

Russia in Prophecy



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Where is Russia Identified in the Bible? Many people believe that Russia is Gog of Ezekiel 38, but studying the prophecy of Ezekiel, and history proves that not to be true (*Read our booklet Gog and Magog in Prophecy for further details*). Can Russia be traced back to the book of Beginnings, the book of Genesis? Absolutely! And, I believe that the identity of Russia has been one of the best kept secrets next to the identity of the Lost Ten Tribes of Israel that has ever been uncovered!

Origins of the Russian People

Let's start with who the Russians are not. As mentioned above, many people believe that Russia is Gog of Ezekiel 38.

Some translations read "Prince of Rosh" in Ezekiel, rather than "chief prince" in an attempt to imply that we should interpret this expression as meaning the "prince of Russia." This is absolutely erroneous because ROSH appears 456 times within the Old Testament and NEVER is it used as a proper noun! ROSH is a Hebrew word meaning "chief." There simply is no comparison or connection between these two words which originate from two different languages. Even the "first" or "chief" day of the Jewish calendar year is called ROSH HASHANAH, thereby further proving our point.

The word "Rus" comes from the "Norsemen themselves, and gradually came to be applied to the country over which they ruled" (ibid., p.5, emphasis mine). Norsemen called the Russians "Rus," so even "Rus" or the name "Russia" was applied by *other people* and its NOT part of Russia's tribal names. "It was a Scandinavian import....*Russia should really be called Eastern Slavonia*" (Article by Professor Gerhard Rempel, Birth of the Russian State, emphasis added).

"Edwin M. Yamauchi, noted Christian historian and archeologist, writes that *rosh* 'can have nothing to do with modern 'Russia,' and 'all informed references and studies acknowledge that the association with Moscow and Tobolsk is untenable.'" (*Last Days Madness Obsession of the Modern Church*, Atlanta, GA: American Vision, 1996, p. 363)

Notice the tribal names of the Russians (Eastern Slavic Peoples):

- Dregovichs
- Drevlians
- Ilmen Slavs
- Krivichs
- Polans
- Radimichs
- Vyatichs
- Severyans
- Tivertsy
- Ulichs
- Volhynians
- Dulebs
- Buzhans
- Polochans (From Wikipedia under article "Early East Slavs). Nowhere are the the names of Gog or Magog, or Tubal, or any of the tribals names in Ezekiel 38. Gog is NOT Russia!

History shows that the “present day Russians Ukrainians; and Belarusians-[are] the ancestors of the eastern Slavs” (The Making of Modern Russia, Lionel Kochan, John Keep, p.2). There was one original group called the “Slavs,” but then they all split into three groups, “by AD 800, three main geographical and linguistic divisions had arisen; the *East Slavs inhabiting a large part of European Russia*, the South Slavs who settled in the Balkan Peninsula, and the West Slavs who settled in what is now Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany” (History Of Poland Mieczyslaw Kasprzyk Chapter one, emphasis added). Where did these Eastern Slavic people come from?

Tracing Their Steps

Its interesting to see that the Eastern Slavic peoples can be traced back to the Middle East, through which these people began, then migrated through the black and the Caspian Seas into the regions that they dwell in now.

Keep writes: “The most dynamic eastern Slav groups were those living in the area of the middle Dnieper on the border between forest and steppe [southern Russia]” (The Making of Modern Russia, p.2). These are the ones who created the “Kiev Rus” empire in the 9th century A.D. After the fall of “Kiev Rus” these same Eastern Slavs chose “...Moscow...as nucleus of the future Russia” (ibid, p.11).

The Kiev Rus Empire was a time of great expansion for the Russian people, and its Christianization.

“The region of Kiev dominated the state of Kievan Rus’ for the next two centuries. The grand prince (kniaz’) of Kiev controlled the lands around the city, and his theoretically subordinate relatives ruled in other cities and paid him tribute. The zenith of the state’s power came during the reigns of Prince Vladimir (r. 980-1015) and Prince Yaroslav (the Wise; r. 1019-1054). Both rulers continued the steady expansion of Kievan Rus’ that had begun under Oleg. To enhance their power, Vladimir married the sister of the Byzantine emperor Basil II...Vladimir’s greatest achievement was the Christianization of Kievan Rus’ , a process that began in 988. He built the first great edifice of Kievan Rus’ , the Desyatinnaya Church in Kiev. Yaroslav promulgated *the first East Slavic law code, Russkaya Pravda (Justice of Rus’)*; built Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kiev and Saint Sophia Cathedral in Novgorod; patronized local clergy and monasticism; and is said to have founded a school system. Yaroslav’s sons developed the great Kiev Pechersk Lavra (monastery), which functioned in Kievan Rus’ as an ecclesiastical academy.

“The annals of Rus state that when Vladimir had decided to accept a new faith instead of the *tradition idol-worship (paganism) of the Slavs...*” (Article “The Golden Age of Kiev” Wikipedia, emphasis added).

The primary source for the history of these Kiev Rus people is from what scholars call the “Primary Chronicle,” “...which is often translated in English as Tale of Bygone Years), is a history of the early East Slavic state, Kievan Rus, from around 850 to 1110 originally compiled in Kiev about 1113...the Tale of Bygone Years is unique as the *only written testimony on the earliest history of East Slavic peoples*. Its comprehensive account of the history of Kievan Rus is unmatched in other sources. It is also valuable as a prime example of the Old East Slavic literature” (ibid, article “Primary Chronicle, emphasis added). To this we find the earlier origins of the “Kiev Rus.”

The Kiev Rus believed according to their historical chronicles that they descended from the “KHORIV.” Edwin M. Yamauchi comes to an amazing conclusion, “Mitanni/KHURRI became the East Slavic (Russian)... **Kievans** (who traced their ancestry to **KHORIV** per the (“Russian Primary Chronicle”). (Edwin M. Yamauchi, 1982: 23; *History Research Projects*, “Nations of Central Asia and the Middle East”, copyright 1994, 2001; *Suppiluliuma: Sattiwara Treaty*, “PD” no. I, 22-5, rev. 14-21, trans. Liverani (1990: 82)). KHURRI, KHORIV, are the Kievans of Russia!



The Kiev Rus migrated from the Middle East into Southern Russia, and eventually into Russia itself. Known as the Mitanni/ KHURRI, these peoples, as Pliny wrote of the Matiani, were moving into southern Russia over the Caucasus (Pliny Bk vi .sec 18).

The Mitanni Empire

The Mitanni Empire controlled the territory of Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia between 1530-1330 B.C. It was a “Major kingdom between 1500 and 1300 B.C.” (Holman’s Bible Dictionary, under Mitanni). One of the major tribes of the Mitanni were the “Hurrians,” in fact, “In around 1600 BC an Indo-Aryan Iranian people called the Mitanni established themselves amidst the Hurrians as a warrior class. *The two peoples quickly merged together and came to dominate their neighbours...* The later Hurrian Empire of Mittani became *a world power a little before 1500 BC, but survived for less than three hundred years.*” (Article “Hurrian Empire of Mitanni,” Kessler Associates, emphasis added). Their homeland was “Centred on eastern Asia-Minor & northern Mesopotamia” (ibid). This empire occupied “northern Mesopotamia and Asia Minor traversed Syria and had several Jordanian settlements. *Palestine is ‘Hurru’ in New Kingdom documents of Egypt*” (A.H. Gardiner, “Ancient Egyptian Onomastica”, 1947, 3 vols., I, pages 181-187). Can we find the Biblical origins of these peoples to whom the Russian peoples descend? Yes we can!

Obviously the words Kievans, Khoriv, Khurri, come from the Hurri, or Hurrians. These tribal names we find in the bible from the family of Midian, one of the sons of Abraham and Keturah, “Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah.

“And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah.

“And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim.

“*And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Epher, and Hanoch, and Abidah, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.*” (Gen 25:1-4).

Number 31:8 shows the kings of Midian that were slain, "...kings of Midian... namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and **Hur**, and Reba, five kings of Midian:" One of the Kings names was "Hur," the tribal name of the Hurrians!

Many sources confirm that the name of Mitanni comes from the name of Midian, "His descendants, the *Midianites*, settled in the *territory of the Mitanni (hence the name)* east of the Jordan River (Tobit 1:14) and also much of the area east of the Dead Sea..." (Wikipedia under "Midianites," emphasis added). Dr Cowley also suggests that these Mitanni are direct descendants of Midian (see, Bristowe 1971 : 12). "What is interesting to note is that the *first King of Mitanni is born from Kitra. Kitra sounds close to Kutra, the wife of Abraham who was the mother of Median and Midian*" (Goran Nowicki, April 5, 2004, KurdistanObserver.com, article "On Kurdistan and Israel Alliance," emphasis added). Rabbinical scholar Yair Davidy as well notes that, "The Mitanni of northern Syria were probably from Midian. They adopted an Indo-European culture and moved into Europe. Pliny (6;18) puts the Matiani in Southern Russia" (Bible study, Isaiah 60 part 1).

Ishmael and Midian

The Mitanni Empire was named and was comprised of the Midianties. But, there was also another group of the sons of Abraham that formed the Mitanni empire as well, Ishmael, the son of Abraham.

We find very early in the time of the book of Genesis, the Midianites, and the Ishmaelites that formed a tribal league and became one people. In the day of Joseph, when he got sold into slavery in Egypt, "And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

"And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

"And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

"And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

"***Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites***, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

"Then there passed by ***Midianites merchantmen***; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph ***to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver***: and they brought Joseph into Egypt" (Gen 37:23-28). Midian and Ishmael are used interchangeably. Though spelled Ishmeel. Strongs and other newer versions of the Bible have "Ishmael" son of Abraham, see Strong's # 3459; International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.

In the book of Judges we see the same thing. In the days of Gideon, when he fought for the freedom of Israel from the Midianites, "Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the ***hand of Midian***.

"And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.

"And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (***For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.***)

"And they answered, We will willingly give them. And they spread a garment, and did cast therein every man the ***earrings of his prey***.

“And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred shekels of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that was on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that were about their camels' necks.

“And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, even in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.

“Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon” (Judges 8:22-28). Notice the bible when speaking of the jewelry, used Midian and Ishmael interchangeably! The Jameison Faucette and Brown Commentary notes, *“Ishmaelites and Midianites being synonymous terms.”*

Gills Commentary writes, “Midianites and Ishmaelites are spoken of as the same, they being mixed and dwelling together, or very near each other.”

The Ishmaelites with the Midianites “formed a tribal league” (cf Judges 8:22-24)” JFB, p.52 Holman’s Bible Dictionary, p.961 says they became “interrelated” with Midian.

As noted earlier, the Mitanni empire was situated “northern Mesopotamia and Asia Minor traversed Syria and had several Jordanian settlements. *Palestine is ‘Hurru’ in New Kingdom documents of Egypt*” (A.H. Gardiner, “Ancient Egyptian Onomastica”, 1947, 3 vols., I, pages 181-187). In the Bible we see the Midian/Ishmaelites coming from “Gilead” (Gen 37:25), which is “east of Jordan” (Strong’s #1568). Ishmael “...settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite of Egypt, in the direction of ASSYRIA...” (Gen 25:18 NRSV). That is northwestern Arabia, in the lands of Syria, Moab and Jordan, exactly where history shows the Mitanni empire once was. Abraham sent his other children to the “east” (Gen 25:6) of Palestine as well. “Syria, Midian and Moab,” and are “clearly DISTINGUISHED FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF JOKTAN WHO PEOPLED THE ARABIAN PENINSULA” (The Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible, under “Ishmaelites,” p.749, emphasis mine).



The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible also shows that when the Assyrians and the Babylonians conquered the Middle East they found the people of Ishmael North of Arabia **dwelling near Assyria**, see under articles "Ishmael and Kedar."

In the book of Judges, what you are really reading in the days of Gideon, was a war between the Israelites and the Mitanni empire that occupied Israel at the time. But the Bible uses their biblical names, the names that the Israelites would call them.

The Mitanni empire then fell. Then the Mitanni people settled for a time in Assyria (Gayre 1973 : 20-21). The "Aryans" of Mitanni were called by the Greeks Mattienoi...Of them Field notes that 'nothing more is heard of them; they disappear in unknown India' (Field 1970 : 152; Also see Encyclopedia Britannica under article "Mitanni"). These Aryans were part of the invasion of India and established Hinduism in that country. Is it any wonder that the word "Brahmins" means "sons of *Abraham*"? Then as noted earlier, these were found in southern Russia as the "Matiani" by Pliny. These became the Khurri, Kiev, of the Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussians.

Now, after the fall of the Kiev Rus empire by Batu Khan, Genghis Khan's grandson in 1240, they split into three groups, "the Great Russians, the White Russians (Belorussians) and the Little Russians (Ukrainians)." (Russia's Roots, pt1, Steve Sampson).

"Batu set up his own capital hundreds of miles away, *at Sarai*, not far from the Caspian Sea. There he founded the so-called 'Golden Horde' khanate, which enjoyed near-complete autonomy within the Mongol Empire. For more than 200 years, the Golden Horde ruled Russia, often indirectly, with local princes and tax collectors paying tribute to the khans," then "Daniel Aleksandrovich, the youngest son of a local prince and war hero, who founded the principality of Muscovy in 1301. Following his father's lead, Daniel worked out a deal with the khans to serve as their vassal.

"Daniel's son, Ivan I (a.k.a. 'Ivan Money Bags'), also worked closely with the Mongols. He put Muscovy in a position of regional superiority by collecting tribute from other Russian princes on the khan's behalf. He also convinced the local head of the Orthodox Church to move to Moscow in 1327.

"Over the next 150 years, the principality's power expanded. Meanwhile, the Golden Horde began to weaken. Finally, in 1480, the Muscovite prince Ivan III (a.k.a. 'Ivan the Great') stopped paying tribute and gained full sovereignty over most ethnically Russian lands. The Golden Horde disintegrated. As it did, Ivan III was increasingly called 'czar'—though the word wasn't part of a Russian ruler's official title until Ivan IV (a.k.a. 'Ivan the Terrible') adopted it in 1547.

"The Russians had previously used 'czar,' which derives from 'caesar,' to describe both khans and Byzantine emperors. But Constantinople had collapsed in 1453, leaving Muscovy as the world's only independent Orthodox state. When the mighty khan crumbled, too, Muscovy's monarchs began to see themselves in grand terms—not only as rulers of 'the whole Rus,' but also as rightful heirs to the Byzantine caesars and defenders of Orthodoxy. Over the next four centuries, they and their successors built an empire that, at one point, covered nearly a sixth of the land on Earth." (ibid). This began the legacies of the Tsars of Russia between 1547-1721. Then the emperors of Russia between 1721-1917. Imperial Russia ruled a huge land mass from eastern Europe all the way to China and the Pacific Ocean.

Now, there are no prophecies concerning Midian, and what blessings Midian would receive in the

end time. Distinct prophecies are given about Israel, Edom, Ishmael, but never Midian. In these three groups of Russian people, the “Greater Russians” achieved the Empire, but the Ukraine and Belarus did not! Craig white concluded in his book *The Lost Races of the Ancient World* that the Midianites settled in Belarus and are “White Russians (Byelorussians).”



The Ukrainians, also, in the Mitanni Empire, Keturah’s other son Medan dwelt with Midian, Gen 25:2, 6. These all dwelt in the “east” where Abraham sent them and formed the empire to the east of Israel, and eventually occupied Israel as well in the days of Gideon.

“Historically, the Medanites dwelt alongside the Mitanni...”(The True Origin of Peoples of Eastern Europe, by Criag White). These were “the original Persians, descend from Medan and/or two sons of Midian, Ephah and Epher.” Pliny refers to these Medanites as the tribe of Medi which dwelt north-west of the Black Sea (Pliny iv.i.3). Of Thrace he writes, “ the Medi, who live on the right bank of the river Struna right up to the Bisaltae above mentioned, and the Digerri and the various sections of the Bessi on the left bank, as far as the river Mesto”(ibid : iv.xi.40). Herodotus mentions that the Medes were in upper Asia or inner Asia, north of the Caucasian Mountains (Herodotus 4.1,12). and Strabo stated that the Medi were a people of Thrace bordering on the Illyrian Thunatae (ie western Ukrainian/Rumanian area) (Strabo 3 : 265).

As they migrated into Russia out of the Middle East, their language gradually changed. D’iakonov

notes, “The fate of the Iranian dialects is ... very vague ... in the first millenium B.C.E. the language of the Ukrainian Scythians was still understandable for the ancient Medians” (D’iakonov 1986 : 148).

White concludes, “We have seen *historical reference to the Medi and Medo tribes in the western Ukraine as being descended from the original Medes*. One of the tribes of the Medes was Budii as we have seen. Herodotus refers to the Budini (or Boudini) nation he visited near the Borysthenes. They dwelt among the Sauromatai. Soviet historian Vakar writes that the word Budini is a variation of Vudini, Veneti, Venedi or Vendi and that authorities feel that they may well be the most ancient of Slavic tribes...” (ibid, emphasis added). So the two brothers, Midian, and Medan, can be traced to Ukraine and Belarus. Again there are no specific end time prophecies or blessings on these two tribes. So who are the Great Russians, that built an empire, and eventually the Soviet Union? The only other tribe of the Mitanni empire that contain many prophecies about its end time destiny and greatness, ISHMAEL, THE SON OF ABRAHAM!

The Prophecy of Ishmael

In the Bible, God promised Abraham and Hagar that Ishmael would become a *great nation*: “And the angel of the LORD said unto her, ***I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.***

“And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.

“ And he will be a ***wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man’s hand against him***; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren [“***defying all his kinsman***”] (James Moffatt Transl)]....And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and ***will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly***; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation...(Gen 16:10-12;17:20). When we discover the meaning of these prophecies about Russia, you will see that God is true to his promises that he made to Abraham concerning his sons!

First God promised that Ishmael would become a “great nation.” Russia of course was and still is a great nation of at least 100 million people. A huge empire that covered eastern Russia all the way to the Pacific coast near China, to the north into Siberia and so on. God multiplied Ishamel/Russia “exceedingly” with a huge population of people.

Now what does God mean when he says, “And he will be a ***wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man’s hand against him***; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren [“***defying all his kinsman***”] (James Moffatt Transl)]...” Ishmael would become a wild ass of a man, meaning a “free man” (Ferrar Fenton translation). The book of Job describes it, “*Who hath sent out the wild ass free? or who hath loosed the bands of the wild ass?*

“Whose house I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwellings.

“He scorneth the multitude of the city, neither regardeth he the crying of the driver.

“The range of the mountains is his pasture, and he searcheth after every green thing.” (Job 39:5-8). What a perfect description of the Russian wilderness and dwellings. Most commentaries say this passage alludes to the meaning of Ishmael’s prophecy.

Notice the description of the geographical landscape of Russia: “The Russian Federation stretches across much of the north of the supercontinent of Eurasia. Although it contains a large share of the world’s Arctic and sub-Arctic areas, and therefore has less population, economic activity, and physical variety per unit area than most countries, the great area south of these still accommodates a great variety of landscapes and climates. *Most of the land consists of vast plains, both in the European part and the Asian part that is largely known as Siberia. These plains are predominantly steppe to the south and heavily forested to the north, with tundra along the northern coast. Mountain ranges are found along the southern borders, such as the Caucasus (containing Mount Elbrus, Russia’s and Europe’s highest point at 5,633 m) and the Altai, and in the eastern parts, such as the Verkhoyansk Range or the volcanoes on Kamchatka.* The more central Ural Mountains, a north-south range that form the primary divide between Europe and Asia, are also notable” (Wikipedia). This is the perfect description of the “free man” land that Job described. Mountain ranges, barren land, and forests (every green thing).

But why is he called a “free man.” What is he “loosed” from? Adam Clarke’s Commentary p.186 writes of Ishmael: “God himself has sent them out free — he has loosed them from all political restraint.” The “bands” are the “bands of love” God uses to draw people to him and his ways, his ‘commandments (Hosea 11:4; 1 John 5:3). Ishmael is not subject to God’s laws and Kingdom

The Apostle Paul called himself the “Prisoner” of the Lord. A prisoner of Jesus Christ, see Ephesians 3:1; 4:1; 2 Tim 1:8; Philemon 1:1, 9. Paul was subject to Jesus Christ and his obedience to him. For Ishmael to be “free,” that means he was the **complete opposite of what Paul or any follower of Jesus Christ was and is**. What is the exact opposite of a believer in Jesus Christ? **AN ATHEIST!** The Soviet Union was the biggest Communist Atheistic Empire the world has ever seen. They were free from God, Atheists, not subject under the laws of God!

A Red Army officer who defected to the United States said: “You know in Russia we teach that religion is the opiate of the people and that there is no God...and *that Atheist Moscow is the Capital of the world* [not Jerusalem]” (Thomas Foster, *When Russia Attacks America*, pp.65-66, emphasis added).

Another quote that Communism was: “...to instigate a worldwide *system of man-made law and order outside of God’s laws and of Jesus Christ* as shown by Matthew Haberson as early as 1828” (The Ascendancy of Russia, p.257, emphasis added). Ishmael was teaching its people that they were “Free” from God, because there was no God.

This source writes, “*Hostility to all religion, especially Christianity, has been a characteristic of communism from the start.* Marxism calls religion a false consciousness, an illusion created by those in power to justify their oppression of everybody else. Marxism also predicted that religion will die a natural death when communists create a natural society, *but that hasn’t kept communists from actively struggling against religion; they see it as a reactionary social force that will prevent progress if it is not smashed....* The Bolsheviks responded quickly, by confiscating Church property, canceling state subsidies to the Church, decreeing civil marriages (as opposed to church weddings), and nationalized the schools. They converted many church buildings into factories, cinemas, houses, and museums.

“In 1925 the Bolsheviks sponsored an atheist movement, the *League of Militant Godless*. This group spread *anti-Christian propaganda, promoted classes in science and philosophy, and produced*

antireligious films, plays, talk shows, literature and exhibits; often they displayed the exhibits in former churches. Four years later the government passed the Law on Religious Associations, which banned churches from engaging in educational, social or charitable work. It also prohibited Bible studies, womens' or young people's meetings, and even material assistance to church members. *All they allowed to remain was public worship, effectively cutting away the Church's influence on society.*" (A History of Christianity Chapter 8, Kimball, emphasis added). Communism was basically Ishmael/Russia fulfilling the prophecy of the wild ass breaking the "bands" of Christianity, its official religion before the Communist movement. *Communism was predicted by God through Ishmael centuries in advance!*

There is also another meaning to the "wild ass" or "donkey" pertaining to Ishmael. The Ishmaelites were to have the characteristics of a "wild ass." One of those The International Bible Commentary by F.F. Bruce writes, "The metaphor of a wild donkey may in part suggest *nobility and courage..*"(p.126, emphasis added).

The Russian nobility during the time of the Romanovs who ruled "Russia for the next 304 years, until the Russian monarchy was ended by the revolutions of 1917." (A History of Russia, chapter 1, Charles Kimball). This was a time when the nobles of Russia, the Tsars, had great expansion, especially under Peter the Great. During these centuries the Imperial Russian empire was formed,



Peter the Great

"Of all Imperial Russia's rulers, the one who made the most memorable use of the autocracy and most deeply shaped its [Russia's] character was Peter the Great...when he died something had been done to Russia which could never be quite eradicated...his attention focused on victory in war...and he accepted that the road to that goal ran through westernizing and modernizing...his reforms have ever since served as something of an ideological touchstone; generation after generation of Russians were to look back with awe and ponder what he had done and its meaning for Russia" (History of the World, p.596)

Russian courage- A great example the Battle of Stalingrad. This battle against the Germans in World War Two cost Russia, "...in excess of 1,000,000 Soviet soldiers died" (Britannica.com). "Courage" is the word used to describe what happened when Russia went up against the Germans in this decisive battle that cost so many lives, said President Putin in Moscow on May 7th, 2005.

"Courage, resilience and unity of the multi-national people became the major force that destroyed Nazism," Putin stressed" (RIA Novosti). "German forces invaded the Soviet Union in 1941 and had advanced to the suburbs of Stalingrad (now Volgograd) by the summer of 1942. *Met by a determined Red Army defense commanded by Vasily Chuikov*, they reached the city's centre after fierce street fighting. In November the Soviets counterattacked and encircled the German army led by Friedrich Paulus, who surrendered in February 1943 with 91,000 troops" (Britannica.com, emphasis added).

The Cold War

"his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren [**defying all his kinsman**"] (James Moffatt Transl)]...." This characteristic of Ishmael would be found in the end time and would prove to be very important when it came to world politics, war, and the Cold war. What does this verse mean?

"his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him"- This verse must be understood in context. His hand will be against every man, and every man against him. The latter end of the verse says, "defying all his kinsman." So Ishmael will be against his brethren, and his brethren against him.

Notice the NRSV Bible, "with his hand against everyone, and everyone against him; and he shall live at odds with all his kin" His hand shall be against *everyone of his kinsman* is what the context really is here. The latter half of the International Bible Commentary by F.F. Bruce writes, "... the overall impression is of an unruly spirit of independence, setting him at odds with his brothers or kinsmen" (p.126, emphasis added). The Keil & Delitzsch Commentary writes, "...also indicated that *Ishmael would maintain an independent standing before (in the presence of) all the descendants of Abraham*" (emphasis added). What a perfect description of the Cold War between Russia and the West!

Did Ishmael defy his brother Isaac, The U.S.A and the British? *The Cold war, Communism against capitalism, was a perfect example of this!* Don't you think that something like the Cold War, that put all nations on alert for potential nuclear war, would be mentioned in the pages of the Bible? Something as life threatening as this on a global scale as the Cold War should be mentioned!

"Cold War, term used to describe the post-World War II struggle between the United States and its allies and the (USSR) and its allies. During the Cold War period, which lasted from the mid-1940s until the end of the 1980s, international politics were heavily shaped by the intense *rivalry between these two great blocs of power and the political ideologies they represented: democracy and capitalism in the case of the United States and its allies, and Communism in the case of the Soviet bloc*. The principal allies of the United States [Manasseh] during the Cold War included *Britain, [Ephraim] France [Reuben], West Germany, Japan, and Canada [Ephraim]*. On the Soviet side were many of the countries of Eastern Europe—including Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, East Germany, and Romania—and, during parts of the Cold War, Cuba and China " (Microsoft Encarta article "Cold War," emphasis added). During this time of the Cold War, we saw Ishmael defying, being at odds with his brethren. His hand was against his brethren, and his brethren was

against him.

During this time of the Cold War, the Soviets resisted the spread of capitalism by setting up Russian satellites along eastern Europe. And when the “Marshall Plan was invented to help Europe recover by the aid of the United States, the “Russians would not participate, nor did they allow their satellites [Eastern European countries dominated by Communist Russia] to do so. *Instead they bitterly attacked the plan...*To handle the Marshall plan the *Russians replied by organizing their own half of Europe in Comecon*, a Council of Mutual Economic Assistance...[it was] a denunciation of what it termed a ‘frankly predatory and expansionist course...to establish world supremacy of American imperialism’” (History of the world, pp.939-940, emphasis added). Do you see Ishmael resisting his brothers, defying them on every front, Militarily and Economically? Also, Russia maintaining its independence from them, creating their own economic plan for Europe instead of joining his brethren in the Marshall plan? This is prophecy fulfilled to the letter.

Another example of this is the creation of NATO. Because of the Soviet threat, NATO was created “to contain the Soviet Union and the spread of Communism” (The Origins of NATO (Part 1)), which also includes the Scandinavian countries, which are also part of the Ten tribes of Israel! And in **resistance** to NATO, the Soviets created the Warsaw pact, each “sought to contain each other’s expansion and win worldwide predominance for capitalism (US) or communism (USSR)” (The Cold War, Roza Germain). Again Russia maintaining its independence from his brethren, not to be overrun by them and taken over by the west. This also produced the great arms race of the accumulation Nuclear weapons.

There is a dual meaning to this verse, as the Keil & Delitzsch Commentary writes, “*denotes, it is true, to the east of (cf. Gen_25:18), and this meaning is to be retained here;* but the geographical notice of the dwelling-place of the Ishmaelites hardly exhausts the force of the expression, which also indicated that *Ishmael would maintain an independent standing before (in the presence of) all the descendants of Abraham*” (emphasis added).

The secondary meaning is of Ishmael’s geographical location, this source agrees, the “original Hebrew, which runs literally, ‘he shall before the faces of all his brethren,’ i.e., (according to the idiom above explained, in which ‘*before the face*’ denotes the east), *the habitation of his posterity shall be ‘to the east’ of the settlements of Abraham’s’ other descendants...*These prophecies found their accomplishment in the fact of the sons of Ishmael being located, generally speaking to the *east of the other descendants of Abraham, whether of Sara or of Ketuah.*” (McClintock and Strong, **Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature, (Vol. I:339)**. Young’s has it “before the face [east] of all his brethren he dwelleth”

The brother of Ishmael is Isaac. Isaac’s descendants are the modern Day U.S.A. and the British Commonwealth (*Read our booklet USA & British in prophecy for proof*). **Who dwells exactly east of Britain, Scandinavian and other Israelite European countries, as well as North America where Abraham’s descendants live? Russia!** Interesting also is, the prophecies of Genesis are for the end time. The birthright blessings of Isaac, Esau, and Ishmael all have the same time element to them. *And the rise of Russia is in exact sequence to Britain and America. Russia’s rise to world power actually began before World War II, It began back in the Great European Colonial Expansion of the 17th thru the 20th centuries with the Russian Empire and Russian Revolution.*

But, what about the Arabs. Mainstream Christians, Jews and Muslims believe that Ishmael is the father of the Arabs is this true?

The Ishmael Myth

Many Arabs today claim to be descendant of Ishmael Abraham's son. Is this true? McClintock and Strong's a well known Encyclopedia of Religion comments: "There is a prevalent notion that the Arabs, both of the south and the north, are descended from Ishmael; and the passage Gen 16:12...is often cited as if it were a prediction of that national independence which, upon the whole, the Arabs have maintained more than any other people. But this supposition ...is founded on a misconception of the original Hebrew...these prophecies found their accomplishment in the fact that the sons of Ishmael being located ...EAST OF THE OTHER DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM whether by Sarah or by Keturah. But the idea of the southern Arabs being of the posterity of Ishmael is ENTIRELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION, and it seems to have originated in the *tradition invented by Arab vanity that they, as well as the Jews, are of the seed of Abraham-a vanity which besides disfiguring and falsifying the whole history of the patriarch and his son Ishmael, has transferred the scene of it from Palestine to Mecca...*The vast tracts of the country known to us under the name Arabia gradually became **peopled by a variety of Tribes in different lineage**" (Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature, I:339, emphasis mine).

Robert Morey writes: "Most standard reference works on Islam REJECT the Arab claim to Abrahamic descent. ...[The] Encyclopedia of Islam traces the Arabs to non-Abrahamic origins. Even the Dictionary of Islam questions the whole idea that the Arabs are descendants of Ishmael" (Islamic Invasion p.24, emphasis mine).

Warraq writes: "As for the Historian, the Arabs are NO MORE descendants of Abraham, then the French are of Francus, son of Hector" (Why...p.131, emphasis mine).

Morey writes: "*Nowhere in the Koran does it state that Ishmael is the progenitor of the Arab race. Since it is not taught in the Koran, it cannot be a true Islamic belief...Arabian literature has its own version of prehistoric times, but its entirely legendary*" (Britannica, vol. 2:176)... The belief that the Arabs descend from Ishmael came from primarily Muhammad, the prophet of the religion of Islam. He basically wanted his religion to be Abrahamic in origin like the Jews and the Christians, so made up his version of Arab history by claiming descent from Ishmael, thus making his pagan religion Abrahamic in origin. Clearly, "Muhammad was not informed about the family of Abraham." (Encyclopedia of Islam) I:184. See also pages 544-546.

So who do the Arabs really descend from?

"The pure Arabs are those who claim to be descended from Joktan or Qahtan, whom the present Arabs regard as their principle founder...The 'Arabu 'l-Musta'ribah, the mixed Arabs, claim to be descended from Ishmael.. They boast as much as the Jews of being reckoned the children of Abraham. This circumstance will account for the preference with which they uniformly regard this branch of their pedigree, and for the many romantic legends they have grafted upon it...The Arabs, in their version of Ishmael's history, have mixed a great deal of romance with the narrative of Scripture." (A Dictionary of Islam, pgs. 18-19, emphasis added). Pre-Islamic literature shows that the Arabs came from Joktan. Joktan can be found in the tables of nations in Genesis the 10th chapter, and his dwellings is described as well. Ishmael however, the claim that the Arabs descend from there is purely based on myth and legend.

This source also states that the Southern Arabs come from Qahtan, not Ishmael (The Concise Encyclopedia of Islam, p. 48).

Unger's Bible Handbook says, Seba is connected with South Arabia and is mentioned in the Assyrian inscriptions in the 8th century B.C. Havilah was ancestor to a people in central and southern Arabia partly Cushite and partly Semitic Joktanite..." (pp.53, 56).

The New Bible Commentary Says: "In so far as they can be identified Joktan and his descendants seemed to have lived in southern Arabia" (p.68).

See also:

- The Encyclopedia of Religion, Vol. 7, pg. 296 where the connection between the Midianites and the Ishamelites is noted.
- The Shorter Encyclopaedia of Islam, pgs. 178-179.
- A Popular Dictionary of Islam, p. 127.

The Bible is clear that Ishmael with Midian dwelt in northern Arabia in the areas of Syria, Moab toward Assyria as we noted earlier in the booklet. Secular sources as well make that distinction, Ishmael is "...clearly DISTINGUISHED FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF JOKTAN WHO PEOPLED THE ARABIAN PENINSULA" (The Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible, under "Ishmaelites," p.749, emphasis mine). The Ishmaelites, "...settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite of Egypt, in the direction of ASSYRIA..." (Gen 25:18 NRSV).

Again the same source in another article writes when the Assyrians and the Babylonians conquered the Middle East they found the people of Ishmael North of Arabia **dwelling near Assyria**, see under articles "Ishmael and Kedar."

Other sons of Abraham as well migrated into the north along with Midian and Ishmael since they all dwelt to the east of Isaac, and formed the Mitanni empire. Josephus mentioned that one of Abraham's great-grandsons joined with the Assyrians. ("Antiquities", book I, ch. xv § 1.) His name was Asshur, the son of Dedan, the son of Jokshan. Jokshan was the son of Abraham. Genesis 25:3 says, "And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim." From Sheba have come the Swabian Germans. From Letushim are descended the Lettish people along the Baltic.

In prophecy we find Ishmael in the confederacy with Assyria, (see Psalm 83:1-8). In the endtime, Assyria dwells "north" not south. "And he will stretch out his hand *against the north, and destroy Assyria*; and will make Nineveh a desolation, *and dry like a wilderness*" (Zephaniah 2:13). In ancient times ***Assyria dwelt in the north, and the end time Assyria dwells in the north***. Ishmael then and now dwells in the north, never in the south where the Arabs dwell.

One more note. How can the Arabs be descendants of Ishmael, for when Ishmael was born the ARABS ALREADY EXISTED! This alone shows that the Arabs cannot be Ishmael.

Genesis the tenth chapter shows the true Arabian origins as confirmed by secular histories, "And ***Joktan*** begat Almodad, and Sheleph, and Hazarmaveth, and Jerah,

"And Hadoram, and Uzal, and Diklah,

"And Obal, and Abimael, and Sheba,

“And Ophir, and Havilah, and Jobab: all these were the sons of Joktan.

“*And their dwelling was from Mesha*, as thou goest unto Sephar a mount of the east” (Gen 10:26-30). What is “Mesha”? R. Zacuth (s) “says, Mesha in the Arabic tongue *is called Mecca*; and it is a point agreed upon by the *Arabs that Mesha was one of the most ancient names of Mecca*; they believe that all the mountainous part of the region producing frankincense went in the earliest times by the name of Sephar; from whence Golius concludes this tract to be the Mount Zephar of Moses, a strong presumption of the truth of which is that *Dhafar, the same with the modern Arabs as the ancient Saphar, is the name of a town in Shihir, the only province in Arabia bearing frankincense on the coast of the Indian ocean* (In *Juchasin, fol. 135. 2. (t) Universal History, vol. 18. p. 353., emphasis added*)

And “ ‘from Mecca till you come to the city of the eastern mountain, or (as in a manuscript) to the eastern city,’ meaning perhaps *Medina, situate to the east*; so that the sense is, according to this paraphrase, that the sons of *Joktan had their dwelling from Mecca to Medina* (In Pocock. Specimen Hist. Arab. p. 34. emphasis added). The Bible clearly identifies the people of Joktan dwelling in Mecca and Medina in the east, these are the Arabs today and NOT THE PEOPLE OF ISHMAEL.

What’s Next for Russia?

Now, with the collapse of the Soviet Empire, what role does Russia have in prophecy?

Psalm 83- Psalm 83 is a statement made by David of the enemies of Israel in his day, but it is also “...the *past* confederacy with the future one” (Bullinger’s Companion Bible, p.802, emphasis his). Bullinger also points out: “the tenfold confederation of enemies in vv.6-9 followed by the sevenfold destruction in vv.10-12...the past confederacy with the *future one* of the ‘*ten kingdoms*’ [of the beast power] and the same divine destruction [God’s wrath]” (ibid, p.802, emphasis added).

Unger’s Bible Handbook as well writes: “The nations foes of the writer’s day, foreshadow the final coalition and its complete overthrow; 9-18” (p.284).

Obadiah in his prophetic book of the end times that talk’s about the Kingdom being YHWH’s in the end v.21, says that Edom is in a “confederacy” v.7. And in Psalm 83 we find the “confederacy” and the “Tabernacles of Edom,” vv.5-6.

Obviously Psalm 83 lists the nations that will confederate together against Israel in this end time called the Beast of Bible Prophecy.

“For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head.

“They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones.

“They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.

“For they have consulted together with one consent: they are **confederate against thee**:

“The tabernacles of Edom, and the **Ishmaelites**; of Moab, and the Hagarenes;

“Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre;

“**Assur also is joined with them:** they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah” (vv.2-8). Ishmael is in this list of enemies against Israel. According to Bible prophecy Ishmael, i.e. **Russia will join Europe and form the Beast of Prophecy**. “Asshur is also joined with them” (v.8). “Assyria may be the *dark power behind the ‘front line’* [of the] *coalition states*” (New Bible Commentary, p.540, emphasis added). Germany is end time Assyria who will head this end time Beast of prophecy, (*Read our booklet Germany in Prophecy for details*). Do we see this development today of Russia and Europe forming a closer alliance til eventually they will form the beast of Prophecy? Think of how powerful Europe would become with Russia as one of its States in a United States of Europe!

Revelation 17:12-14 reveals that the ten kings, “shall give their power and strength unto the beast” (v.13). The beast is Assyria, and Russia to give their power over to an already strong and powerful Germany and align itself with it is a power to watch for indeed!

Russia & The Roman Empire

Russia during the days of the Czars, was modeled after the Roman Empire. “...since the ruler was a semi-divine figure who owed account only to God. This new elevated concept of monarchy found expression in the adoption by Muscovy [Moscow] of the Byzantine double-eagle symbol of authority, occasionally used of the appellation tsar (=Caesar),...*the main source of inspiration was Byzantine...the Church exalted the autocrat for fulfilling God’s purpose as embodied in ‘Holy Rus’...’the tsar is in nature like unto all men, but in authority he is like unto God himself.’*” (John Keep, Making of Modern Russia, pp.27-28, emphasis added). Russia even called itself the “third Rome,” it was also a “Church and State” run government, like the Holy Roman Empire. Since we will eventually see a Holy Roman Empire revive once again (*Read our booklet Who, What is the Beast for details*), with Russia already having a history as a Holy Roman empire, the transition to become it again can, and will happen as the bible says it will.

Russia is Eventually becoming more and more a part of Europe. This is the mood of the day in developing a new Europe.

Germany & Russia

Many western European Leaders have tried to conquer Russia. Napoleon, Hitler etc...all have failed. Yet Bible prophecy says it will happen according to Psalm 83. Assyria/Germany will be the head of this coming European power, with Ishmael/Russia in its alliance. Many tried to do it by force, but God said Russia would remain independent from his brethren, til this formation of the beast where Russia and the other kings volutarily give the strength and power to the beast, Rev 17:12-14.

In now our Modern day, Germany is looking again to Russia to secure itself as the dominant and central power in Europe. Like in the past, “Bismarck, a former ambassador to Russia, always believed that Germany should ‘never sever the tie to St. Petersburg,’ the former capital of Russia. A close relationship, even an alliance, with Russia would secure Germany’s eastern flank.” (Article “Germany and Russia-Shifting Balance of Power” by Melvin Rhodes). Again, Germany is using this strategy of courting “Mother Russia” into an alliance for a more stronger powerful Europe.

Rhodes writes, “Germany is again turning its attention to its eastern flank. The two countries are *forging an economic deal that could shift the balance of power in Europe*. The two ministers responsible for the economies of both countries met in December to debate details of a plan to exchange

Russian debt for German equity in Russian companies. This would be a roundabout way for German banks to get back some of the money they have lent to Russia, which Moscow has not been able to repay” (ibid, emphasis added).

Stratfor, an Internet news service, carried an article December 20, 2000, that stated, “Such a development would significantly weaken U.S. influence in Europe while dramatically strengthening Germany and Russia and helping them to advance to the front stage of world geopolitics.” If successful, the deal “may help Russia’s revival and Germany could emerge as the leader of a united Europe with Russia on its side.”

The article, titled “Shifting Europe’s Power Balance,” added that “Germany would be glad to see Russia’s vast resources come to Germany and Europe rather than to the east.... Berlin would also prefer these resources do not move overseas to the United States, *Germany’s current geopolitical rival*” (emphasis added). Interestingly, Hitler thought that eventually “the struggle for global hegemony would come down to two contenders: Germany and the United States. The struggle was not just for Europe but, ultimately, for the whole *world*” (*A Century’s Journey*, pp. 109-110).

In the 1880s Bismarck remarked to a friend: “I will tell you the secret of politics: friendship with Russia” (*The Kaiser*, by Virginia Cowles, p. 85). In a series of articles in *the Hamburger Nachrichten* in 1895 he emphasized “that Germany was only secure when she had a firm understanding with Russia” (ibid., p. 118).

During the first decade of the 20th century Kaiser Wilhelm II tried to build bridges between Germany, France and Russia. Prior to the Russian czar’s visits to Paris and Berlin, he warned his uncle, the English King Edward VII, that these ties were intended to threaten British dominance. “‘England could not fail to observe,’ he said darkly, ‘the strong movement among the countries of the continent towards an economic union to counter British influence, and she would do well to ponder over it’” (ibid., p. 196).

Realizing the threat that these developments posed to the English-speaking world, British Foreign Secretary Joseph Chamberlain wrote on September 10, 1900, “An alliance between Germany and Russia, entailing, as it would, the co-operation of France, is the one thing we have to dread...” (ibid., p. 187). The same applies today, especially with British and American influence, high debt, and internal social problems that plague the English speaking countries today. Will they be able to confront a power alliance with Germany, Russia and others?

What is interesting is closer ties to Russia, Germany ironically will have accomplished *peacefully* what the Second and Third Reichs failed to achieve—a united Europe built around Germany, providing limitless opportunities for German companies to expand, plentiful raw materials from undeveloped Russia and Siberia and trade access to former British and French colonies through the Lomé Convention that ties African, Caribbean and Pacific nations to Europe. Germany also will have secured both flanks, with strong economic ties east and west.

On the military front, Russia and NATO share closer ties with each other more than any other time in history. In 1997 signed a NATO-Russia founding Act that brings the countries in closer alliance together. This called the NATO-Russia Founding Act signed in May, 1997 is an agreement between the two parties to help secure EuroAsia from all enemies threatening them, NATO explains:

“The Founding Act is the expression of an enduring commitment, undertaken at the highest political level, to work together to build a lasting and inclusive peace in the Euro-Atlantic area. The Permanent Joint Council was set up under the Founding Act as a forum for consultation and cooperation, enabling NATO and the Russian Federation to embark on a substantial programme of security and defence-related cooperation activities. It represents a reciprocal commitment to help build a stable, secure and undivided continent on the basis of partnership and mutual interest” (NATO Website). The purpose for this “... *as we approach the twenty-first century, is to find a place for Russia in Europe as was done for Germany in the post-Second World War period.*” (NATO ENLARGEMENT - THE WAY AHEAD, by Colonel Alain Pellerin, OMM, CD (Retd) - Executive Director, emphasis added).

Religiously, in its beginnings Russia has been part of the Orthodox Church which is an outgrowth of the Byzantine Church of Constantinople, due to Justinian’s crusade to convert the Russia’s to so-called Christianity. Pope John Paul when he was alive strived to bring the Catholic and Orthodox Churches together once again. “Pope John Paul II is the most charismatic pope in history; a man revered, respected and worshipped by hundreds of millions. As a Slav, rising from the ranks, elected to a dizzying position at the pinnacle of power, he wields much more weight than any single world leader, more weight, in fact, than quite a number of them taken together. In an unprecedented, history-making meeting, Mikhail Gorbachev visited the pope in the Vatican prior to meeting George Bush off Malta. *Gorbachev in talking about a ‘common European home,’ has himself called for a United Europe ‘from the Atlantic to the Urals’ (the pope’s own words—and **remember the Urals are far to the east of Moscow!**)....*” (GTA, “United States of Europe” When?, emphasis added). The Holy Roman Empire was a church/state government, the “Woman” (Rev 17), guiding the beast, which is the state power, to bind the state of Russia, with the churches of Russia together into one Europe would be a huge colossus in the world in which the British and Americans cannot cope with in their current state of a God rejecting society. We are weakening because of our sins and new power blocks are set to rival the U.S.A and Britain, unless we repent and return to Almighty God.

The Great Tribulation

The Tribulation period is focused on a particular people called “Jacob.” It is called the “time of Jacob’s Trouble” (Jer 30:7). This will be a time of “fear and not of peace” (v.5). Prophecies show that the Assyrian will bring the people of Jacob into slavery and captivity and “tread them down like mire in the streets” (Isaiah 10:6). This alliance with Assyria, Russia and the other nations that will form the beast of prophecy will break up NATO, and have Britain and the USA, (who are stationed in Europe), cease to have anymore power and influence in the world especially in Europe, by totally annihilating them. God says to Jacob, “all your allies have forgotten you, they care nothing for you” (Jer 30:14 Moffatt Transl).

In Isaiah 9, a dual prophecy is presented, its former fulfillment happened during the time of Pul King of Assyria, when Pul came in the first invasion of Israel, “and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to confirm the kingdom in his hand.

“And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, even of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land.” (2 Kings 15:19-20). However in this invasion, “There were no deportations during the first invasion and the Kingdom of Israel still stood, but Israel paid a heavy price” (Deportation of Israel, Thomas p.13).

This first invasion fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 9:1: “Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,[first invasion]...” The king of Assyria “lightly afflicted” Israel with a heavy tax.

Now the second invasion took place in 734 B.C. This begins the deportations of the house of Israel out of Palestine: “ In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abelbethmaachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria” (2 Kings 15:29)

The second invasion fulfills the latter part of Isaiah 9:1: “ ...and afterward did more grievously afflict her [second Invasion] by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.”

In the Assyrian inscriptions we read of this second invasion: “The cities of ...Gala’za, Abikka, which are on the border of Bit-Humria [house of Omri]...the whole land of Naphtali, in its entirety brought within the border of Assyria. My official I set over them as governor...”

And again: “The land of Bit-Humeria [Israel was named after this king to the Assyrians, explained later]...all of its people together with their goods I carried off to Assyria...Pakaha [Pekah], their king they disposed, and I placed Ausi as King...and to Assyria I carried them” (Thomas, pp.17-18). These statements absolutely corroborate the Bible. He gave no number, but it is obvious he took all of the Galilean tribes captive. The words like “all of its people,” and the “whole land of Naphtali,” indicates he took them all away.

Then in verse 2 we see the prophecy projected in the time of Christ, “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” This is quoted by Matthew 4:14-16. But this was only fulfilled in type. The true and complete fulfillment will be at the second coming of Christ. Reason being, it speaks of “the people.” These people are the people of Naphtali and Zebulun. They were not there at the time of the first coming of Christ. The prophecy then reaches its climax in verses 6 and 7 which says, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.” Many commentaries come to the same conclusion.

Now, in verse 1, though fulfilled in type in the days when the Assyrians attacked Israel, *an end time Assyrian will do the same*. The Bible shows in Verse 4, “For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.” This quote is identical to another end time prophecy speaking of the “Assyrian,” and says, “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, *be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt.*

“For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction.

“And the LORD of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to *the slaughter of Midian* at the rock of Oreb: and as his rod was upon the sea, so shall he lift it up after the manner of Egypt.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, *that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing*” (Isa 10:24-27).

In this endtime “confederacy” of Psalm 83, the Assyrian will, “lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.” Modern day Zebulun and Naphtali is Holland and Sweden. Russia and Germany are neighbors to these nations. Germany in alliance with Russia and the other kings that will form this beast will start their march on the Israelitish nations in Europe, beginning with Holland and Sweden, as they did in old time with the first fulfillment of this prophecy in Isaiah’s time, until eventually all of Israel in Europe will be in slavery and captivity.

Russia Holding Israel Captive

The book of Habakkuk is a book for the end time. God told the prophet, “The the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets so that a runner may read it.

“For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie” (2:2-3 NRSV). His vision was appointed for the end.

In this end time vision he spoke of the Chaldeans, Babylon coming and taking over the whole earth. “For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land [lit. “earth”], *to possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs.*

“They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves.

“Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hasteth to eat.

“They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, *and they shall gather the captivity as the sand.*

“And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it.

“Then shall his mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, imputing this his power unto his god” (1:6-11). Endtime Babylon, who is the beast and the woman, see Revelation 17, will go through the earth, and possess lands that are not theirs, and gather captive many people. These people are the nations of Israel.

Chapter 3, we read: “A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet upon Shigionoth” (v.1). This chapter again is end time. Verses 3 through 6 says, “ God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

“And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.

“Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

“He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting.”

This quote is identical to the prophecy in Deuteronomy about the second coming of Christ, “The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them.

“Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.” (33:2-3).

During this time of his coming, the prophet says, “I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction: *and* the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble” (v.7). Cushan and Midian are one and the same “... made ‘Cush-an’ to harmonize with ‘Midi-an’ in the parallel clause. So *Lotan* is found in the *Hebrew* of Genesis for *Lot*. Bochart therefore considers it equivalent to Midian, or a part of Arabia. So in Num_12:1, Moses’ Midianite wife is called an Ethiopian (*Hebrew, Cushite*)” (JFB Commentary, p.634).

Midian in the Bible as we have proved is interchangeable with Ishmael, so they mean both Ishmael and Midian. The reason why the Midianties/Ishmaelites tremble is because of the Lord’s Coming and his wrath that will take place because of his people being held in slavery and captivity. God’s wrath is described in verses 8-12. Then Habakkuk says, “Thou wentest forth for the salvation of *thy people*, even for salvation with *thine anointed*; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck.” (v.13). He is coming to save his people Israel.

“...they came out as a whirlwind to scatter me: their rejoicing *was* as to devour the poor secretly.(v.14). Habakkuk identifies himself to represent all of Israel “to scatter me” and the “poor” are the poor of his people, “**to scatter me—Israel**, with whom Habakkuk identifies himself (compare Hab 1:12). **rejoicing . . . to devour the poor secretly**— ‘The poor’ means the *Israelites*, for whom in their helpless state the foe lurks *in his lair, like a wild beast*, to pounce on and *devour* (Psalm 10:9; 17:12)” (Ibid., p.635). The Midianite/Ishmaelites devoured and scattered Israel, and enslaving them. But God will see to it that he will save his people once again from the hand of the Midian/Ishmaelites (Russia) who are in the end time alliance with the Assyrian (Germany) called Babylon.

Ishmael Repents

Russia will be subject to God’s wrath for their disobedience to him Hab 3:8-12. Afterward however, God will give them a chance to repent, and they do. In Isaiah 60 we read: “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

“ And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

“ Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.

“ Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

“ The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries *of Midian and Ephah*; **all they from**

Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall show forth the praises of the LORD.

“ All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory.

And the sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their kings shall minister unto thee: for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee.

“ Therefore thy gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; that men may bring unto thee the forces of the Gentiles, and that their kings may be brought.

“ For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.

“The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel” (vv.1-7, 10-12,14).

These places mentioned are all places of the Midianties and the Ishmaelites. Russia, and the Ukraine, will come before the Lord bending their knees in service to him. Offering gifts and sacrifices to God in their repentance. The people that warred against Israel, will repent for what they have done, and will minister to his people, and turn to Almighty God. But first, some terrible times ahead. We do not have to go through these times, if only the nations would repent and turn to Almighty God. Let's pray that God can grant us that miracle!