

## THE PREDATORY NATIONS

MY FRIENDS, I am inclined to think that Prophecy — if you will allow me to employ a personification — is seldom an invited guest at the tables of the intelligentsia because he has been so ill-introduced by his so-called friends! Prophecy is truly a very important and intelligent person, and the chosen phraseology of the Holy Scriptures has supplied him with verbal garments quite consonant with the tastes of the most cultured and enlightened potential host.

Unfortunately, when the guest merges to take his place in such desirable society he frequently suffers enroute at the hands of self-appointed and imaginative butlers, whose wanton and unauthorized attentions leave his pristine garments in a somewhat dishevelled state, and so subject him to the unjustified contempt and suspicion of those very individuals who would best profit by his company!

Fortunately, Prophecy has my profound respect and I do not intend that his appearance at your festive board will suffer because of any misguided sartorial skill I may have persuaded myself I possess.

To speak more plainly, I deplore unworthy sensationalism and unwarranted extravagance in examining the themes of Scripture; I assure you that I would rather disappoint you than delude you with extravagance.

In my last message I painted a picture for you. It was a word-picture — but it was a picture of a peaceful nation, a people restored back to a land restored. It was the picture of the people of Israel restored back to the land of Israel.

It was a very pleasant picture, too, and in painting it I was solicitous to employ only those pigments supplied by Ezekiel himself, without the addition of any dubious colourings of my own.

As we gazed at the pleasing prophetic picture of Israel regarding himself secure in **“unwalled villages,” “safely”** and **“at rest”** with **“silver,” “gold,” “cattle”** and **“goods,”** we asked a question, an important question, a pressing question, a current question – is it a fool’s paradise?

Yes, my friends, from the human viewpoint it is a fool’s paradise. Israel’s restoration will not, did not, pass unchallenged!

Ezekiel’s thirty-eighth chapter reveals an arc of predatory nations who survey restored Israel with greedy eyes.

At the time to which the prophecy refers the produced and discovered wealth of restored Israel will surely furnish adequate reason for the lust of those nations obviously bent on plunder and pillage. Truly, poverty wants much, but avarice wants everything.

The wealth of a royal crown is multiform. Have you ever thought of that? Its riches reside not only in the metal of which it is made, and the size and variety of the precious stones which adorn and

enhance it, but great value is also attachable to the very article itself as symbolic of position and power.

Yes, indeed, where wealth is concerned, a crown is both symbol and substance; and the wealth of the Nation of Israel which will provoke the avarice of the predatory nations in the days to which Ezekiel's prophecy refers is best likened to such a crown, for its riches will vest not only in the variety of its produced and discovered natural and industrial resources, but also in its strategic locality and potential spiritual importance.

The present transformation of Israel — something already in the nature of a miracle though it be — is but a rosy reflection of the wealth ahead.

What has Ezekiel to say regarding these predatory nations? Well, he mentions the Leader, the Leader's Land and the Leader's Lackeys.

Before we note them you will, of course, appreciate that since these remarkable Divine prophecies were uttered some 2,500 years ago, and since the Eternal God caused His prophets to speak out of and through circumstances and occasions which were then local and immediate the terms employed would also be largely local and immediate. By inspiration of the Spirit of God, however, they conduct us to circumstances and occasions current in or future to the generation in which you, my listening friends, may be living.

Well, then, Ezekiel reveals that Gog is the Leader, Magog his Land, and Rosh, Meshech and Tubal his lackeys.

Of course, in ensuing messages we shall make an attempt to identify these nations, but, for the present, we will be wise to adhere to Scripture nomenclature so that our apprehension of the prophetic situation may not be distracted prematurely.

I repeat, then, that Gog is the Leader, Magog his Land, and Rosh, Meshech and Tubal his lackeys.

Ezekiel further reveals to us in that same thirty-eighth chapter that allied to this Gogian spearhead of menace are five subordinate nations; let us note these, also. They are Paras, Cush, Put, Gomer and Togarmah.

Under the evil leadership of Gog, these predatory nations plan nothing less than an invasion of restored Israel!

The Eternal God of Israel, Who alone is Absolute, and Whose omniscient intelligence is supreme and timeless, discloses to us the character and content of the evil thought that shall enter the mind of the being who may then be regarded as Israel's Public Enemy Number One. Here are the words of Scripture revealing the evil thoughts of Gog:

**“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 . . .”** (Ezekiel 38:11, 12)

Here, then, is another prophetic picture presented to us by the Timeless One through the instrumentality of His prophet Ezekiel.

The first such picture was a pleasant one; it was a picture of a Peaceful Nation — restored Israel at rest.

This second picture is not so pleasant. Gog, leading the Magogians, Rosh, Meschech and Tubal and supported by Paras, Cush, Put, Gomer and Togarmah and **“many peoples”** is bent on mischief, and ISRAEL IS THE INTENDED VICTIM!

Fortunately, Ezekiel gives us the succeeding picture. Grant me the privilege of your continuing audience as we survey these succeeding pictures and investigate sanely the possibility of relating them to the restoration of the people of Israel and land of Israel as these are in our own times.

If these are the days that mark the beginning of the out-working of the Ezekiel prophecies, then we are not only in for something interesting, but also something important to us all.

Ezekiel has not exhausted his survey of the nations; he refers to some others and in my next message they shall be considered, too, for they appear to play a different role to the Gogian axis of menace.

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**(1900–1964)**

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