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Afghanistan (Gog and Magog)

by Ernest L. Martin Ph.D., November 2001

Edited by David Sielaff, August 2024

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Editor’s Note: United States armed forces were inserted into Afghanistan soon after the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States. Dr. Ernest Martin wrote this article immediately after those troops arrived in Afghanistan. His analysis was ahead of its time and his warning about the difficulties of dealing with the remarkable people of Afghanistan were proven correct for the 20+ years of direct involvement by U.S. and allied military forces. Remember, Dr. Martin published this article in November 2001. DWS



Whenever a general of armies in the past looked at the land of Afghanistan and its immediate neighbor countries to the west, north and east with an eye to conquer and to control them politically and militarily, those generals were met with a great deception that almost always meets with the intruding army. If the army invading the countries is powerful and concentrated and always on the move (and especially if the army is crossing to other areas and is not engaging the natives of the region), it can roam at will without unusual fear of being attacked and defeated. Armies from the east and west have traversed Afghanistan in the [distant] past. But when those armies began to settle in the region to control it from within, the harshness of the region and its many desert-type mountains, valleys, and adverse hinterlands give the native populations superior positions to engage in wars of attrition.

Ordinary armies operating in the region of Afghanistan are at a disadvantage in having any long-term success. Alexander the Great was marginally successful in his time because he came, and he went (leaving only pockets of Greek influence in the vast region). Genghis Khan was also able to achieve recognition by doing his exploits in a similar fashion. But when the Soviets tried to bring them into a part of the USSR [from

December 1979 to February 1989, DWS], it was a calamitous operation.¹

In truth, only a form of colonial-type of government exercised by a strong world power such as will exist under the Antichrist in the future will have any success in the effort (even that will be temporary) of keeping these people in a reasonable civilized state. It is hopeless to do so with external military power alone. Of course, when the Kingdom of God arrives with Christ Jesus at it head, the people will be forced to become properly civilized in the manner that we in the west reckon as appropriate.

Why is it that the peoples of Afghanistan do not adhere to democratic institutions? Because throughout their history, the peoples inhabiting those geographical regions have such an unusual desire for sheer independence from other nearby families, other nearby tribes or other nearby groups trying to tell them what to do that the natives are at constant war with their neighbors.

Most Afghan people do not live in cities and their loyalties are normally to kinship alliances and ethnic societies (local families and regional ones) and in religious beliefs that they express in a variety of traditions and customs. In history, their populations have normally been fighting one another in all their local areas. The region must be acknowledged as one of the most uncontrollable and wild regions of the world (and there is no exception to what is happening there, even at the present time when the United States and Britain are bombing the areas).

In a word, if one tribal group gets the temporary superiority over another and defeats it in battle (like when the present Taliban will be defeated in the central area), then another warring group takes its place, and it is as cantankerous as the former community. Religious beliefs or versions of such beliefs (notably variations in the teachings of Islam) can be deceptive in this region because Islam's mainline appeal to international co-existence (especially with Christians and Jews) is not paramount among such groups.

Islam in these locales is simply a vehicle for promoting their own brand of tribal traditions and political unrest that is endemic in this vast area. The people are too diverse in beliefs to unify as a nation or into a variety of ethnic groups that can have a homogeneous society like we in the United States or in Britain.

With these points in mind, they should serve as an example of what the United States, Britain and its allies must do in this new type of war against terrorism. They can be successful if they do like Alexander and Genghis Khan did in their maneuvers. That is, get into the area and perform what the stated purpose of the intrusion into Afghanistan is supposed to do (that is, to bring to justice the present perpetrators of the recent terrorist acts), **and then get out as soon as possible**. It is not a matter of retreating, because there should be no intention whatever of occupying the area for any considerable period. [The evidence is complex. DWS]

Gog and Magog in Ezekiel

Today, it is not yet time for the Antichrist to bring the whole world under his control (as he will certainly do) before the Second Advent of Christ back to earth. During the last year of Antichrist's rule over the earth we find the area of Afghanistan prominently featured in biblical prophecy. Ezekiel 38:1–8 (CLV):

“The word of Yahweh came to me, saying: Son of humanity, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, head prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him. And you will say,

‘Thus says my Lord Yahweh: Behold, I am against you Gog, head prince of Meshech and Tubal. I will turn you about and put gaffs in your cheeks, and I will bring you forth with all your army, horses and horsemen, clothed in panoply, all of them, a vast assembled force, with large shield and buckler [a small shield], grasping swords, all of them.

Persia, Cush [this “CUSH” is the area of the Hindu Kush Mountains, i.e., AFGHANISTAN], and Put [Hebrew: PHUT, the area of India today] are with them, all of them with buckler and helmet. Gomer and all its combatants, Beth-togarmah from remote parts of the north and all its combatants, many peoples are with you.

¹ See Dr. Martin's 1982/1991 article "[The Breakup of the Soviet Union](#)" and my 2012 Commentary "[The Soviet Union's Demise](#)." DWS

Be ready and prepare yourself, you and all your assembled force which are assembled about you, and you will be in My charge.

After many days you shall be mustered; in the latter years [likely in the time of the Antichrist] you shall come to the land restored from the sword, **CONVENED FROM MANY PEOPLES** on [upon] **the mountains of Israel**, which had become a continual waste, which was brought forth from the peoples, and now they dwell in trust, all of them.”

The Antichrist Will Take Control of the World in Stages:

The First Stage: Securing the 10 nations (10 kings of Revelation chapters 17 and 18) to unite to form his single government for the Middle East. This will be centered in the Middle East with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Second Stage: The rest of the western world will come under the Antichrist’s domination; that is, Europe and the remainder of western civilization.

The Third Stage: Once that is accomplished, the prophet Daniel states that the Antichrist will hear rumors from the north and the east (Daniel 11:44) — directly from the region of Persia [Iran] and Afghanistan which will give audible and visible signs that the rest of the world community in the Orient (the Land of Magog) will be ready to move toward the west to conquer Israel and the western regions of the world who will have revolted from the sovereignty of the ten kings of Revelation chapters 17 and 18. At this time, Israel will be an unwallled country and a nation without armaments — all weapons surrendered to the Antichrist (Ezekiel 38:8).

The Fourth Stage: From the region of Iran, Afghanistan, and surrounding regions the armies of Gog and the invigorated Antichrist will bring under his control the armies of **“the Land of Magog.”** The Book of Revelation informs us that this Gog will lead these armies from the Magog. This land will represent the far-flung regions of the earth from all four cardinal directions of the inhabitable earth (see Revelation 20:8–10). These vast armies will assemble in Iran and Afghanistan and surrounding areas to come across the Euphrates River to invade the unwallled nation of Israel, as Israel will then exist in the time of the Antichrist (Revelation 16:12). These armies of Gog will come from the north and east. The River Euphrates will dry up and allow them to move freely toward Israel (Revelation 16:12).²

The Armies Assemble in the Valley of Megiddo

This is when the armies finally assemble in the Valley of Megiddo (the biblical site of Armageddon). At this final assemblage to conquer Jerusalem, God will destroy the armies of Gog who come from the Land of Magog (Revelation 16:16–21).

For example, in the Book of Revelation, the people of MAGOG are shown as inhabiting regions in the extremities of the earth and away from the area of the Middle East. It mentions the people of MAGOG as being in the four quarters of the earth (Revelation 20:8).

Look at their history. People in the 1st century AD knew MAGOG inhabited regions at the antipodes of the earth (from the Middle East).³ Indeed, in prophecies dealing also with the End-Time, we find the people of JAVAN (mentioned in the Table of Nations of Genesis 10:2) who were no longer located in Europe where early biblical geographers put them.

At the End Time they are associated with MAGOG and TUBAL (another son of JAPHETH) who were a people of a type of eastern Mongolian people. So far from Europe did JAVAN finally migrate that Isaiah said they came to know nothing about the God of Israel (Isaiah 66:19). If this were a reference to JAVAN in Europe (where they first settled after the Flood), it would make no sense. Most southern Europeans since the

² This is different from the army of Revelation 9:13–21, when 200 million spirit beings riding 200 million spirit beasts kill one-third of humanity. DWS

³ The term “**antipodes**” means “the ends of the earth.” In context it means farthest from the Middle East, even to American continents. DWS

Israel's Exodus were aware of the practices of Israel's God. These End Time people are situated far away.

The JAVAN that Isaiah wrote about at the End Time are aligned with TUBAL (a Mongolian people) who in turn will be associated with Magog. Even in Ezekiel 27:13, 19, we also find Ezekiel no longer associating the people of JAVAN with Europeans. The people of JAVAN had long left southern Europe, though the name JAVAN still retained its geographical hold in southern Europe, particularly in Greece). But Ezekiel in his day (along with Isaiah) placed JAVAN with the mongoloid peoples of TUBAL who in turn were allied with MAGOG. Some people of JAVAN also took their name even into the southeastern Asian area of Indonesia where modern people are called JAVANESE.

It is common for people to give a name to a region and the original people later move on to other areas (or are killed off) and the original geographical name becomes associated with completely different people.

An example of this is in our state in the United States called Massachusetts. If one would have traveled to the area 500 years ago there would have been numerous native tribes calling themselves the Massachusetts people, but within 300 years (primarily because of disease that Europeans brought among them) every single indigenous tribesman who was of the original Massachusetts race of people died out and has been replaced by people of European and African origin (with a smattering of most races in the world) who now call themselves the people of Massachusetts. This has happened in other areas of America.

Thus, Shemitic peoples (and others) took over the areas of JAVAN in Europe (with his four descendants named ELISHAH, RODANIM, KITTIM, and TARSHISH). The same thing occurred to the people of MAGOG in Asia and the Americas. People from Europe and Africa came into the original territory colonized at first by MAGOG. Now those people in North America have become a minority group.

What about the KITTIM, another son of JAVAN? They originally settled Cyprus and finally Italy (but they were pushed north and east by Shemites coming from the areas cited above). They finally went to the central areas of Asia, then to the area we call China today (an early name of China was CATHAY that comes from the root word Khitai which answers to KITTIM.)

All this may appear complicated (and the study of history from the beginning of creation is not easy to understand because many people have moved to other areas of the world than they first settled after the Flood of Noah). What I presented above is an overview of where the people of MAGOG, JAVAN, and KITTIM finally moved (oriental nations plus the aboriginal populations of both North and South America).

These nations from the extremities of the earth will assemble first in the region of Iran and Afghanistan (PERSIA and the Hindu Cush, or AFGHANISTAN). Under the Antichrist they will sweep westward across the Euphrates to regroup at Armageddon (Revelation chapter 16).

The country of Afghanistan that the United States and Britain are attacking is an area in which we should NOT get entangled with troop concentrations and mired in the politics of the area. If people do, our armies are not equipped to sustain guerilla warfare in such inhospitable areas. Even now, it will be difficult to weed out all terrorists from the region.

Still, the answer to world affairs in the near future is NOT Afghanistan, it is Jerusalem! Jerusalem holds the answer to whether we have a temporary peace for the near future and a stop to this present terrorism. If things get cleared up in Jerusalem, the entire world will be a safer place for our form of democratic western civilization to thrive and to progress.

Ernest L. Martin, 2001
Edited by David Sielaff, 2024

Editor's Note, August 2024

On April 14, 2021, President Joe Biden ordered the United States military to withdraw troops from Afghanistan before September 11, 2021. (See Department of Defense document: "[Biden Announces Full U.S. Troop Withdrawal From Afghanistan by Sept. 11.](#)")

The military forces withdrew from Afghanistan, fulfilling President Biden's order. Quoting from the

article, [“Withdrawal timeline: Who is responsible for the chaos in Afghanistan?”](#) (The New Statesman, August 16, 2021 updated October 12, 2021. Below is part of a timeline of events in the final months, quoting:

- **14 April 2021:** U.S. President Joe Biden announces that all troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan by September 11, the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.
- **4 May 2021:** The Taliban launches its first major offensive on the Afghan military in the Helmand province. It also attacks a number of nearby provinces.
- **2 July 2021:** The U.S. quietly withdraws soldiers from Bagram Air Base, the main military base throughout the war.
- **13 August 2021:** Kandahar, Afghanistan’s second-largest city, falls to the Taliban.
- **14 August 2021:** President Joe Biden puts out a statement confirming the deployment of approximately 5,000 U.S. troops to help evacuation from Afghanistan. He also reaffirms his desire to leave the region: *“One more year, or five more years, of U.S. military presence would not have made a difference if the Afghan military cannot or will not hold its own country. And an endless American presence in the middle of another country’s civil conflict was not acceptable to me.”*
- **15 August 2021:** Kabul [the capital of Afghanistan] is seized by the Taliban. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani leaves the country. The US embassy is evacuated.

The number and nature of weapons left behind is disputed, but it was substantial, including 7,000+ military Humvees, various aircraft, helicopters, thousands of small arms, ammunition, and night vision equipment, with some of this equipment being resold on the world market.

The conditions and past difficulty of subduing Afghanistan in the ancient past is still applicable in the modern world, and even up to a few years ago.

Dr. Martin’s analysis of past invasions and attempts to subdue the Afghan tribes in November 2001 was accurate in 2021. Dr. Martin did not live to know he was correct. He died in January 2002.

He did understand and see the fulfillment of his 1982 analysis and conclusion about the fall of the Soviet Union (he gave no date) and the collapse of the Soviet “empire” in late 1991. (Again, see his interesting 1991 article, [“The Breakup of the Soviet Union.”](#))

In the first seven pages of his “Breakup” article Dr. Martin presents his analysis, then he examines the Biblical meaning and significance of Gog and Magog somewhat differently than he did above in this short article you are reading. Russia and nations in the central and eastern, portion of the former Soviet Union, to Mongolia, China, and India, all seems to be the geographical land of Gog and Magog. However, its power has not yet appeared. Ezekiel does not tell us anything about its political configuration.

The demand for economic and political freedom brought the downfall of the Soviet Union. Dr. Martin correctly understood these economic and geopolitical factors that brought freedom to the people of the Soviet Union and empire. As in all countries, massive corruption still exists in the former Soviet Union, but much of that money remains in those countries. I think prosperity will increase until the Antichrist declares himself. That will be several decades from now. Much must happen before Christ returns. May God shorten the days.

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