

Chapter 6 – Magog

The Northern Nations of the Slavs (or Scythians).

The Biblical record connecting the Japhetic Patriarch Magog to the modern day Slavic nations is more complete than the biblical citations for Gomer, yet, nevertheless sparse. Outside of the genealogical lists, only a few verses explicitly deal with the Slavic peoples throughout the entire Bible. Yet they indisputably identify Magog as a northern nation roughly inhabiting the modern day nation-states encompassing Russia and Eastern Europe.

“Son of man, set thy face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.” (Ezekiel 38:2 D.R.V.)

“...and thou shalt come out of thy place from the northern parts...” (Ezekiel 38:15)

“And thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say: Thus saith the Lord God: Behold, I come against thee, o Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. And I will turn thee around; and I will lead thee out, and will make thee go up from the northern parts; and will bring thee upon the Mountains of Israel.” (Ezekiel 39:1-2)

In these end time prophecies we find a demonic entity (Gog) that has captured the minds and hearts of three of the Japhetic nations, Meshech (Germanic), Tubal (Nordic), and Magog (Slavic) and used them as a vanguard for a global confederation of nations it incites and agitates into attacking the nation of Israel. The direction this nation, “of the land of Magog” is described repeatedly as occupying, is from the northern parts. The lands corresponding to those of the former Soviet Union occupy just such a location.

“And I will send fire on Magog, and on them that dwell confidently in the coastlands; and they shall know that I am the Lord.” (Ezekiel 39:6)

Here we see that the territory occupied by Magog in the times of the prophet was not only a northern one, but that it extended to the very seas on its periphery. The only nation that fit such a description from antiquity was that of the barbaric Scythian nation in the north.

“...and will come out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, in order to gather them for battle...” (Revelation 20:8)

This apocalyptic prophecy of St. John, merely a corroboration of the earlier prophecy made by Ezekiel, simply confirms that the nation of Magog will survive until the apocalypse, and indeed, survives among the nations of the world today. The territory to which this nation occupied in these prophecies is clear, but more light must be shed on the Slavic descendants of Japheth who have inhabited these lands since the dawn of time.

Josephus, in his Antiquities of the Jews, (1:6:1), connects the Biblical Magog with the Scythians of the first century world, but just who, exactly, were the Scythians? According to Herodotus (The Histories 4:5-7), they were the youngest of all the nations whose progenitor was a man known as "Targiteus" who begot three sons, Lipoxais, Arpoxais, and Colaxais – who, in turn, founded the main three divisions of the Scythian nation. According to him their birth occurred no more than a thousand years prior to the Persian invasion of Greece (480 B.C.).

Of course, this is beyond the ability of Herodotus to know with any accuracy as it was over a thousand years before his time and a time in which the Greeks had no recorded history. The Scythians had no written language at all at this time. Yet their existence was widely noted by the other nations and peoples of the world. Ephorus *(4th cent. B.C.) counted only four great barbarian peoples of the world – the Celts, the Libyans (Africans), the Persians, and, of course, the Scythians. The fact that Herodotus described them or being as amongst the youngest nations of the world may have been due to the fact of their stunted cultural development which led them to being classified as "barbarian" by the more civilized and developed nations in existence at the time.

The Scythians as a people were well known to historians. They were a large and warlike people who were encountered by numerous peoples everywhere from the locale of modern day Poland (2017) clear to the sea of Japan. The Spartans, the most martial of all the Greeks, considered the Scythians to be the most warlike nation in all the earth, and so numerous that the Spartans, amazingly, considered them to be absolutely undefeatable!

Yet despite their military prowess, as remarked earlier, they were considered uncouth and uncivilized in almost every other area of cultural progress.

They had no written language, no advanced ideas, no stable settlements, architecture or roadways, they had no stable political structures, agricultural techniques, arts, education or any other achievements compatible with a great people. Their one great strength lay in their nomadic ability to muster forces and mount lightning-like strikes and raids seemingly from nowhere, and then disperse and disappear into the frozen wilderness of the north before any response could be mounted. They were the world over considered as barbarians.

Growing up and thriving for millennia on the harsh and uninhabitable Russian steppes, the nation of Magog became a hardy nation able to survive and flourish under conditions that other peoples would have become extinct under. They were a highly mobile and opportunistic people equally able to quickly locate and seize on either the necessities of life for survival or to identify and decimate an enemies weakness in battle. They Scythians were a people unaccustomed to luxury and unsoftened by comfort.

History is replete with instances of the slavish Scythian hordes descending en masse from the northern steppes onto the luxurious empires of the Middle East to loot, pillage, rape and destroy only to disappear into their northern recesses before an effective defense could be hastily thrown up against them. They were one of the forces that put the finishing touches on the once mighty Assyrian Empire. One of the few peoples not subjugated by the Assyrians, they swept down from the northern wilderness sacking and plundering every city of the hated Assyrians, leaving them in such a weakened state that all of the vassal states formerly enslaved by them were then able to combine their resources and overthrow their hated overlords, thus paving the way for the rise of the upstart Babylonian Empire, under the leader Nabopolassar, who himself secured Babylonian independence from the Assyrians around 600 B.C.

Later on, when the Babylonian Empire was finally overthrown by the upstart Medio-Persian Empire under its first emperor Cyrus the Great (an event well documented in the Biblical history and prophecy (Ezra 1:3-7; 4:3-7, 5-6; Isaiah 44:28; 45:1, Daniel 1:21; 6-8, 10:1; inter alia), the Persian Empire appeared indomitable. Ever expanding and crushing every empire and kingdom in its path, under its leader Cyrus it conquered the entire Middle East, Egypt, and territories clear to India. Cyrus the Great's lust for conquest, however, remained unsatiated.

The Holy Bible does not relate the latter events of Cyrus' life, or how he met his demise. The Greek historians Herodotus (cf. The Histories) and Xenophon (cf. Cyropaedia), however, do. Cyrus continued seeking for new lands to conquer and new peoples to subjugate to his will. After a time, only the vast northern territories of the Scythians remained. Coupled with the unparalleled military prowess of the Scythians, the fact that they had no wealth or industry or anything at all of value for a conquerer to obtain by defeating them helped to preserve their independence and sovereignty after many generations.

Driven by pride, Cyrus made military preparations for the invasion of Scythia anyways. Monitoring his preparations from afar, the Scythian Queen Tomyris sent delegates to Cyrus congratulating him on his earlier victories, but inviting him to be satisfied with the subjects under his domain rather than risking it all by pitting his forces against the undefeated nation of the Scythians.

Strong in military power, the Scythians were unskilled in diplomacy or statecraft. Mixed in with her appeal for peace was a threat and an invitation to war. She threatened that if Cyrus did decide to engage the Scythians, his empire would end there and admitted that it was not fear that motivated her to move for peace, for her or her countrymen could care less what the Persians decided to do and if their decision was to try Persian arms against the Scythians, she offered a choice to help expedite hostilities.

A major river separated the land of the Persians from the land of the Scythians. Realizing that this river would have to be forded by huge amounts of soldiers, equipment and war material before a major engagement could begin and that the contesting of this crossing by either side could postpone a decisive battle by months or even years, Tomyris offered a solution. She sent ambassadors to Cyrus with two options: either withdraw his forces three days into Persian territory so she and her armies could safely cross or she would withdraw her forces three days into her territory while the Persians completely crossed over into Scythian lands. After consulting with his advisors, Cyrus chose the latter. Tomyris quietly withdrew into the icy wilderness of the north.

A small number of skirmishes and ambushes took place leading up to a battle where one of the Scythian armies, led by Tomyris' son, was lured into an ambush and completely annihilated.

This drew the full fury of the Scythians out of the north against the Persian armies. With overwhelming numbers thrown against them, victory became impossible. With the wide river at their backs and being unable to cross while under attack, retreat, too, seemed unavailable.

The entire Persian military was cut to pieces. Having the mounds of enemy dead scoured in search of Cyrus, Tomyris had his severed head brought to her. Insane with the death of her child, she threw the head into an urn filled with human blood, inviting him to "Drink your fill, you who proved to be unsatiable with human blood in life, be satiated in death!"

Cyrus was the first Persian emperor to suffer defeat and death at the hand of the Scythians (around 530 B.C.). He would not be the last. The first Persian force to cross the Bosphorus into Europe unwisely turned north into another branch of Scythia. They too, were completely routed and cut to pieces as they staggered out of Europe. The Scythians, true to reputation, remained unconquerable until relatively modern times. Even then, rarely so. Napoleon would meet his end (militarily) invading the Slavic winterlands. As would Hitler after him. So history repeats itself.

The attributes of the Slavs that defined them then still define them today. Hardiness, the ability to survive and thrive in hostile environments under extremely stressful conditions, the tendency to live under brutally excessive periods of warfare, and pure, brute endurance coupled with an indomitable will have always defined the biblical nation of Magog. Never known for the depth of their intellectual abilities, it should not be surprising that the Slavic peoples would be and have been the target of deceptive demonic ideologies, especially in the end times.

Magog, son of Japheth, however, retained distant ancestral ties and attributes to the other Caucasian peoples descended from Japheth. Their destinies would become intimately intertwined as each successive generation propelled humanity further along toward the final fulfillment of God's providential plan for His creation.

Resources

Herodotus – The Histories

Xenophon - Cyropaedia