

ARE WE THERE YET?

**THE BIBLICAL 'LAST DAYS':
A LOOK AT TODAY'S WORLD**

ARE WE THERE YET???

- ❖ The key requirement for the biblical end time events to take place is **THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL**.
- ❖ A few words from Jesus...
- ❖ **Matthew 16:2-3**---The signs of the times can be discerned by people. (The preparation for an event indicates that the event itself **COULD BE** at hand).
- ❖ **Matthew 24:32-36**---exact days/hours cannot be determined.
- ❖ **Matthew 23:39**---Israel's spiritual restoration back to the Lord their God is **the only requirement** for His Second Coming to this earth.
And the **primary purpose** of the Tribulation is to restore Israel spiritually.

ISRAEL RESTORATION ACCORDING TO EZEKIEL 34-39

- ❖ **WHO WILL DO IT?** GOD HIMSELF WILL RESTORE ISRAEL. 34:10-11 (“I will”---c. 70x in this section of Ezekiel)
- ❖ **WHY WILL HE DO IT?** BECAUSE HIS NAME IS AT STAKE. HE MADE PROMISES TO ISRAEL (the covenants) THAT HE WILL KEEP. E.g. 36:22; 39:25
- ❖ **WHEN WILL HE DO IT?** At the end of times. 38:8, 16; 34:28-29; 36:15; 37:25
- ❖ Ezekiel declared that Israel’s restoration is in two parts.
Ezekiel 36:22-27
- ❖ **FIRST**, Israel will be physically restored back to their land.
- ❖ **SECOND**, Israel will be restored spiritually back to the Lord God.

PHYSICAL

SPIRITUAL

EZEKIEL'S PICTURE OF THE TWO-FOLD RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

37:1-14 - The Vision of the Dry Bones

- ❖ God's question/Ezekiel's reply.
- ❖ The images in the vision.
 - “Valley” (“grave”) = the nations of the earth.
 - “Dry Bones” = the nation of Israel.
 - “Breath/wind” = Spirit of God

- ❖ ISRAEL'S TWO-FOLD RESTORATION:
 - #1 PHYSICAL---Back to the Land
 - It is a process. (Bones/flesh/sinew/skin)
 - It is an observable process (Noisy)

EZEKIEL'S PICTURE OF THE TWO-FOLD RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

37:1-14 - The Vision of the Dry Bones

- **#2 SPIRITUAL RESTORATION---**Back to the Lord
 - It comes **AFTER** the physical restoration of Israel. (The breath/wind/Spirit enters Israel).
 - Israel is “saved” and brought into the New Covenant (see Rom. 11:25-27)
 - Israel will “know the Lord” (37:14)
- **WHAT WILL BRING ISRAEL BACK TO THE LORD SPIRITUALLY???**
- One of the key elements in Israel’s spiritual awakening is a coming battle. (39:22)
- The battle is described in Ezekiel 38-39.

ISRAEL'S SPIRITUAL RESTORATION: The Gog/Magog Battle – 38:1-39:29

- **GOG** = The title of the leader of the nation located far north of Israel.
- **THE NATIONS INVOLVED** (Note Genesis 10)
 - **MAGOG** = Russia (These were called “Scythians” by the Greeks). Settled in central Asia: southern Russia and present day Islamic nations (+ Ukraine).
 - **ROSH** = Modern day Russia.
 - **MESHECH** = Ancient tribes settling in modern day Turkey.
 - **TUBAL** = Ancient tribes settling in modern day Turkey.
 - **PERSIA** = IRAN
 - **ETHIOPIA** = Sudan/Ethiopia
 - **PUT** = Libya/Algeria/Tunisia/Somalia
 - **GOMER** = Turkey
 - **BETH-TOGARMAH** = Peoples of Asia Minor and Central Asia
 - **MANY PEOPLES** = Possibly other Islamic states



RUSSIA

IRAN

TURKEY

ALGERIA

LIBYA

ISRAEL

ISRAEL'S SPIRITUAL RESTORATION: The Gog/Magog Battle – 38:1-39:29

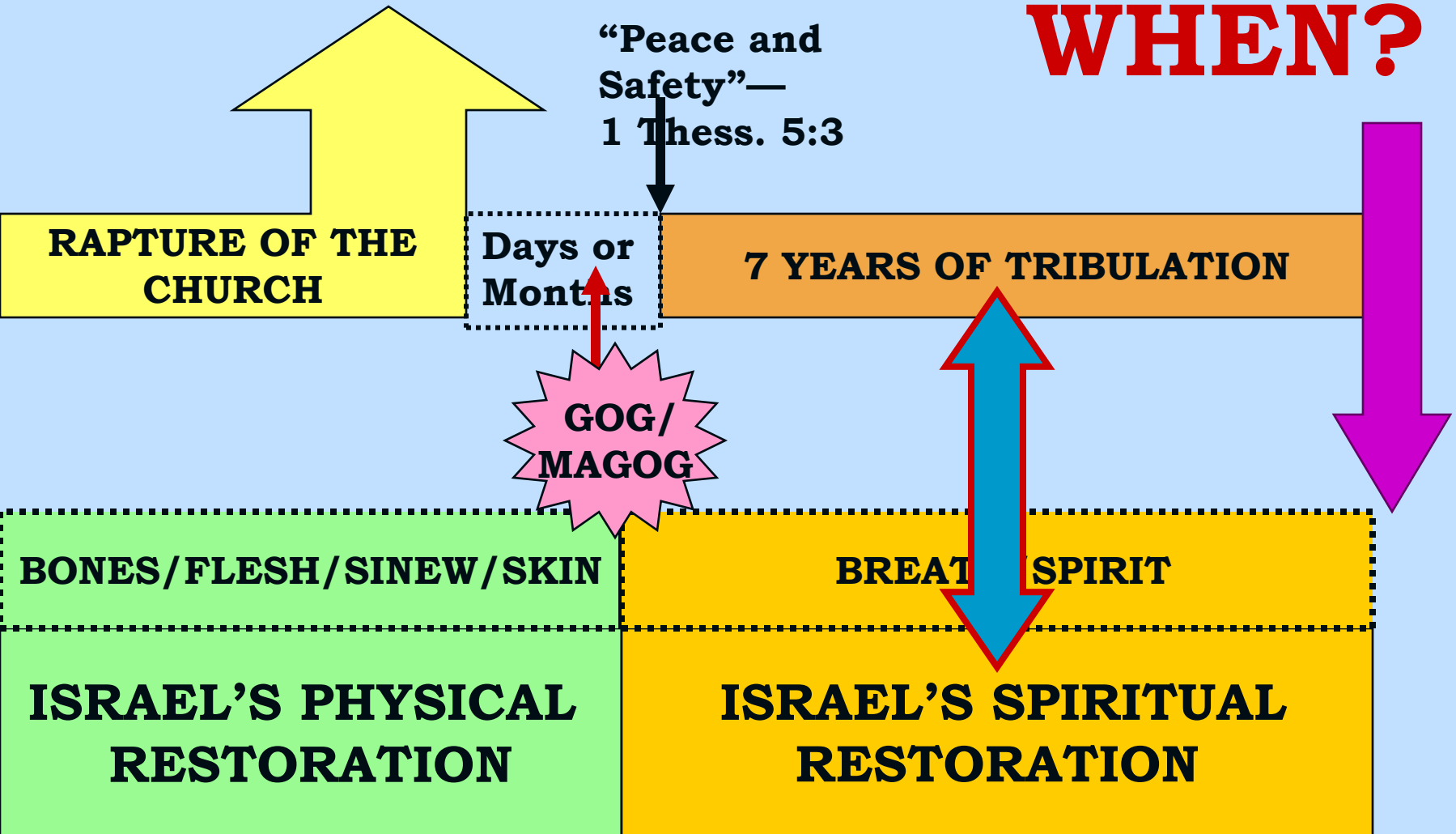
➤ THE ROLE OF THE LORD GOD

- He is the Instigator of the battle. (38:4, 8; 39:2)**
- He is the Deliverer of Israel. (38:18, 21; 39:1-6)**

➤ THE TIME OF THIS BATTLE

- When Israel is living securely. (38:8, 11,14)**
- It is a time of prosperity for Israel (38:12-13)**
- In the end times. (38:8, 16)**
- KEY POINT: The seven years of 39:9.**

WHEN?



3 AREAS OF APPLICATION ACCORDING TO JESUS

➤ BE WATCHFUL

- Am I living in expectation of Jesus' return? He said we can discern the basic times.

➤ BE PREPARED

- Am I personally prepared for His return?
Is Jesus Christ my personal Savior?

➤ BE SERVING

- Am I “doing business” for the Master? Is Jesus Christ my “Lord”?