, no insult too coarse, to hurl at Christ and His followers. If I were a Christian in Rus-

sia, I should keep my eyes turned to the pavements to escape those blasphemous pictures on the boardings which are a continued reminder of the grand attempt to sabotage God. This 'drive' against religion is supported by continuous propaganda. From end to end, Russia is plastered with posters which depict 'Mr. God' as a funny little man smoking a pipe and smiling complacently, while the workers groan beneath the weight of a gold cross. Blasphemy has no meaning in Russia."

When we consider such blasphemy as this, we begin to understand why our Holy God must be against the men who are responsible for it.

Again, this program of Russia is very significant in the light of the Olivet discourse of our Lord. Just prior to the time of His crucifixion He sat on the Mount Olivet and His disciples asked Him, saying, "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matt. 24:3). His answer was, in part, "As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24:37). In the sixth chapter of Genesis we have an account of the conditions in the time of Noah. Also in Job 22:15-17 we read: "Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden? Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood: which said unto God, Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them?"

In the days of Noah the people set themselves against God. And this is what Russia is trying to do today. So also are parts of Germany. Moreover, the attitude, expressed in these words addressed to God, "Depart from us," is true, not of these nations alone, but it is also true of almost every nation on the earth. In their repudiation of things pertaining to Christ, people everywhere are turning away from God. But the fountain-head of this anti-Christian, anti-Church, anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-Bible movement is Russia. However, a day of reckoning will come, and in that day our holy God will be "against" Gog and all who defy His power and reject His grace.

In verses 4-8 of this thirty-eighth chapter of Ezekiel we

learn that Russia will not be alone in this great northern army, but that she will be the leader of a confederacy of nations. Note how the Holy Spirit addresses Gog, the last ruler of Russia, in verses 5-7:

"Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them: all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee. Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them."

Persia was the second of the four great world empires to hold sway over the world during the times of the Gentiles. Greece was next. Since Alexander the Great overthrew Persia, Persia has never ceased to exist as a nation, although she did become insignificant. In recent years, however, since the discovery of oil there, she is once more becoming a factor in the affairs of the nations. Persia will be in that northern alliance.

Ethiopia and Libya are now under Italian yoke; and Daniel 11:43 states that the Antichrist will have both of these nations "at his steps." Ezekiel 38:5, however, indicates that before the Antichrist appears, both of these countries will be taken from Italy and associated with the northern confederacy. As we shall see, the Antichrist will annihilate the king of the North. He will make a covenant with Israel and guarantee her national integrity in return for Israel's allegiance. Therefore, when the confederacy comes down from the North, the Antichrist will conquer the king of the North. Then it is that Ethiopia and Libya will be brought into the Roman Empire. That is why Daniel of 11:43 says that they are to be under the domination of the Antichrist.

So much for "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya" (verse 5); but what does "Gomer" mean? (See verse 6.) We turn again to Gen. 10:2, 3 to find the answer. Gomer was the grandson of Noah, and the son of Japheth. His three sons settled on the north of the Black Sea, called first "Gomeria" and then Cimmeria and then Crimea. Other descendants of Gomer are said

to have travelled along the Danube and settled in the land now called Germany. According to some authorities, their land was first called "The Land of Gomer" or "Gomerland" then passing into its modern equivalent, Germany. Germany was never in the Roman Empire. In the day when the Antichrist heads the Roman Empire, these nations will be linked with the northern confederacy. Germany will be found cooperating with Russia in connection with her armies.

There is nothing more likely than this in regard to national alliances. In accordance with the treaty of Versailles, Germany has had to reduce arms. But she sends her men to Russia to be trained for war. She also sends materials there to be made into ammunition. If war comes, and it is sure to come, and Russia marches down from the north, then Germany will march with her.

Now let us look again at verses 3 and 4, where God says to Gog:

"I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal! And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords."

In these solemn words Jehovah addresses Gog as one would a wild beast. As a beast is led about by hooks, so God will lead this infidel Government. She will think she is making the advance, but God will lead her. He will have the controlling hand of that nation, which will be rushing on to her doom. We note in verse 8 that God will lead these people down and on to the battle of Armageddon "in the latter years"; that is, the latter years of the times of the Gentiles. This is equivalent to "the time of the end" of Dan. 11:40. It will come to pass after Israel is regathered. When God's covenant people think they are dwelling confidently and safely in Palestine, this gigantic struggle will be at hand, as verse 8 clearly states:

"After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them."

How solemn is all this! And how thankful every redeemed child of God should be to know that, before these terrible days come upon the earth, the church will be translated, forever to be with Christ! These events can not come to pass until the Antichrist is revealed; and he can not be revealed until the restraining power of the Holy Spirit, working in and through the church, is "taken out of the way." (See II Thess. 2:1-12.)

Keeping in mind this fact, let us read now verses 9 and 15, where God continues to address Gog concerning this last great conflict:

"Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee . . . And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army."

We note here that the hordes from the North will "ascend and come like a storm," a mighty air force. Then in verse 15 we read that they will "come . . . out of the north parts . . . riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army." These two statements are most significant when we consider that Russia is not only increasing her army of the air at feverish speed, but that she alone, out of all the nations of the earth, still uses the cavalry. She uses the Siberian ponies which are very swift and tireless.

Russia is not behind other nations in machines of war, but she alone has turned to horses as well as these. I have in my possession a stamp issued by the Soviet Government to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Red army's cavalry, an outstanding unit of Russia's fighting force. This stamp portrays four men riding on ponies, the leading horseman carry-

ing a red flag, riding furiously down a red path to Palestine. No one knows the extent of the readiness with which the cavalry can be mobilized in Russia. This is highly significant in the light of Ezekiel 38:15.

From page 27 of Dr. L. Sale-Harrison's booklet, entitled "The Coming Great Northern Confederacy," or "The Future of Russia and Germany," the following excerpts are quoted concerning Russia's air force:

"The Soviet Council of the People's Commissars had decided to increase enormously the Soviet air force by training one million pilots to be ready for service at a moment's notice by the end of 1937. That 500,000 of the pilots would be trained as bombers and observers; and the remaining 500,000 as scouting pilots. The Soviet Finance Commissar was quoted as saying Russia had been forced to prepare herself for all emergencies."

"She is preparing to complete the building of 500,000 single-seated aeroplanes in the quickest possible time. This is probably why Japan ordered from Texas, U. S. A., in October, 1934, thirty million barrels of crude and fuel oil and gasoline (petrol) for her warships and aeroplanes. This will supplement her own increasing supply from Sakhalin Island."

"The Russian air force is already tremendous," said Minister Pierre Cot of France to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, early in 1934. He further stated that 'in two or three years Soviet aviation will be five times more powerful than that of Great Britain or France.' Mr. Cot toured the Russian aviation works during 1933. It is known that Moscow's airport alone covers 250 acres."

Again, we quote from Dr. Bauman in his booklet, "God and Gog":

"Leon Trotsky, once the most powerful personage of the Soviet Union, now an exile, ought to speak with some authority. He informs us that the Russian colossus is about ready for the fray. He has eighteen thousand eagles of war hovering in the skies, ready to hurl upon mankind the flames of hell! His chemical laboratories have ready secret gases that will send cosmopolitan populations into Hades overnight. Over sixteen millions of men, to say nothing of other millions of boys and whole battalions of

aggressive, atheistic Amazons, are ready for the call to arms. But little does Trotsky or any other son of Gog realize that the hooks of the God they hate will determine the time and course of their march. Little do they realize that none who join therein shall ever return! Little do they realize that their march is predestined to end on the exact spot where marching myriads of the blustering enemies of Jehovah have ended in ages gone—a mighty bone pile in the valley of Megiddo on the plain of Esdraelon."

In verses 10-12, still addressing Gog, the Holy Spirit tells us what Russia's purpose will be in invading Palestine:

"Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, 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."

Here Jehovah declares that Gog, the prince of Rosh, will "think an evil thought." That evil thought will be to exterminate the Jewish nation. Two very significant reasons will prompt him to turn against God's covenant people:

1. Russia is against God, the Lord Jesus, and the Bible; and her program is not only to eliminate these things from the world, but also to exterminate those who believe in them. In the eyes of communistic, atheistic Russia, the Jews have been mainly responsible for these things of God and of Christ, things which they so bitterly oppose. And in this Russia is right; for through the nation of Israel Jehovah has given to the world the most priceless of possessions: (1) The revelation of the one true God; (2) the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of sinners; and (3) the written Word of God. No wonder godless Russia hates the Jew!

2. The prince of Rosh will also invade Palestine in order "to take a spoil, and to take a prey." He will turn his hand upon the once "desolate places" that will have become "in-

habited." He will turn upon Israel regathered in the land of her fathers, with increased possessions of "cattle and goods."

Even today we are coming to see the significance of such a purpose, in view of recent discoveries concerning the wealth of the land of Palestine. We have known for years that the Jew has controlled a large portion of the wealth of the world. And when he returns to Palestine, there will be a yet larger concentration of wealth. It is only in recent years that men have discovered that the land of Palestine has wealth which can not be measured. The mineral resources are enormous, containing something like 40 billion tons of salt. "The Jewish Missionary Magazine" gives the following statement: "The potash, bromine, salt, gypsum, calcium chloride, and magnesium chloride in the Dead Sea are worth 238 billion pounds sterling. If this estimate stands, the riches of the Dead Sea are greater than the combined wealth of all nations of the world."

Dr. Thomas A. Norton, of New York City, editor of "Chemicals," gives a more complete, compiled estimate:

	Tons	Value
Potash .....	1,300,000,000	\$ 70,000,000,000
Bromine .....	853,000,000	260,000,000,000
Salt .....	11,900,000,000	27,500,000,000
Gypsum .....	81,000,000	120,000,000
Calcium Chloride .....	6,000,000,000	85,000,000,000
Magnesium Chloride .....	22,000,000,000	825,000,000,000
		<hr/>
		\$1,267,620,000,000

In rebuilding Palestine, the Zionists are using these minerals to enrich the land and to turn desolate places into watered gardens, vineyards, and fruitful groves. A recent issue of a Los Angeles newspaper stated that, through experimental farming, oranges weighing a pound have been produced in this fruitful land. This has been made possible by the minerals of the Dead Sea, which are used to enrich the soil; and there is sufficient to fertilize the whole of Palestine.

In view of all this, the words of Ezekiel 38:12 become

highly significant. Russia will go down to Palestine "to take a spoil, and to take a prey."

Now let us note the words used by the Holy Spirit to describe Israel and the land in that day:

"The land of unwalled villages."

"Them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates."

"The desolate places that are now inhabited."

"The people that are gathered out of the nations."

"The people that . . . have gotten cattle and goods."

These are the very things that are taking place in Palestine today, even to the minute details. Unwalled cities, as of old, are being built. What a marvelous Book the Bible is! And how up-to-date it is! Some of the cities of modern Palestine would compare favorably with our western cities. Take, for example, Tel-Aviv. A few years ago it did not exist; today it has a population of 100,000, all of whom are Jews. Upon such cities as this, upon the fruitful land Gog will descend with all his hordes.

Verse 13 mentions the three nations or people who will resent the invasion into Palestine on the part of this great northern confederacy.

"Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?"

Sheba and Dedan are Arabic territories on the edge of the Dead Sea, both controlled by England; while every Bible reference to Tarshish suggests it as a nation of traders, having fleets of ships. Here we note the words, "merchants of Tarshish." The "young lions" mentioned in this verse refer, in all likelihood, to England and the nations that have emerged from England. If so, that would include the United States of America.

Let us not forget that this whole incident is to occur at the



time of the end. England will be in the revived Roman Empire, comprising ten kingdoms as represented by the ten toes of the image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Those kingdoms will not be of equal strength, just as the ten toes of man are not of the same size or strength. There are, of course, two great toes and eight lesser ones. So, also, in that great ten-toed kingdom, there will be ten nations of different powers and strength. And the two great nations will doubtless be England and Italy. The Antichrist will be head over the government in Italy, ruling from Rome.

Even today England is vitally interested in Palestine, and looks with great concern upon the probability of Russia's invasion of that land. The Antichrist, leading the armies of the ten united kingdoms, will meet Russia when she comes down with her 18,000,000 men in the last days. The eleventh chapter of Daniel makes this very clear. He will be used by God to destroy Russia; thus righteous judgment will be meted out to that nation which already hates the name of God.

When these things come to pass, when Russia goes down to Palestine "to take a spoil," the Antichrist will be in league with Israel, promising them national integrity and safety in return for their allegiance. These events will take place during the first half of the seventieth week of Daniel, *after* the translation of the church. (See Lecture XII of our recent series of radio messages on "God's Plan of the Ages.")

Now let us read verses 14-23. We have already considered the significance of Russia's cavalry and air forces, mentioned again in these verses for emphasis. We have already noted the time when these things are to come to pass, "in the latter days," reiterated here in verse 16. We have seen that Gog will think he is going down to Palestine of his own volition, whereas God will be leading him to certain judgment for his unspeakable defiance and sin. But let us look now at verses 18-23 particularly, where we find a terrific description of God's wrath against the anti-Semitic armies. It reminds us of the

words in Heb. 10:31, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." This is true of nations, as well as of individuals. The day of grace will be over when Ezekiel 38:18-23 comes to pass, at least for the enemies of God. He will deal with them in judgment, even as He said:

"And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; so that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord."

We must marvel at God's patience when we look at the world today. God was patient with men in Noah's time. He gave them 120 years in which to repent. But when they did not, He sent judgment upon them, though not until Noah and his family were safely shut into the ark. God's patience was exhausted then, just as it will finally be with the people today. God allows men to go on as they are because this is the day of grace, but eventually this day will be over. The time will come when the events recorded in Ezekiel will take place.

I am reminded here of an incident in the life of Robert Ingersoll, that blatant infidel. While he was going about addressing audiences, he said, on one occasion: "Here is my watch. If there is a God, I defy Him to strike me dead in five minutes." One minute passed, and a great quiet settled upon

the waiting audience. The second minute passed. After the third, women fainted and had to be carried from the room. The fourth went by, and yet nothing happened. Then the fifth passed, with Ingersol still alive. Addressing the group, he added: "You see. There is no God. If there were, He would have struck me dead. He would have accepted my challenge."

Joseph Parker, a great preacher in England, was living at this time; and when he was told about this instance, he asked, "Does this gentleman think that God's patience can be exhausted in five minutes?"

But, my friend, God's patience can be exhausted. There will be a time, when people will know something of the wrath of God. Gog will know then the meaning of Ezekiel 38:21. "The sword" of the Antichrist will be the instrument by which he will meet his doom.

Later on, at the close of the seventieth week of Daniel, the two-edged sword of Rev. 19:15 will be used by the Lord to stay the Antichrist, but Russia will be brought to her downfall prior to the tribulation period. Nebuchadnezzar of old was called "a servant" of God, executing judgment upon the enemies of Jehovah, even though he was a pagan. In like manner the Antichrist will act as God's instrument to destroy the great northern confederacy. God often uses one evil thing to destroy another. After the northern armies start making their way to Palestine, the beast, which is the Antichrist, will leap from his lair and will be led by the hand of God to meet the bear from the North. Thus the Antichrist will be like a sword in the hand of Jehovah to annihilate godless Russia.

The prophecy continues to unfold in chapter 39, but the greater part is a reiteration of what has already been given in chapter 38—for the sake of emphasis. Only a few details are added. The whole scene is one that solemnizes the heart, and brings us to realize what a terrible period the seventieth week of Daniel will be. The chapter begins as does 38:

"Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and

say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal."

Here is the statement that, as a result of the battle with the Roman Antichrist, Russia will have only one-sixth of her army left. As Russia contemplates having an army of 18,000,000, and as there will be only one-sixth left, we can see that she will lose 15,000,000 men.

Verse 4 clearly states that the mountains of Palestine will be the graveyard of Russia's men, while verse 11 describes the solemnizing effect that judgment will have on the consciences and hearts of men. Verses 12 and 13 state that it will take seven months to bury the dead, that the land may be cleansed. This battle will make the war of 1914-1918 look like a mere skirmish.

How near we are to this terrible time, we do not know, but we do know that Europe is aflame and that Russia is preparing for war. God has evidently outlined for us here what will be the end of the Russian prince.

Going back to verse 7, we note that the Lord will not allow His name to be polluted any more. Russia, with her blasphemous, nefarious methods of inculcating into the minds of the people the worst kind of infidelity, will be forever past.

"So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel."

What searching words are described in verses 17-19. This scene corresponds to "the supper of the great God" in Revelation 19:17:

"And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God."

How glad we should be, in the light of this revelation, that



we are not appointed unto wrath, and that before the storm comes, the church will be translated!

Some time ago, when I was in the Hawaiian Islands, a friend of mine took me to the summit of an extinct volcano. As we made our way to the top, we passed through a storm. The lightning flashed; the thunder roared; and the rain poured down. But we passed through the scene until we reached the summit of the volcano. There we found that we were above the fury of the storm. We were in the sun. It was a very impressive sight. As I looked out over the land, I could see the clouds below. I thought of that time when the heaven and earth shall be shaken, and men's hearts will fail them because of fear. The nations will be full of perplexity and distress. The wind and waves will roar. But in that day we shall be above the storm, because we are members of the Bride of Christ. He will come to take us home to heaven before this last, tragic world-drama begins to be enacted.

### **Millennial Blessing and Worship**

Ezekiel 39:25-48:35

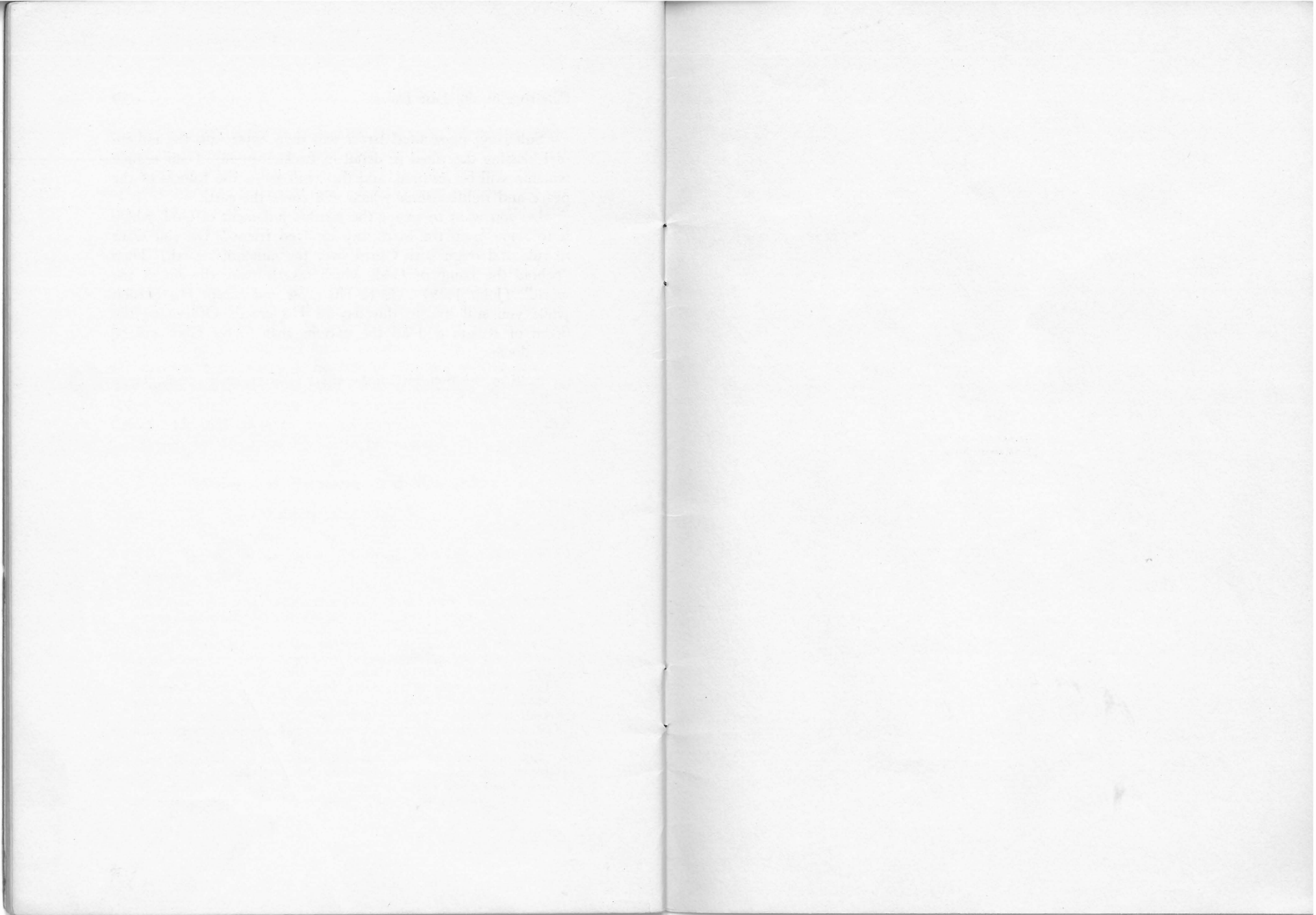
**T**HE chapter closes with promised blessing upon God's people, Israel:

"Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; after that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid. When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the nations: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord God" (Ezek. 39:25-2').

Suffering, persecuted Israel will then enter into the millennial blessing described in detail in Ezekiel 40-48. Their temple worship will be restored, and they will know the fulness of the peace and righteousness which will cover the earth.

Do you want to escape the terrible judgment of God, which is to come upon the earth, my unsaved friend? Do you want to rule and reign with Christ over the millennial earth? Then "behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Go to His cross and accept His pardon while you still live in this day of His grace. Otherwise, the doom of Russia and all the nations that forget God will be your doom.

"Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way" (Psa. 2:12).



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