

The Messiah and Messianic Time

By Alexander Zephyr

Preliminary Note by Yair Davidiy:

The article below contains important information, useful insights, and observations worth noting. This does not mean we agree with all of it. It represents the viewpoint of its author, Alexander Zephyr. It is addressed to another group and contests the opinions of other people. It also does not expressly involve the Lost Ten Tribes and their identification. Normally we would not publish such an article. Or we would alter and edit it to make it more compatible with what we are used to posting. For reasons of our own we have decided in this instance to make an exception and publish the article as we received it.

From: Alexander Zephyr

To: Rabbi Naphtali “Tuly” Weisz, Publisher and Editor of
Breaking Israel News.

Dear Rabbi Weisz,

As a reader of your online magazine, I enjoy reading the world’s latest news, especially pertaining to the Middle East and particularly the latest happenings in Israel. You present news objectively and with a high degree of professionalism. Adding a Biblical perspective to the geopolitical events makes your magazine even more attractive and popular. People crave prophetic knowledge, and discover how modern news may be connected with ancient Biblical predictions.

Generally speaking, most of the Biblical-based contributions of rabbis and scholars are thoughtful, correct and based on a deep knowledge of Scripture. However, there are some comments and conclusions of the “mystical rabbis living in Israel” and “prophesy experts” which remind me of the practice of Christian fundamentalists who, in their zeal to prove the existence of their god and messiah Jesus in Hebrew Bible, take verses out of context, using wrong translations and coming up with conclusions that fit their preconceived ideas. It

seems that for these people sensational statements and publicity is more important than the Scriptural truth.

I have found these kinds of deficiencies on the pages of your magazine in two very important areas: first, the Messiah and Messianic time; and second, the War of Gog and Magog.

In a few previous comments on this subject I have directed your attention to the fact that on pages of your magazine many rabbis and scholars, on an almost daily basis and in a massive scale, speculate and seek to calculate the exact timing (day, month, and year) of the Messiah's coming and the beginning of the Messianic Era. This trend was especially evident in connection with the Shmittah year (which ended with the Jewish New Year on September 13th), the upcoming Jubilee year, the recent tetrad of blood moons, the Russian involvement in Syria, ISIS, Turkey shot down Russian warplane, and so on. But nobody even mentioned among these speculative signs one of the true and important sign of Messiah's coming such as spoken in the Biblical commentary (Gemara, Sanhedrin 98a), which says that when the land of Israel gives forth fruit abundantly, it is a sure sign that the redemption is coming. Of the same speaks the prophet Ezekiel: "But you, O mountains of Israel, you shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are soon to come" (36:8).

Thus, Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky, the leader of the Haredi branch of Judaism and one of the most prominent rabbis of this generation, declared "the Messiah would come at the end of the Shmittah year" on September 13th. In August, he gave this advice to a young man: "Gather your family and come to Israel. Otherwise, there won't be enough room for you on the airplanes." He was so sure that the Messiah would appear on September 13th that he instructed listeners "to yell it from the loudspeakers. The Messiah is at the door" ("Rabbi Kanievsky: Messiah

Could Come This Week” by Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz, November 9, 2015).

In another instance, the recent release of Jonathan Pollard after 30 years of imprisonment for spying against the USA, which coincides with the Jubilee year, made some rabbis claim that “his incarceration has Biblical implications and his release messianic import.” The late Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu, the Chief Sephardi Rabbi of Israel, called Pollard the “Joseph the Tzaddik” of our generation, implying similarity with the life of the Biblical Joseph. Furthermore, the Rabbi advised Pollard to change his name “Yonatan” to “Yehonatan” in order to qualify being the Messiah ben Joseph (“Does Jonathan Pollard’s Release Have Biblical and Messianic Implications?” by Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz, November 19, 2015).

A few weeks ago, people suddenly discovered the flow of water through the ancient stones of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The religious Jews and their rabbis immediately pronounced this as a miracle and a sure sign of the Messiah’s imminent coming. In their search to prove it, they introduced certain Biblical passages: Joel 3:18 and Ezekiel 47, which indeed give an account of waters flowing from the altar of the Temple. However, this “miracle” did not live long. The Western Wall Heritage Foundation quickly announced that the water was from a burst pipe that runs adjacent to Wilson’s Arch, adjoining the Western Wall (*BIN*, “Water Coming From Between the Cracks of the Western Wall”).

But the most astonishing leap of logic in this vein was introduced by Rabbi Shlomo Amar, one of the chief rabbis of Jerusalem. He “gives a ruling that the Messiah must come.” In this ruling Rabbi Amar demands that God “must bring the Messiah and expedite the ultimate redemption speedily in front of our eyes in actuality.” He admits that the ruling was made “according to the demand of the audience” at the International Conference of Chabad-Lubavitch Emissaries. Immediately after, the crowd began singing “We want Moshiach now! We don’t want to wait!” (“The Time Has Come for God to Reveal the Messiah, Says

Jerusalem's Chief Rabbi" by Rivkah Lambert Adler, November 13, 2015).

Rabbi Sternbuch, Vice President of the Rabbinical Court and head of the Eidah Charedit organization in Jerusalem, recently said that people should "put on their Shabbat clothes in preparation for the Messiah." As was the case of R. Amar, Rabbi Sternbuch has hinted in public that the Messiah's coming is "just around the corner" based upon certain world events taking place today, particularly the recent conflict between Turkey and Russia. He has concluded that in the context of this conflict, we should anticipate the Messiah. Yet, Rabbi Sternbuch realizes the urgency of repentance: "We have to wake up and repent or, if not, God forbid, the Ishmaelites will overcome us" (*BIN*, December 9, 2015).

International expert on the Bible Code, Mattityahu Glazerson, has speculated that the best potential time for the arrival of the Messiah is the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, which has strong messianic associations in Judaism. He predicted that the Messiah will come on Sukkot in the Hebrew year 5776 (2015 CE), which began on sundown on Sunday, September 13. The date came and went—nothing happened. Then he suggested other dates: Hanukkah on December 6, 2015 (which has already passed), or Purim, which will take place in March 2016. Glazerson is sure that "Something great and joyful is going to happen on Purim" (*BIN*, December 6, 2015). What a great prediction.

I conclude the list of these so-called "prophecies" with the most perplexing statement of *Breaking Israel News*: "Biblical authorities have expressed their belief that we are now in the middle of the Messianic era." The Messiah has not been revealed yet, but we are already living in the middle of the Messianic era? (*BIN*, September 28, 2015). These "Biblical authorities," indeed, have shown their "expert" knowledge of Scripture. Some scholars with fantastic fairytales today turn out to be Biblical prophets tomorrow. They better heed the words of sage Rebbe Nachman of Breslov: "The Torah is all one needs to understand what is happening in the world."

Does it not remind us of the practices of various religious denominations and sects whose spiritual leaders, century after century, predicted the dates of the end of the world or the coming of the Messiah?

Jehovah's Witnesses, based on the original teaching of their preacher Nelson H. Barbour, proclaimed that Christ's invisible second coming began in 1874. Charles Taze Russell, the Watchtower founder, changed this date to 1914 and declared: "We consider it an established truth that the final end of the kingdoms of this world, and the full establishment of the Kingdom of God, will be accomplished by the end of A.D. 1914" (*Watchtower, The Time is at Hand*, p. 99). Later on they changed this date again and said that the end of this world would occur in 1975, since this was 6,000 years since the creation of Adam, according to their calendar. In their eagerness to predict Jesus' second coming, they made dozens of predictions afterward, with not even one hitting the target. In the manner of the "prophets" from *BIN* magazine, they also use in their calculations the seven Sabbatical years, that is Shmittah, and the fiftieth year after seven sabbatical cycles, regarded as the Jubilee. The dates come and go, but nothing happens. The end of the world has not come. All their predictions turn out to be incorrect, which is why many people call them "false prophets." This inaccuracy also proves beyond any doubt that the Jehovah's Witnesses sect is not guided by the Almighty.

Fifteen years ago, on the eve of the new millennia (1999), countless religious groups, sects, well-known individuals and self-proclaimed prophets predicted the following:

- The second coming of Jesus Christ;
- The arrival of the Antichrist;
- The war of Armageddon;

- The Rapture;
- The end of the world.

Edgar Cayce predicted that in the beginning of the new millennia Armageddon would arrive, the earth's axis would shift, and both England and Japan would sink into the ocean. New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco would be destroyed by earthquakes and floods. The island of Atlantis would rise from the ocean floor. Again, nothing of this kind happened.

Members of *The Order of the Solar Temple*, who survived earlier mass murders and suicides, believed that, after a nuclear war, they would gather at Jerusalem in a celestial paradise. Curiously, even Newton, the greatest scientist, tried to determine the date of the Messiah's coming, and calculated it as approximately 2060. He correctly predicted the beginning of the return of the Jewish people to the Promised Land in the 1880s and somehow foresaw the catastrophe of 1940 resulting in millions of deaths and the subsequent rebirth of the state of Israel.

Then came Sabbatai Tzvi (1626–1676AC), Jewish mystic and pseudo-Messiah, who in 1648 proclaimed himself the Messiah and named the year 1666 as the millennium of the Messianic Era. The Jewish Cabalists announced 1648 as the year of Redemption. Half of the European Jewish communities and their rabbis began to sell their houses and other belongings in expectation of being miraculously transported to the Promised Land. However, as always in such matters, nothing happened. Everything remained as usual. Their hopes were crashed. Their faith was shattered. Meanwhile, their beloved messiah converted to Islam and shortly after died.

All these so-called “prophets” of old or modern “mystical rabbis living in Israel” and “prophecy experts” commenting on the pages of *BIN* have made their predictions in the name of God. But the fact is that

not one of their predictions has come to pass. This means that God did not speak to them and did not reveal any future. These people have prophesied on their own authority. They have greatly misled and confused readers and believers. With their false prophecies they bring much harm to Judaism. As a matter of fact, under Old Testament law, such false prophets were sentenced to death: “But the prophet, who shall presume to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die” (Deuteronomy 18:20-22). God cannot stand counterfeit prophets: “Listen not to the words of the prophets that prophesy to you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord” (Jeremiah 23:16). In another place we read: “Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing. Their visions are false and their divinations a lie. Even though the Lord has not sent them, they say, ‘The Lord declares,’ and expect him to fulfill their words” (Ezekiel 13:3, 6).

I could bring forward many other instances of such practices but it will not be necessary because speculations, rumors, signs, and calculations of the exact timing of the Messiah’s coming are strongly forbidden in Judaism. If the Almighty had wished to reveal the day of the Messiah’s arrival, He would have done so. No one but God knows the day. But He chooses to keep secret this matter, and a few others, until the appropriate time, when “the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9). Our sages condemn prophecies of this kind in the strongest terms: “Any person who announces the Messianic time based on calculation, forfeits his own share in the future” (R. Jose, in Derek Erez Rabbah xi). In another place it says, “Blasted be the bones of those who calculate the end. For they would say, ‘since the predetermined time has arrived, and yet he has not come, he will never come’” (Talmud Sanhedrin 97b, Soncino edition, p.

659). As Rabbi Mordechai Blumenfeld said, “One is not to assign the Messiah a specific time of arrival, nor should one use Scripture to deduce when he is coming. For the Sages have said, ‘The souls of those who calculate the end will be shattered.’” Maimonides also objected to predicting the Messiah’s coming and Messianic time. He advised against going in-depth in the study of events leading to the coming of the Messiah. “Knowledge of these matters,” he teaches, “leads neither to fear nor to love of God” (Hilchos Melochim 12:2).

Why were the sages of the Talmud against those people who tried to calculate the time of the Messiah and Messianic Age? Because they had learned the tragic lessons of the past; they knew that errors in calculation could lead to grave consequences and damage faith in the Messiah and in Judaism itself.

As Rabbi Michael Leo Samuel writes, “Historically, all human efforts to predict the arrival of the son of David are ultimately doomed to failure. Despite numerous predictions made about his ‘alleged arrival’— he has yet to appear and finish the job assigned to him by the prophets.” In Jewish history, there are a few examples of appearances of a false messiah (supported by rabbis), which caused our nation a great deal of slaughter, slavery, exiles, pogroms, holocausts, and unspeakable sufferings. I will name only a few: Simon bar Kokhba, Jesus of Nazareth, and Sabbatai Tzvi. In order not to repeat the fatal mistakes of the past, Rabbi Samuel speaks to our leaders, to “mystical rabbis,” and “prophecy experts” who publicly make predictions and give dates concerning Messiah matters. Here is his powerful warning: “Talmudic wisdom learned some hard lessons from Jewish history. *These lessons may have been directed at all future spiritual and religious leaders who might attempt to force the hand of God, in forcing the Divine to produce the Messiah. It may also be seen as a gentle reprimand to Rabbi Akiba*” (“Why did 24,000 students of Rabbi Akiba die?”, emphasis added).

R. Samuel understands that this giant of the Talmud, R. Akiva, and his vast “rabbinic cohort,” by proclaiming the wrong man, Bar Kokhba, in the wrong time as the Messiah chosen by God, aroused the Judeans to revolt and took an essential part in the military and political battles against the mighty Roman Empire, without approval and support from the Almighty God of Israel; they made a monumental mistake and brought upon the Jewish people an unparalleled historical tragedy, the consequences of which we still suffer from in our day. Man is forbidden to calculate the Messianic times or to force the Divine to reveal the self-made Messiah. In other words, as R. Yohanan ben Torta said in argument with R. Akiva, “I do not believe that the Messianic age can begin prior to rectifying the cause of the destruction of the previous Temple.” In his opinion, the generation of the Bar Kokhba Revolt was no better than the generation that suffered the destruction of the second Temple (66–70 A.C.); therefore, he concluded, this generation had not merited the coming of the Messiah and the Redemption.

Without enthusiastic support from the religious authorities of the Sanhedrin and the Academy, without the spiritual leadership of “the Father of all Sages” and legions of his disciples and followers, the Bar Kokhba Revolt would not have been possible and could have been prevented.

Rabbi Riskin, the founder of the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation, explains: “We see how the beginning of the end of any national uprising or even defensive war is when people supposedly on the same side deflect their energy away from the enemy and towards their own internal dissensions; *this is the causeless hatred which has always caused Israel to miss our chance for redemption!*”

The author of the book *Blood Moons, Shmittah and Jubilee Connection Revealed* describes the situation thus: “The Jewish Sages have famously quipped: ‘Ever since the destruction of the Temple, prophecy was taken away from prophets and given to fools and

toddlers” (*BIN*, by Raphael Poch, September 6, 2015). However, this situation is going to change. In a latter days, when God will dwell in the midst of His people Israel, He will pour His spirit upon all flesh, “and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions” (Joel 2:28).

It is important to know that God will not send the Messiah and redeem the whole house of Jacob—which definitely includes the “Lost” Ten Tribes of Israel in exile—until the entire nation repents and turns to our Creator. This is imperative. The Talmudic sages taught that “all the predestined dates for redemption have passed, and the matter now depends only on repentance and good deeds.” Rabbi Eliezer categorically stated: “If Israel repents, they will be redeemed; if not, they will not be redeemed” (Babylonian Talmud: Tractate Sanhedrin, 97b).

Many scholars speculate on what Messiah will come first—ben Joseph or ben David. In the Midrash *Nistarot Rav Shimon ben Yohai* points out that, “If they are not pure, the Messiah ben Ephraim will come; and if they are pure, the Messiah ben David will come.” This refers to the fact that the task of the Messiah ben Joseph is to correct the impurity of Israel and make its people repent and become righteous.

Instead of enthusiastically speculating and falsely revealing the dates of the Messiah’s coming for the sake of sensational publicity, and without Scriptural foundation, and demanding the Almighty to deliver the Redeemer “right now,” these spiritual leaders should direct their efforts toward repentance, good deeds, and knowledge of God. That is what the God of Israel wants, and what will be done.

Some religious leaders have announced that “we are living in an era when everything necessary to bring the redemption has been completed.” Is that so? The answer is unequivocally ‘no’. How can God send the Messiah and redeem His people today if Israel is bitterly divided into numerous political and religious parties. There is sectarian

rivalry, unresolved differences within the Torah community, unreasonable hatred, slander, idolatry, evil speeches, absence of love for God and lack of honor for fellow men. In the Hebrew Bible these sins of disunity and enmity are described as “envy, adversaries, and vex” (Isaiah 11:13): “Manasseh devours Ephraim and Ephraim, Manasseh: and they together shall be against Judah” (Isaiah 9:21). This is the reality of the Israelite Tribes today. These are the same sins that brought about the destruction of the First and Second Temples.

“It is inconceivable that the Redemption shall come about while we are still steeped in the sins for the sake of which God exiled us” (cf. Saadiah Gaon, Egypt-Babylon, 882–942CE, in his Book *Beliefs and Opinions*).

Among the Jewish people there are those who openly united with the sworn enemies of Israel and foolishly contributed towards the destruction of the Jewish state. They demonstrate against the Israeli Government, burn Israel’s flags, and dream of giving the land of Israel to the Palestinians and living under their authority. Their leaders have not accepted the state of Israel because, as they say, God has not sent the Messiah and therefore not allowed it. As for those Jews who will not be granted the citizenship of the Palestinian Authority (as if there is any doubt), they must return to the countries of their exile and wait for the time when God sends the Messiah and allows them to return to the Promised Land. They even blame the Zionists for the death of the six million Jews during the Holocaust. What service to the Jewish people does the following statement of American Jews do: “We American Jews are thankful to be living under the trustworthy government of the United States of America and our honorable President Barack Obama and not under this traitor Netanyahu”?

Taking all of this into consideration, the conclusion is clear—we are not ready to receive Moshiach today. We must deserve his coming. We have to learn from past mistakes. Israel must repent and unite as never before. The prophet Isaiah says the same: “The Redeemer will come to Zion and to those in Jacob *who turn from transgression*” (Isaiah 59:20, emphasis added). In another place it says: “If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

According to Rabbi Vaknin, “the Jewish world is running out of time. The stabbings, car ramming and shootings are very stern warnings to the Jewish people *to repent and to return* to a state of humility when it comes to their relationship with God and with one another” (*BIN*, “New Prophetic-Like Message at Cave of Elijah the Prophet”, October 12, 2015).

Our Sages teach that, “Every generation in which the temple is not rebuilt is as wicked as the generation in which it was destroyed; for were we worthy, the Temple would have been rebuilt in our days” (Jerusalem Talmud, Yoma 5:1). While the people must make the effort, it is not their physical strength and human might which brings victories in the Messianic wars and Redemption but the God of Israel’s! The generation that cannot uplift itself to the level of love of fellow man and accord honor to one other is not worthy of Redemption.

“As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn you, turn you from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11).

The War of Gog and Magog

Now let us see how “the prophecy experts” on the pages of *BIN* magazine have interpreted geopolitical news concerning the Biblical Gog and Magog War described in Ezekiel 38 and 39.

– Rabbi Amram Vaknin, a 76-year old Israeli mystic, after learning of Russia’s involvement in military actions in Syria on the side of Bashar al-Assad’s government in September 2015 and the building of a coalition of countries—including Syria, Iran, Iraq and China—to fight against ISIS, concluded that, “This situation is the beginning of the final War of Gog and Magog” (*BIN*, “Jewish Blood Being Spilled in Israel (this is Gog war)”, by Rivkah Lambert Adler, October 12, 2015).

– According to the Kloisenberger Rebbe, a 20th-century Hasidic rabbi, “when the Russians join forces with the spiritual descendents of Ishmael, who today are identified as Syria, Iraq, and Iran and are allies of Russia, it is not only a sign of the coming of the Messiah, but is also a sign of the beginning of the Gog and Magog War.” Russia has become a central player in Syria, leading many to hypothesize that Putin is Gog and Russia is Magog (*BIN*, “200 Years Ago, War between Turkey and Russia Prophesied as Sign of Redemption”, November 29, 2015).

– “End Times author and rabbinic scholar Rabbi Pinchas Winston asserts that there is reason to believe we are, indeed, seeing the war of Gog and Magog, despite claims otherwise” (*BIN*, “Do Putin’s Actions in Syria Fulfill the Prophecy of Ezekiel Regarding Gog and Magog?”, October 14, 2015).

– Is the War of Gog and Magog connected to the Blood Moon and the holiday of Sukkot? The End of Days blogger Tomer Devorah says, “It really looks to me like the set-up for the Gog and Magog invasion!”

Rabbi Yosef Mizrachi sees significant connections between the Blood Moon Tetrad and the Gog and Magog War. There are signs, both in current events and in Jewish tradition, that point to the possibility that the War of Gog and Magog, prophesied in the Books of Ezekiel and Zechariah, will happen *this year* on the Jewish holiday of *Sukkot* (the Festival of Tabernacles). Mizrachi puts these pieces together and emphasizes one more time that, based on the mystical tradition of Judaism known as Kabbalah, the rabbis of the Talmud understood “that the time that has the highest chance to have *this war* is Sukkot, and especially *this year*, when it is the end of Shmittah” (*BIN*, “The Surprising Connections Between Sukkot and the War of Gog and Magog”, October, 2015, emphasis added).

– An important Hassidic spiritual leader, Rabbi Sholom Berger, the Mishkolitz Rebbe, in his talk reported by the Hebrew language website Sod1820, offered a surprising Biblical interpretation of the War of Gog and Magog stating that, “contrary to the Biblical sources which describe the War of Gog and Magog as taking place in Israel, *the war has already begun and is taking place in Syria.*” That these words were not a mistake one can see from another statement, where the Mishkolitz Rebbe repeated that the war in Syria is a form of God’s mercy on the land of Israel and the Israeli nation. “My heart tells me that God has mercy on Israel. Despite what the prophets prophesized, that the War of Gog and Magog needs to be inside Jerusalem, God is sweetening the judgment and is making this war *happen in Syria,*” he said (“War of Gog and Magog Already Began in Syria”, October 9, 2015, emphasis added).

– Does the Iran Nuclear Deal Signal the Start of Gog and Magog?

Just before his passing in 1995, Rav Levi Sa’adia Nachmani, a mystical rabbi from Israel, clearly claimed that Korea is Magog. End of Days blogger Menachem Robinson consistently states in his blog *The*

Absolute Truth that Gog is former US President George Bush whom he calls “the evil Gog Bush” and Magog is the United States.

Speaking earlier this year in Lakewood, NJ, Rabbi Mendel Kessin predicted that, after Obama leaves office, America will elect a strongly pro-Israel president and that America and Israel will join together in the War of Gog and Magog to fight ISIS and Iran (*BIN*, July 16, 2015).

- This astonishing account of Nathan, a 15-year-old Jewish teenager, caught the attention of people worldwide after his near-death experience. Nathan said the War of Gog and Magog had already begun on the 27th of Elul, which happened to be past September 11, 2015, and will get much worse in the weeks or months to come. Coincidentally, Russia officially entered the war in Syria (*BIN*, November 12, 2015).

– Turkey Shoots Down Russian Fighter Jet: Is this the Spark that Ignites a Messianic War? (*BIN*, November 24, 2015).

I guess we have to stop here. There is no end to such predictions on the pages of *BIN*. We have no need, space or time to list them all. The main thing is the nature of these “prophecies.”

Now I will show the other perspective on the War of Gog and Magog based on the verses of the Hebrew Bible, the Talmud, Rabbinical literature, the opinions of the sages, and analyses of ongoing geopolitical events.

When will the Gog and Magog War start?

A). First of all, let me answer the question: When will the Gog and Magog War start? According to our sage Rambam (Maimonides, 1135–1204AC), the greatest authority of Rabbinical Law and Tradition, “The plain meaning of the words of the prophets seems to indicate that the

war of Gog and Magog will take place at the beginning of the Messianic Era”(Mishneh Torah, Hilkhos Melakhim 12:2, emphasis added).

What does it mean—“The Messianic Era”? It means that the Messiah has already been revealed and ushered the world into the Messianic Era. Without God sending the individual called “the Messiah,” there would not be the Messianic Time. It is as simple as this. So, to repeat what Maimonides said, the War of Gog and Magog will start shortly after the Messiah’s arrival. Does this statement contradict the words of the prophet? No, it does not. That is what the prophecy says: “*After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land [of Israel]* (Ezekiel 38:8; emphasis added).

There is another important message in the 11th-century (CE) Midrash Vayosha (or Wa-Yosha), based on Exodus 14:30 and 15:18, describing the events of the Gog and Magog War: “*And when the days of the Messiah arrive, Gog and Magog will come up against the Lord of Israel, because they will hear that Israel is without a king and sits in safety*” (emphasis added). I would like to put this question to the “prophets” of *BIN*: Since the Messiah has not yet come and the Messianic Era has not begun, why do you mislead readers with the notion that the Gog and Magog War has already started?

B). Let us continue to ponder the question of the timing of the Gog attack. I truly can’t believe how these scholars have made false predictions contrary to the simple, literal words of the prophet Ezekiel. Gog’s armies will invade the land of Israel in the latter days, when the House of Jacob will come to the Holy land from forceful exile out of many nations and will dwell in safety, all of it. That is what the prophet said (Ezekiel 38:8). Gog plans to attack God’s people when they are most vulnerable: “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” (Ezekiel 38:11). These are the

words of God transmitted through the prophet. How can one ignore the plain meaning of the prophecy and come up with absolutely different scenarios? These are important conditions of Gog's attack. I repeat, Gog will attack Israel only when Israel meets these conditions, that is, be at rest and safety, "having neither bars nor gates." Does one have any doubt that such a description of Israel's safety and well being points to Messianic Time?

Does Israel live in security and safety now? Of course not. Everybody knows the situation: such conditions cannot be applicable to Israel today because it is surrounded by 22 Arab-Muslim enemy-nations dreaming of throwing all Jews to the sea and repossessing their God-given land. The young Jewish state has been attacked by Arab-Muslim countries since its birth. Out of necessity Israel has fought several wars against aggressive neighbors, miraculously overcoming its enemies and triumphing over them. There are Palestinian uprisings in the West Bank and Gaza, intifadas, bloody terrorist organizations of Hezbollah and Hamas, suicide bombers, car bombings, killings, and knife stabbings. As we write, at this very moment, the citizens of Israel are dying on the streets of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Rishon LeZion — all over the Holy land — at the hands of fanatical haters who value death more than life. And there is an Islamic Republic of Iran whose nuclear ambitions and terror are spreading, whose leaders openly announce their intention to wipe Israel from the face of the earth. As the Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu says, "Today there are also those who rise up against us and threaten to destroy us. They did not succeed in the past, and they will never succeed."

Common sense obviously dictates that in such circumstances we cannot say that Israel lives in peace and safety. Furthermore, Israel fortified its borders with walls of concrete, iron, razor wire, and modern electronics complete with all kinds of sensors, motion detectors, infrared cameras, and ground radars. Israel literally imprisons itself behind walls and fences. Ehud Barak said it more figuratively: "Israel is a villa in the jungles." The walls and fences have helped to keep the terrorists away

but have not stopped thousands of rockets and missiles from being fired into Israel by Hezbollah and Hamas militants. The neighboring Arab-Muslim states have continued threatening Israel's existence and aiming for its destruction. By no means has Israel dwelt in safety; it has become a defensive fortress among "evil neighbors" (Jeremiah 12:14–17). Certainly such a situation does not correspond to the description of the prophet regarding the Gog attack on Israel, so we can firmly conclude that the Gog and Magog war will not occur until Israel dwells in peace and security, as outlined by the prophet Ezekiel. The majority of the *BIN* "prophets" have disregarded this very important message.

C). Why will Gog attack Israel?

The answer is given right away: To take a spoil and to take a prey, to plunder and loot. Gog will turn his hand against the resettled ruins and people gathered from nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land (Ezekiel 38:12). What richness and treasure will Israel have that will trigger Gog's attack? As I pointed out above, this war will happen at the beginning of the Messianic Age. This prophecy is not speaking of the present-day Jewish state of Israel, but rather of the time when the Messiah will be revealed, when Judah is already reunited with the Ten Tribes of Israel. It will occur in the "latter days," at the beginning of the Messianic Era. The riches of people and material things unexpectedly overflow Israel: "Lift up your eyes roundabout and see; they all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, and your daughters will be carried in the arms. Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you. A multitude of camels will cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba will come; they will bring gold and frankincense, and will bear good news of the praises of the Lord. And the ships of Tarshish will come first, to bring your sons from afar,

their silver and their gold with them” (Isaiah 60:4–6, 9). This passage speaks of Judah’s and Ephraim’s reunification on the Holy land with the revealed Messiah in their midst. The riches and wealth of Ephraim’s nations, primarily the USA, Canada, Australia, Europe and other countries of Israelite origin will relocate, together with the Israelite population, to the Promised Land.

This period of time will not be peaceful, and there will not be an abundance of material goods elsewhere. There will be a few Messianic wars and destructions in the beginning, but Israel with its brilliant Commander-in-Chief the Messiah (son of Joseph or son of David), will be victorious over the enemies and lead the world toward peace, brotherhood, spiritual and material fulfillment, and worshipping of the one and only God of the universe — the God of Israel. During this period of time, the world economy will collapse; there will be substantial shortages of food, drinking water, natural resources and, most importantly, an energy crisis with no gas and oil available. These sources of energy are limited and non-renewable. With the fast-growing economies of China, India, Pakistan and the other previously undeveloped countries of Asia, South America and Africa, these resources have already reached their ‘peak’ production levels and have begun to decline. The world desperately needs renewable sources of clean and inexpensive energy that will change the ways of living on our planet. Meanwhile, thanks to the national talent for innovation in science and technology and discoveries of huge reservoirs of natural gas and oil under the Mediterranean Sea and in the Golan Heights, which should meet the needs of Israel for more than 100 years, Israel’s economy will blossom with astounding growth and become the strongest economy in the world. This will open a new era of prosperity, peace and happiness for Israelites.

In addition, I have to mention here that the peaceful situation in Israel as the Bible describes it, as a “land of unwalled villages,” “people at rest,” “having no bars, no gates” (Ezekiel 38:11), will be achieved

only after defeating the surrounding aggressive Arab-Muslim nations by IDF (Isaiah 11: 14; Zechariah 12:6). These nations are listed in Psalm 83:6–8. They are Edomites, the Palestinians of the West Bank, the Amalekites and Philistines of Gaza, Ammon and Moab of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and of course Hezbollah, Hamas and other terrorist organizations. All those enemies will be wiped out from the Holy Land. Israel will repossess its territories and reestablish its borders to its Biblical dimensions as was prophesied in the Hebrew Bible: “Unto your descendants have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates” (Genesis 15:18; Numbers 34:1–13).

It is important to note here that the war of Psalm 83, which is not by all means identical with the war of Gog, will happen long before the War of Gog and Magog will commence. With these Biblical facts established, how could “the prophecy experts” contend that the War of Gog and Magog has already begun in our time?

D). Judah and Israel

Here is another essential sign, which confirms the notion that the time for the Gog and Magog war has not yet come. Not many Biblical scholars realize the difference between the Jews (the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and most of Levy, the modern-day Jews around the world, and the Israelis, the citizens of the state of Israel), and Israel (the “Lost” Ten Tribes of Israel still in exile). If one reads the Bible on the subject of Judah and Israel attentively, it becomes evident that since the division of the United Kingdom of Israel into two separate and independent Kingdoms of Israel (Ten Tribes) and Judea (Two and a half Tribes), circa 930BCE, God’s prophets have constantly made a careful distinction between the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of Judah, between the Israelite people and the Jewish people. God has dealt with these two kingdoms and nations separately throughout Scripture. And it will be that way until the advent of the Messiah and Redemption in the

last days. “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto *the house of Israel* and to *the house of Judah*” (Jer. 33:14, emphasis added).

Many Rabbis and scholars have misunderstood the Biblical teachings of Israel and the End Time Prophecies of Reunification, Ingathering and Redemption of all the Tribes of the House of Israel and have applied the fulfillment of all these future prophecies to the Jews only. In the Hebrew Bible there are so many prophecies for the latter years pertaining to Judah and Israel separately that our conclusion cannot be wrong—Judah and Israel today are not synonymous! Regardless of the fact that these nations are of the same Semitic stock, being twelve sons of the Patriarch Jacob, they are different nations now, living in different countries of the world, having different histories, cultures, languages, traditions, and religions. The God of Israel has never said that Israel is Judah and Judah is Israel.

If somebody is interested to learn about the Judah and Israel deeper and in a more details, I would strongly recommend contacting the real expert on Israelite Tribes, Yair Davidiy. He is a remarkable scholar from Jerusalem, who has devoted most of his life to find and correctly identify the Lost Ten Tribes, the author of many well researched books on this subject, founder and Editor-in-Chief of the on-line magazine *Hebrew Nations*. Here is his E-address: yair@britam.org

Despite all of the overwhelming evidence (especially the “two sticks” of Ezekiel 37:15–28), including the statement of great Nahmanides that “There was no Redemption for the Ten Tribes who remained in exile” (Sefer HaGeulah, *The Book of Redemption*), these people have rejected the plain truth of the Hebrew Bible and absolutely have not differentiated the meanings of the names Judah, Israel, Jerusalem, Samaria, Ephraim, Manasseh—for them it all means Jews

and nothing else. They teach that Judah is Biblical Israel, and all the future prophecies of reunification and redemption have pertained to Judah only. They ignore the simple and clear teaching of the Restoration of the whole House of Jacob in the End Time: “And I will cause *the captivity of Judah* and *the captivity of Israel* to return, and will build them, as at the first” (Jer.33:7, emphasis added). It has never happened in the past. Fulfillment of this prophecy is in the future, in the “latter days.”

God’s multiple prophecies of future defeat and subjugation of the Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites and Edomites, nations listed in Psalm 83:6–8, will not come to fruition until one more condition is met: reunification of the “Lost” Ten Tribes of Israel with Judah. The Ten Tribes did not die out and disappear from history. It is the Word of God that all Twelve Tribes of the House of Israel will be represented among the nations in the End Times. Israel will not be forgotten or rejected by God: “You are My servant. I have chosen you, and will not cast you away” (Isaiah 41:9).

When the strongest superpower in the world, this sleeping giant, Joseph, fully awakens to his Israelite identity and acknowledges his God and Savior, the God of Israel, he will finally reunite with his brothers of the Jewish nation. The return of the tribes is fundamental and is an essential dimension of Judaism. This union equals peace, prosperity, and fulfilled prophecy. The reunification of all the families of Jacob will be the beginning of a new Messianic age of Liberation and Redemption.

I purposely made this introduction in order for readers to better understand my following startling statement: In the time of Gog’s attack, all the Twelve Tribes of Israel will have been already reunited and live in the Biblical geographical borders of the Holy land. What is the evidence? Well, since we have established that this war will start in the beginning of the Messianic Age with the Messiah being revealed, it is

common sense to conclude that the Messiah will reunite the whole House of Jacob (Judah and Joseph-Ephraim), according to the prophecy of Ezekiel 37: 16–22 and the teachings of Judaism, which maintain that reunification of the Israelite tribes is one of the most important tasks of the Messiah. The other thing to consider is the language of the prophecy. When God speaks to Jews, He uses the words “Judah,” “daughter of Jerusalem,” “Zion,” or “the House of Judah.” None of these terms were used in Ezekiel’s prophecy concerning the war of Gog and Magog. Of course, there are some exceptions, when the term “Israel” could apply to the Jews only. To distinguish it rightly, it is imperative to study the context of the verses involved. Careful analysis of chapters 38 and 39 undoubtedly shows that the Almighty speaks of the whole House of Israel: “Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, Thus said the Lord GOD; in that day when *My people of Israel* dwells safely, shall you not know it?” (Ezekiel 38:14, 16, emphasis added). The other chapter further confirms that God speaks of all Twelve Tribes of Jacob: “So will I make My holy name known in the midst of *my people Israel*” or: “And seven months shall *the house of Israel* be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land” (Ezekiel 39:7, 12, emphasis added). “My people Israel,” “the House of Israel”—these are the perfect expressions of the name of Biblical Israel, which includes all the Twelve Tribes of Israel (Judah and Ephraim).

So, here is another question for *BIN*’s so-called prophets: How could you predict the Gog and Magog war in our days if the reunification of the whole House of Israel did not take place, and the Holy land was occupied only by Judah, the modern-day Israelis?

E). Where will the battle of Gog and Magog take place?

God named this place plainly and clearly — hordes of Gog will invade “My land,” “the mountains of Israel,” the land, the inhabitants of which were brought out of the nations. He also calls this land “the center of the world” (Ezekiel 38:8, 12). All of the translators of Scripture have understood that “My land” and “the midst of the land” is the Land of Israel. Furthermore, there are indisputable passages that cannot be twisted and understood other ways. Speaking of the Gog and Magog judgment, God declares that it is He personally who will deal with Gog’s armies: “You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel,” “On that day I will give Gog a burial place in Israel,” “seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land” (Ezekiel 39:4, 7, 11–12). No matter how one squares it, the land of Israel, not Syria, is the target of the Gog attack.

In his book *The Ishmaelite Exile*, Rabbi Yechiel Weitzman explains that Ezekiel prophesied that the war of Gog and Magog will be fought outside of Israel. “According to the prophecy of Yechezkel (Ezekiel), the Jewish nation will not be involved at all in the war of Gog, for it will take place only in the mountains of the north,” he writes (*BIN*, December 20, 2015). To properly understand the meaning of “the Mountains of Israel,” I would advise this author to take a good look on Ezekiel Chapter 36, where God asked the prophet to issue a prophecy to the Mountains of Israel: “Prophecy therefore concerning *the land of Israel*, and say unto the *mountains*, and to the *hills*, to the rivers, and to the *valleys*... You will be plowed and sown. And I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be built” (verses 1, 4, 9, and 10, emphasis added). This description clearly shows that the prophet Ezekiel speaks of

the Holy land, which also includes the Mountains of Israel. Both terms are monosemantic, having one and the same meaning.

There are scholars commenting in *BIN* who not only disregard the words of the Almighty, but intentionally give their own interpretation of the prophecy, thinking they please and serve God. That is what Rabbi Sholom Berger, the Mishkolitz Rebbe, does: “Contrary to the Biblical sources which describe the War of Gog and Magog as taking place in Israel, *the war has already begun and is taking place in Syria*” (*BIN*, October 9, 2015, emphasis added). In light of the Scriptural evidence given above, does not this statement sound absurd? And, besides, who gave this scholar the authority to change the words of God? Is it not written that, “You shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall you take away from it” (Deuteronomy 4:2)?

F). What nations will take part in Gog’s coalition?

There will be Japhetic nations (Gomer, Meshech, Tubal, and Togarmah), including Persia, who identified with Japheth’s son Teras, and two Hamitic nations of Lybia and Ethiopia in Gog’s coalition. The Japhetic people are to be the main components of the Gog coalition. In Midrashic literature Gog identified not as Japheth but Edom or Romulus, founder of Rome. Although Gog’s land is Japhethic, he himself is a descendent of Esau (Chevlei Mashiach BiZemaneinu; R. Saadia Gaon, *Emunos VeDeos* 8:2). The sole initiator and leader of the campaign against Israel will be the Edomite king Gog. Malbim (1809–1879 ACE) says that the identity of Gog is unknown and to be shrouded in mystery until the time he actually comes. The main fighting force will be the Japhethites (*Bereishis Rabbah* 76:5).

There is another Talmudic opinion that Gog’s armies will consist of the seventy nations of the world, because the numerical value of Gog

and Magog is 70 (Midrash Tanchuma to Korach). In another place it says that the four kingdoms that subjugated Israel separately will come against her all together (Yalkut Shimoni 1:76).

The Biblical commentators in *BIN* are confused on this subject too. Rabbi Mendel Kessin predicted that after Obama leaves office America will elect a strongly pro-Israel president, and “America and Israel will join together in the War of Gog and Magog to fight ISIS and Iran” (*BIN*, July 16, 2015). Does he not realize that in the time of Gog’s attack, ISIS will be long past?

Others think that the war of Gog and Magog has already begun in Syria, and that therefore Israel has to fight against Syria, Russia, ISIS, Iran, Hezbollah and other terrorist groups. This is a great misconception. Israel will not fight in Gog’s invasion with anybody. The “experts” have not studied the Ezekiel prophecy properly. There is not one word there saying that Israel will literally (physically) fight the armies of Gog and Magog. The God of Israel will do battle for His people, as it is written: “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. I will turn you around, and I will strike your bow out of your left hand, and will cause your arrows to fall out of your right hand. You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you, and all your hordes, and the people that are with you: I will give you unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. I will give Gog a burial place in Israel. And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD” (Ezekiel 38:3; 39:3, 4, 6, 11).

The same declaration is found in the Midrash: “I have many messengers whom I can send into battle. *But the war against Gog and Magog I shall wage myself.* Their destruction shall be complete” (Esther Rabbah 7:23, emphasis added). Another example, which pertains to the

prophecies of Daniel 40 and Psalm 83 (the two future consequent wars long preceding the Gog's attack), is the King of the North, representing the European Union under the leadership of Assur-Germany. God emphasizes through the Prophet Isaiah that He will personally judge the King of the North, that is, Assur: "Assyria will fall by no human sword; a sword, not of mortals, will devour them" (Isaiah 31:8). Although this is not the subject of the current discussion, I want to make the point that in the wars of Psalm 83 the IDF will fight surrounding Arab-Muslim enemies and ultimately destroy them, but Assur (Psalm 83:8) will be dealt directly by God in the same manner as with Gog.

Many scholars are amazed by the fact that Ezekiel 38 and 39, in describing the war of Gog and Magog (who are basically the descendants of Japheth) against Israel do not mention the Semitic nations as participants in these military campaigns. There is no Edom or Egypt, nor are Ammon and Moab, Syria or Saudi Arabia—all of Semitic stock — mentioned. Do you wonder why? Because these Arab Semitic nations who "plotted with one consent" against Israel in Psalm 83 will have been soundly defeated by the Israelites (IDF) with the help of the Almighty on account of their aggressiveness and murderous deeds.

The Bible testifies that Israel executed the judgments of God towards Edom a long time before Gog's hordes invaded Israel. This judgment was so severe that "there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau" (Isaiah 34:5, 8; Obadiah 1:18), so how could Edom be a member of the Gog coalition? Psalm 83, Isaiah 11:13–14, and Zechariah 12:6 and 14:12 speak of the prophesied defeat of those nations, which will occur before the war of Gog and Magog — that is why the Arab Semitic countries will not be physically able to join Gog's hordes and that is why their names were not mentioned in the prophecies of Ezekiel

38 and 39. God knows precisely how the events of the future will transpire according to His divine master plan.

On Frequently Posted Questions in *BIN*

– When will the war of Gog and Magog start?

This war will start at the beginning of the Messianic Age with the advent of the Messiah, son of Joseph or son of David.

– Are we in the middle of the Messianic Age?

No. It is impossible to initiate the Messianic Age without the arrival of the Messiah.

– Was the Messiah revealed?

Not yet. But he will definitely come, when God decides so.

– Will this war be fought in Syria?

No. The Gog will attack the land of Israel and be buried there.

– Does Jonathan Pollard's Release Have Biblical and Messianic Implications?

The release of Jonathan Pollard is absolutely irrelevant to the Bible and its Messianic implications.

– Has the time come for God to reveal the Messiah?

Not likely. First, Israel has to repent and turn to God. Second, it is not for humans to answer and know this. God alone decides when to reveal the Messiah.

- **Is calculating the time of the Messiah and the Messianic Age permitted?**

No. The Talmud and sages are strongly against such practice.

- **Who will dwell in the Holy land in the time of Gog's attack: Jews only or all the House of Israel with its Messiah?**

In the time of Gog's attack all the Twelve Tribes of Israel will dwell there with the Messiah among them.

- **Will ISIS be one of the participants in this war?**

No. When this war begins, ISIS will be a forgotten memory in the annals of a distant past.

- **Will the Arab-Semitic nations take part in Gog's coalition?**

No. It would be physically impossible, because those countries will be soundly defeated by the forces of IDF in the Psalm 83 wars long before Gog's attack will commence.

- **Will IDF fight against the invading armies of Gog?**

No. God has said that this is His prerogative: "The war against Gog and Magog I shall wage myself. Their destruction shall be complete" (Esther Rabbah 7:23).

- **Is there any other war besides Gog and Magog? If so, what is its name and when does it occur?**

Yes, indeed, there are two major latter-day wars in Scripture before the war of Gog and Magog. The first one is the "War of the Kings of the

North and South,” described by the prophet Daniel 11:40–45. The second one is the war(s) of Psalm 83. Both of these wars will start long before the Gog and Magog war of Ezekiel 38 and 39.

(Note: on request, I can produce a detailed account of these wars).

–What is the prophetic impact, if any, of the Russian military involvement in Syria? Is it the beginning of the Gog and Magog war?

No, it is not the beginning of Gog’s war. But the alliance of Russia with Syria, Iran, Iraq, China, and Hezbollah of Lebanon against ISIS and anti-government rebels may, sooner or later, bring a political solution to Syria, possibly with Assad’s government still remaining on top. Influenced by the mortal enemies of Israel, Syria will pursue a policy of military confrontation with Israel with the sole purpose of annihilating the Jewish state. Iran and Russia will supply all kind of advisers and high technology weaponry — rockets, missiles, planes and tanks, you name it. All of this will lead to the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 17:1–3, which says, “Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap.” It will also be a sad time for northern Israel because many people will be killed, and significant destruction will take place there. It would seem that Israel retaliates with the atomic weapon and destroys Damaskus. Moab and Ammon of Jordan will face the same fate (Jeremiah 48).

– Will the nuclear deal with Iran lead to the war of Gog and Magog?

No. The war of Gog and Magog is of the distant future. But it will lead to the wars of the kings of the north and south described by the prophet Daniel 11:40–45 and the destruction of Elam-Persia mentioned in Jeremiah 49:34–39.

–Will Israel strike the nuclear facilities of Iran?

No. This job will likely be done by the king of the north, Assur, the leader of the European Union’s armies. This view is confirmed in Tosephos’ commentary on Tractate Avoda Zara, 2b called *The Mashcha malchusaihu*, which says that “Persia shall fall into the hands of Rome directly before the coming of Moshiach.”

– What is the importance of the Jeremiah prophecy recorded in Chapter 49: 34–39? Can you explain the meaning of this prophecy?

Certainly. This is the most overlooked prophecy of the Hebrew Bible, the importance of which is generally underestimated. To some degree, this prophecy has a connection with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear deal signed in Vienna on July 14, 2015 between a group of nations (P5+1) led by the United States of America and Iran. You see, all the prophecies in the Bible are connected, sometimes in a very mysterious ways. Thus, Daniel 11:40 says that the war between the kings of the north and south will start as a result of the violent “push” of the king of the south against the king of the north. To make it easier for readers to understand what is going on here, I am going to identify these kings beforehand. The king of the south is the Islamic Republic of Iran with its Muslim allied nations of the Middle East and northern Africa (the short-lived Iranian Islamic caliphate), and the king of the north is Germany (Assur) with its allies of EU countries. Let us continue with Daniel’s narrative:

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south *push* at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over” (Daniel 11:40).

What might this “push” mean? Well, it could be materialized in the many aggressive and provocative actions of Iran. We have already heard

of Iran's violation of the nuclear deal with the second ballistic test in November, 2015. Iran has a long history of illegally obtaining nuclear technology from certain countries, using a diplomacy of double dealing and blatant lies. Iran will not honor its promises to abide by the rules and regulations of the signed nuclear treaty and will most likely use its habit of cheating and covering up, as evident with its international nuclear agreements. As a result, Iran may secretly build a nuclear weapon undetected by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency. Washington and its European allies recently (on the demand of Iran) made a step forward, permitting Iran to disassemble and hide information about previous nuclear weapons-related work. This decision will further encourage Tehran to continue cheating in the future without paying the price as in the past.

The wrath of the king of the north against the king of the south could be caused by Iran's preparation for a nuclear attack against the EU, cutting off the oil and gas supply in order to choke the European economy into submission, or by a massive terrorist attack like 9/11 in New York City and the November 13, 2015 massacre in Paris, or by threatening to close the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, preventing the shipping of oil and gas to undermine heavy industrial European economies, or, what is worst of all, by Iran smuggling nuclear devices into the hands of fanatical Islamic terrorists who have been dreaming of such a scenario for a long time. Everybody knows what grave consequences this could bring upon the world: the nuclear terrorists with just one explosion of a dirty bomb (a suitcase-sized nuclear device) could kill hundreds of thousands of people and cause destruction on the Hiroshima and Nagasaki scale. No matter what form the "push" takes, the king of the north will take it seriously as a national security threat and retaliate swiftly with all his might against Iran and its allies in a "blitzkrieg" manner, resulting in the defeat and subjugation of the king of the south and its allies (Daniel 11:40–45).

The prophecy of Jeremiah 49:34–39 brings some additional information on Iran’s demise. “Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might” (Verse 35). First of all, who is Elam? Elam, according to Josephus Flavius (*Antiquities of the Jews*, chapter VI: 4), is the Persian people: “For Elam left behind him the Elamites, the ancestors of the Persians.” The Elamites were excellent archers. It was their strength and the power of their bowmen (Isaiah 22:6). This instrument of war brought them many victories on the battlefield, providing them with security and confidence. It was the “chief of their might,” the source of their great strength. But this prophecy does not speak of the past — it aims for the future. In this case it speaks of Persia-Iran and its modern nuclear arsenal of atomic and nuclear bombs and its delivery system of long-range intercontinental ballistic missiles. It is the time when Iran has fulfilled its long-term ambitions and become nuclear. It is amazing that 2600 years ago, the Prophet Jeremiah accurately predicted Elam-Iran’s possession of the nuclear weapon (referred to as a bow), which is the “chief source of their might.”

God will break the bow of Elam, meaning all nuclear missile launches—on land, air or water—will be destroyed and become useless. The judgment against Elam is very specific and the language used cannot be found anywhere else in Scripture.

The king of the north will strike all nuclear facilities of Iran and destroy them. Iran will be completely incapacitated at the time. A disaster of epic biblical proportions will finally arrive in the Middle East. The past nuclear disasters of Chernobyl and Fukushima will not even be comparable. The bombing of the Bushehr nuclear reactor and other nuclear targets will cause a nuclear holocaust and humanitarian crisis of unseen proportions.

“There shall be no nation where the outcasts of Elam shall not

come,” said the prophet. The territory of Iran will be badly polluted, and the Arabian Gulf will become a cesspool of radioactive contamination and whoever is saved from the Iranian people will be scattered into the nations of the world. This is exactly what the prophecy says. God’s judgment of Elam has not occurred in recorded history but will be fulfilled in the future.

“I will set My throne in Elam” (verse 38) means that God will break not only Elam but also its militant religion of Islam, which seeks to destroy Israel and take over the world. Instead of Islam, it will be the God of Israel who will establish His rule and authority over the entire world, including the people of Iran.

- **One more question remains unanswered: If Elam-Iran was defeated and scattered all over the world in Jeremiah 49:36–37, then why is Iran again represented under the name of Persia as an ally of Gog in Ezekiel 38:5?**

The answer is not complicated and can be found in these words of the prophet: “But it shall come to pass in the latter days that I will bring again the captivity of Elam, says the Lord” (Jeremiah, 49:39).

This verse conveys two meanings. First, the events described in Jeremiah 49 concerning the judgment of Elam will happen much earlier and precede the Gog and Magog war (and the wars of Psalm 83 as well). Second, the war of Ezekiel 38 and 39 will occur in the distant future, as indicated in the prophecy; “in the latter days” God will return the Persians to their own land. It will take a long period of time for the Iranian people to recover from nuclear disaster, regain independence, and acquire the economic and military strength to join the forces of Gog

in the final attack against Israel. It seems that the powerful lessons of the past will not prevail over the perpetual hatred toward Israel and its God. By its own design, Iran will meet the God of judgment and find its graves on the mountains of Israel, as the prophecy clearly attests (Ezekiel 39:4, 11).

Dear Rabbi Weisz,
Since you have not answered my previous comments (which I find quite unjewish), I am going to send this letter to many Jewish magazines and publishers in Israel and North America.

Shalom,

Alexander Zephyr