

## The Kingdom of God - What will it be Like? - 11

Last time we saw how Jesus will have begun reigning in Zion over an enlarged, yet still greatly limited kingdom. He will be overseeing the “shepherds” and “princes,” who were made immortal at his recent judgement seat, conducting his administration over the growing Kingdom.

- Since Jesus has lately taken control of the home territory of what was once Assyria - Micah 5:6, that would include the intervening tract which includes Syria. Russia therefore would also have lost control of their warm water naval base in Syria. This may well be part of the “hooks” in the jaws of the Russian military that will draw them into an invasion of “the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations. Now all of them dwell safely” - Ezekiel 38:4-11 - safely because they now live under the divine protection of Zion’s king.

The sudden expansion of Israel, and the fact that it is under a new and revolutionary government, will be seen as a threat to the existing power balance in the Middle East. Several of the smaller Muslim countries bordering on Israel will have been annexed, and their people made loyal subjects to the ruler in Jerusalem. The more populous Muslim countries - including “Persia (Iran)...and Libya with them” - Ezekiel 38:5, alarmed by this development, will be ready for an invasion of Israel with Russia.

- 11 “You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates’ - 12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the [promised] land” - Ezekiel 38:11. Israel, peaceful and prosperous under Christ (Messiah) - Psalms 72, will appear to be an easy target for the invaders.

Theirs will be a far greater force than the previous one - overwhelming, as they will see it - 9 “You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.” 15 “Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses\*, a great company and a mighty army.” - Ezekiel 38.

- \*The Hebrew word sus for horse, carries the meaning of speed, for which this animal was the chosen animal in warfare. The modern counterpart is seen in a massive mechanized force, moving rapidly southwards to catch the enemy off guard. But the divine protector of Israel will bring this huge incursion to a grinding halt in four ways - Seismic and volcanic activity, atmospheric phenomena, epidemic disease, and communications break-down -

19 “...Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, 20 so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall.”

- 21 ‘I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,’ says the Lord God. Every man's sword will be against his brother. 22 And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone” - Ezekiel 38.