



# Last Days Battles

Ezekiel 38-39, Armageddon & The Last Battle

# War with Hamas

Is this an End Times Event?

- Any time there is war in the Middle East people wonder if it could be a prelude leading to the Last Days predicted in the Bible.





- In World War I many believed that **General Allenby** might even be the promised Messiah!
- Each war that the modern state of Israel has fought with her Arab neighbors (1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, & 2006, has

fueled speculation that we might be on the edge of eternity.



- So it is no surprise that with this latest war against Hamas that many are wondering if this is the beginning of the End...
- ...the final battle when Jesus destroys the wicked & sets up His Kingdom!





- Bottom line...
  - We don't know...
  - ...yet.
  - Rather, we have to wait to see if this war will follow the specific markers predicted in Scripture.
- Additionally, there are **three main battles** predicted in the Bible so we have to make sure that we're not confusing one with another.
  - This evening we'll look at the distinctions between those battles.

# The Three Main Battles of the Last Days

1. The attempted **Invasion of Israel** as predicted by Ezekiel.
2. The **Battle of Armageddon** predicted in the Revelation.
3. The **Last Battle** predicted in the Revelation.



# **Some Distinctions**

# Timing of the Battle

- The invasion described in Ezekiel 38-39 takes place ***before the Tribulation*** (Ez. 38:8).
- The Battle of Armageddon takes place at the ***end of the Tribulation*** (Rev. 16:12-16).
- The invasion by Gog & Magog takes place at the ***end of Millennial Kingdom*** (Rev. 20:7-10).



# The Enemy Combatants

- The confederation of nations listed as combatants in Ezekiel includes only **8 nations** who are identified by name; does not include Europe & China (Ez. 38:2-6).
- The combatants in the Battle of Armageddon include the **Antichrist and his armies**, plus the **Kings of the East** (China).
- The combatants in the Last Battle are from **every nation on Earth**.

# The Purpose of the Conflict

- The invaders listed in Ezekiel come to **take spoil** from Israel.
- The invaders listed in Revelation 16 come to **fight with Jesus**.
- The invaders listed in Revelation 20 come to **dethrone King Jesus**.



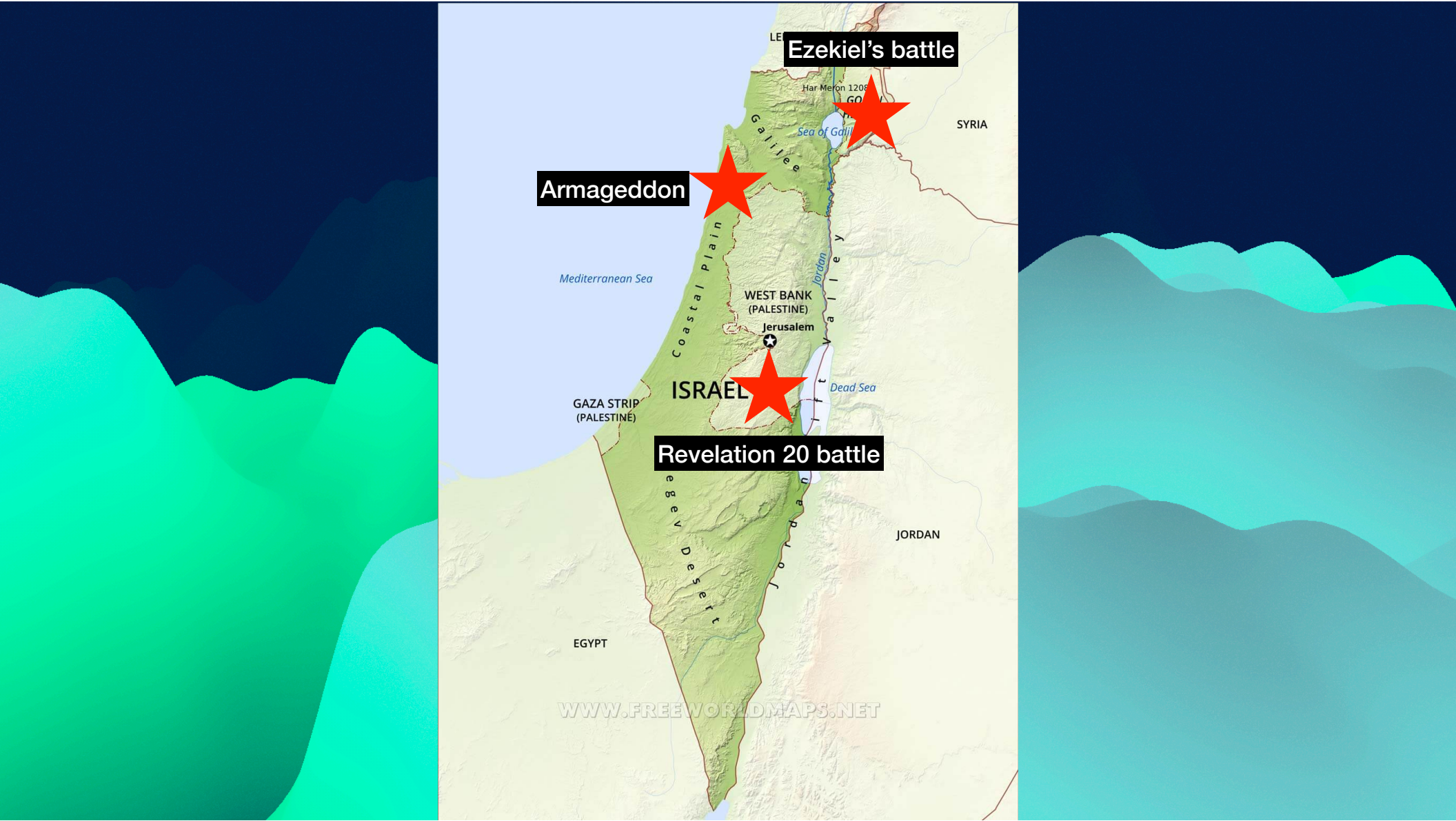
# Direction of Attack

- The combatants in Ezekiel come primarily from the **far north**.
- The participants in the Battle of Armageddon come from **West (Europe)** and **East (China)**.
- The combatants in the Last Battle come from **every direction** from all over the earth.

## Location of Conflict

- The conflict in Ezekiel takes place on the **East side of the Jordan River** in the mountains near the Sea of Galilee.
- The Battle of Armageddon takes place in the **Valley of Megiddo** on the **West side of the Jordan River**.
- The Last Battle takes place around **Jerusalem**.





Ezekiel's battle

Armageddon

Revelation 20 battle

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# Invaders defeated

- Invaders destroyed by **one another** and by **supernatural** intervention (flooding rain, hail, & brimstone (Ez. 38:21-22)).
- Invaders destroyed by the **Sword of King Jesus' Mouth** (Rev. 19:11-21).
- Invaders destroyed by **fire from God** (Rev. 20:9).

# Reaction of the World

- At the invasion predicted by Ezekiel the nations, primarily aligned with the West, file a **protest** but do not act (Ez. 38:22)
- At the Battle of Armageddon **no protest** mentioned.
- At the Last Battle **no protest** mentioned.



## After the battle ~ the spoils

- After the invaders listed in Ezekiel 38-39 are destroyed Israel **burns the captured weapons** as fuel for 7 years (Ez. 39:9-10).
- After the Battle of Armageddon **nothing** is left of the invading armies (Rev. 19:21).
- After the Final Battle **nothing** is left of the invading armies (Rev. 20:9-10).

## After the battle ~ the dead

- After the destruction of the armies mentioned in Ezekiel the people of Israel **bury the dead** on the **East side of Jordan River** (Ez. 39:4 & 11).
- After Armageddon the A/C & the False Prophet are thrown alive into the **Lake of Fire**. Those who followed are killed in the Valley & are **eaten by birds** (Dan. 11:44-45, Jer. 25:33 & Rev. 19:19-21).
- No burial of the dead ~ go immediately to the **White Throne Judgement & Lake of Fire** (Rev. 20:9, 11-15).

## After the Battle ~ Satan

- **No mention** of Satan in the invasion predicted by Ezekiel.
- After the Battle of Armageddon Satan is **captured & locked into the Bottomless Pit for a 1,000 years** (Rev. 20:1-3).
- After the Final Battle Satan is **thrown into the Lake of Fire** for eternity (Rev. 20:10).



# **Clearly these cannot all be the same event!**

**Because...**

- Different Times
- Different Combatants
- Different Purpose
- Different Direction of Attack
- Different Location of Battle
- Different Means of Defeat

- Different Reaction from the Nations
- Different Handling of the Spoils
- Different Handling of the Dead
- Different Handling of Satan

**So the attempted Invasion of  
Israel, the Battle of Armageddon  
& the Last Battle are three  
separate events!**





# So what's next?

Could this war lead to the Ezekiel 38-39 invasion?



## Following the prophetic timeline...

- The next predicted war with Israel will be the one described in **Ezekiel 38-39**.
- An invasion that includes the nations of Iran, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkey, Sudan, Libya, led by Russia.

## The question is...

- Why would Russia get involved leading a group of Muslim nations against Israel?
- Currently the two nations have a good relationship.



# The answer is found in the Bible!

- God tells us in Ezekiel 38:4 that He will “*put hooks in your jaws*” & drag the “Prince of Rosh” (Russia) into leading the invaders against Israel.
- The question has been, what event or events would draw Russia into an open conflict with Israel?

## One possible “hook”

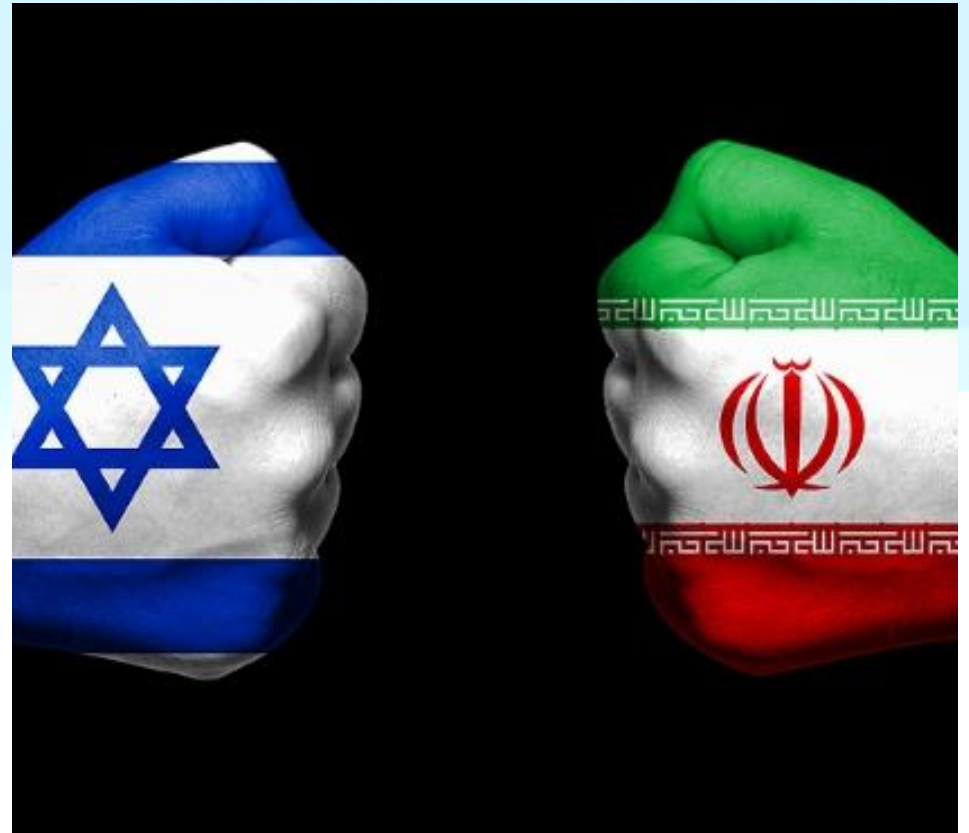
- If Israel attacks Iran’s nuclear labs then Russia would be obligated by treaty with Iran to respond.
- That *may* be the “hook” that drags Russia into a war with Israel.





## Or, Israel may attack Iran because...

- Iran trains, funds, & provides weapons to Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, & Hamas.
- It is widely believed that Iran “green-lighted” Hamas’ recent attack on Israel.



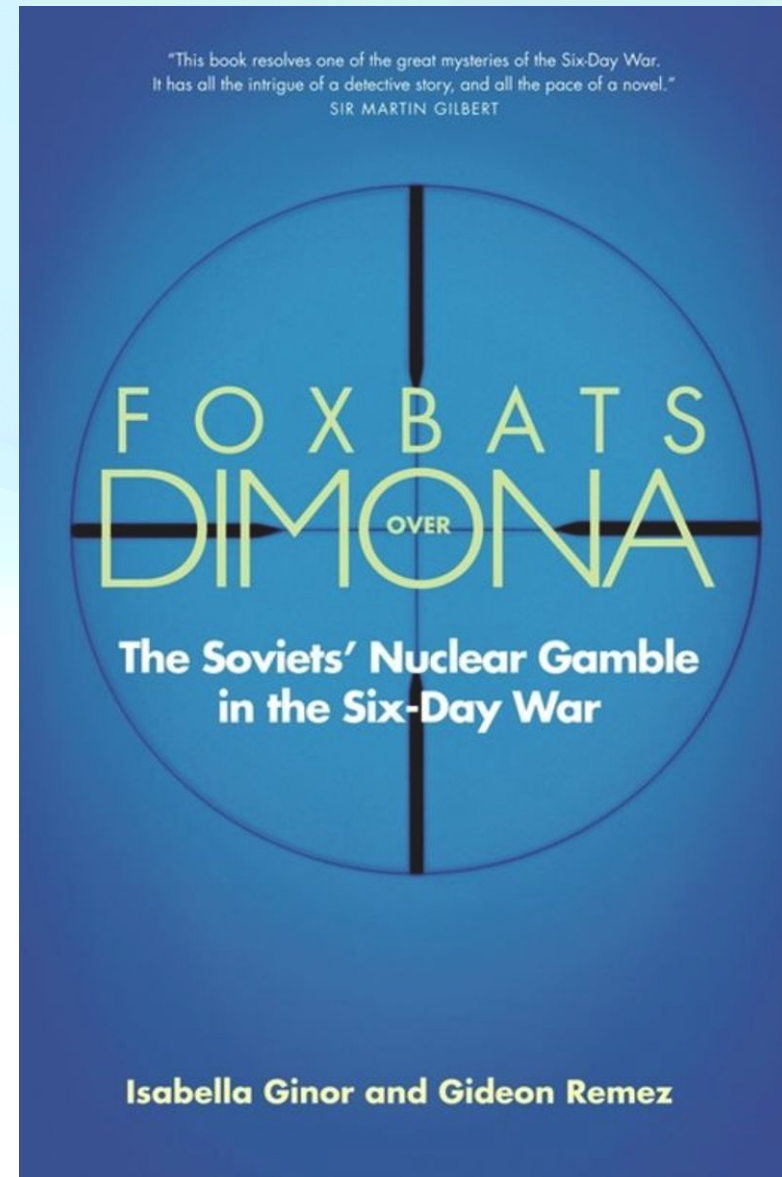
- So Israel may retaliate against Iran directly.
- Once more any attack on Iran would draw Russia into the conflict by mutual assistance treaty.



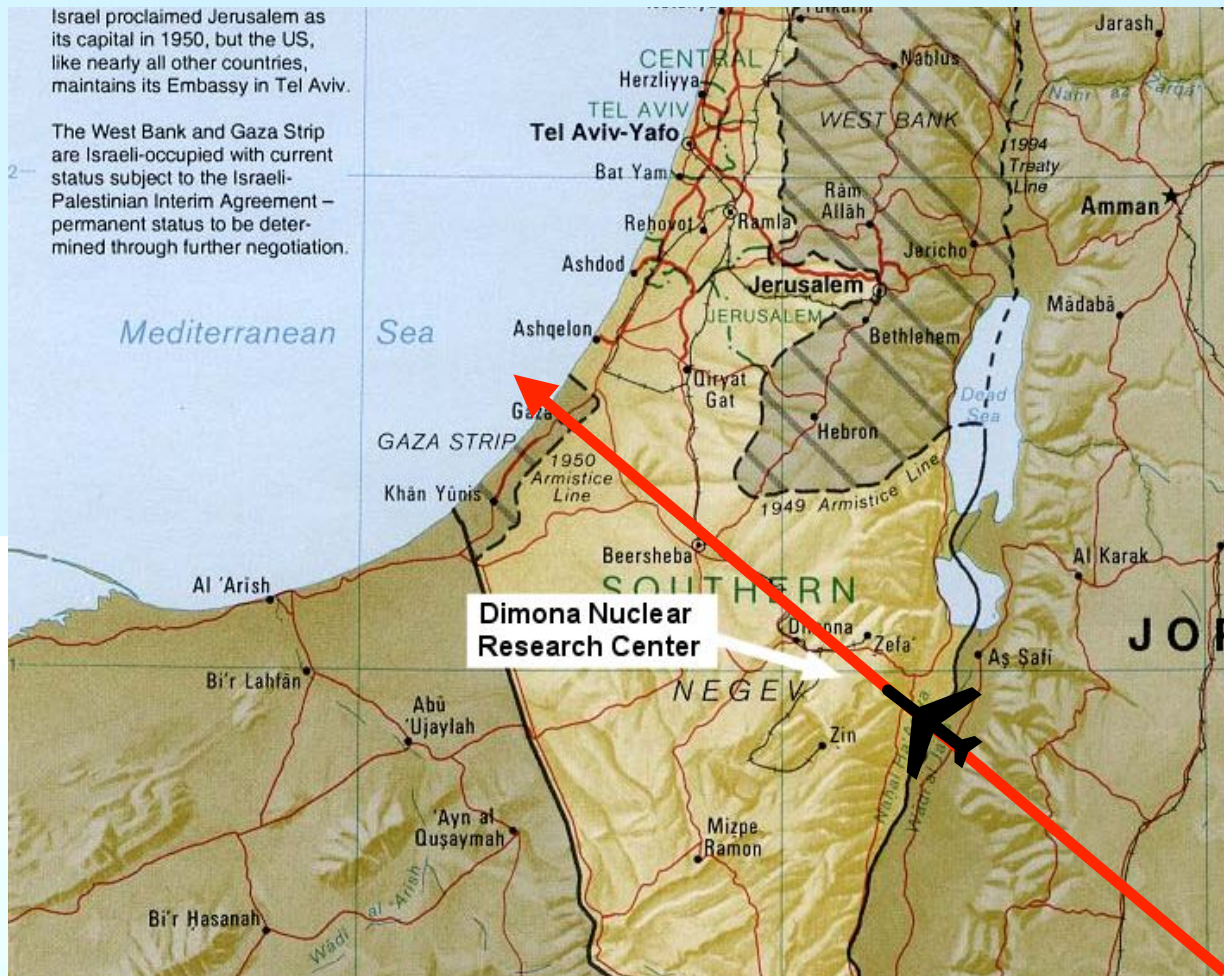
# **Another Reason Russia Would Lead the Invasion**

## Because the Muslim nations don't trust Russia!

- The enemies of Israel got burned by Russia in the 1967 War with Israel.
- Next time, they will expect **Russia to lead the invasion.**







- So, if this war expands to engulf the Middle East...
- And, Israel attacks Iran...
- And, Russia responds by leading an invasion...
- Then we're looking at the battle predicted by Ezekiel!
- But we'll have to wait and see.
- We can speculate, but we can't be dogmatic.





**What about the Church?**



- We're not sure that the Church will be here for that event.
- Why?
- Because we're told in Ezekiel that Israel will burn the weapons of the invaders for **7-years**...
- Could be a coincidence...
- ...or it could be the same **7-years** of the Tribulation!
- If so, & since the Rapture comes *before* the Tribulation...
- ...it would seem that the Church would be taken home *before* the invasion of Ezekiel 38-39.



# **A Possible Prophetic Timeline**

# After the Invasion

The horror of the attempted invasion of Israel will bring the world to the edge of **World War 3...**

...nuclear annihilation that would destroy the entire planet!

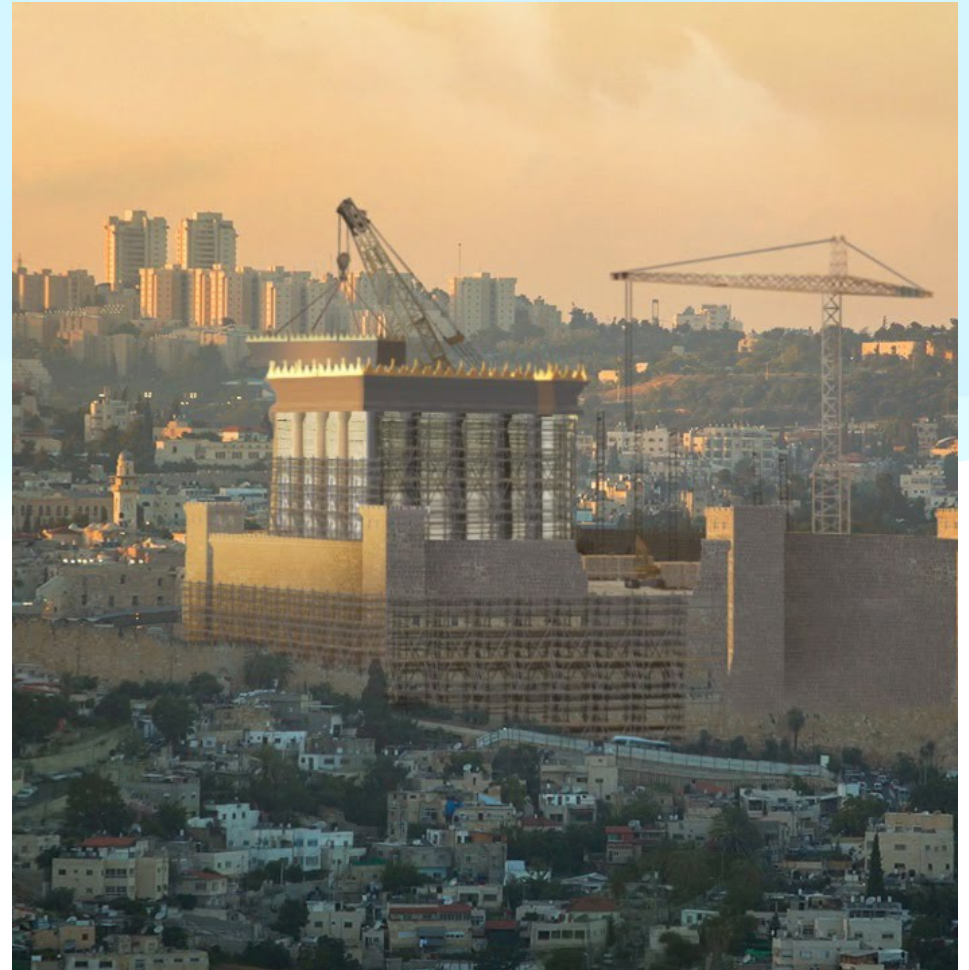
# Peace!

- The Antichrist will step in to bring the World back from the brink of nuclear holocaust.
- By implementing a **7-year** peace treaty between Israel and her Muslim neighbors (Daniel 9:27).



# Peace Treaty

- The incentive for Israel to enter into a treaty may be that the Antichrist will allow Israel to rebuild the Temple.
- A picture of peace between Jews & Muslims.





# How possible is that scenario?

Let me introduce you to...

# God's Holy Mountain Initiative



- A Jewish/Muslim interfaith initiative launched in 2009 that argues building the Third **Jewish Temple** in Jerusalem would not necessitate the destruction of the **Dome of the Rock**.

- **God's Holy Mountain Vision** project hopes to defuse religious strife by showing that Jews' end-of-days vision could harmoniously accommodate Islam's present architectural hegemony on the Temple Mount.



## The Jewish view

- *“This vision of religious shrines in peaceful proximity can transform the Temple Mount from a place of contention to its original sacred role as a **place of worship shared by Jews, Muslims and Christians**,”* said Yoav Frankel, director of the initiative.



## Islamic view

- Sheikh Abdulla Nimar Darwish, founder of the Islamic Movement in Israel, said...
- ...*“the mahdi will decide whether or not to rebuild the Temple. If he decides that it should be rebuilt, I will go out to the Temple Mount and help carry the rocks.”*





## Significant because...

**Jewish** Rabbinical traditions says that the **Messiah** will build the next Temple!

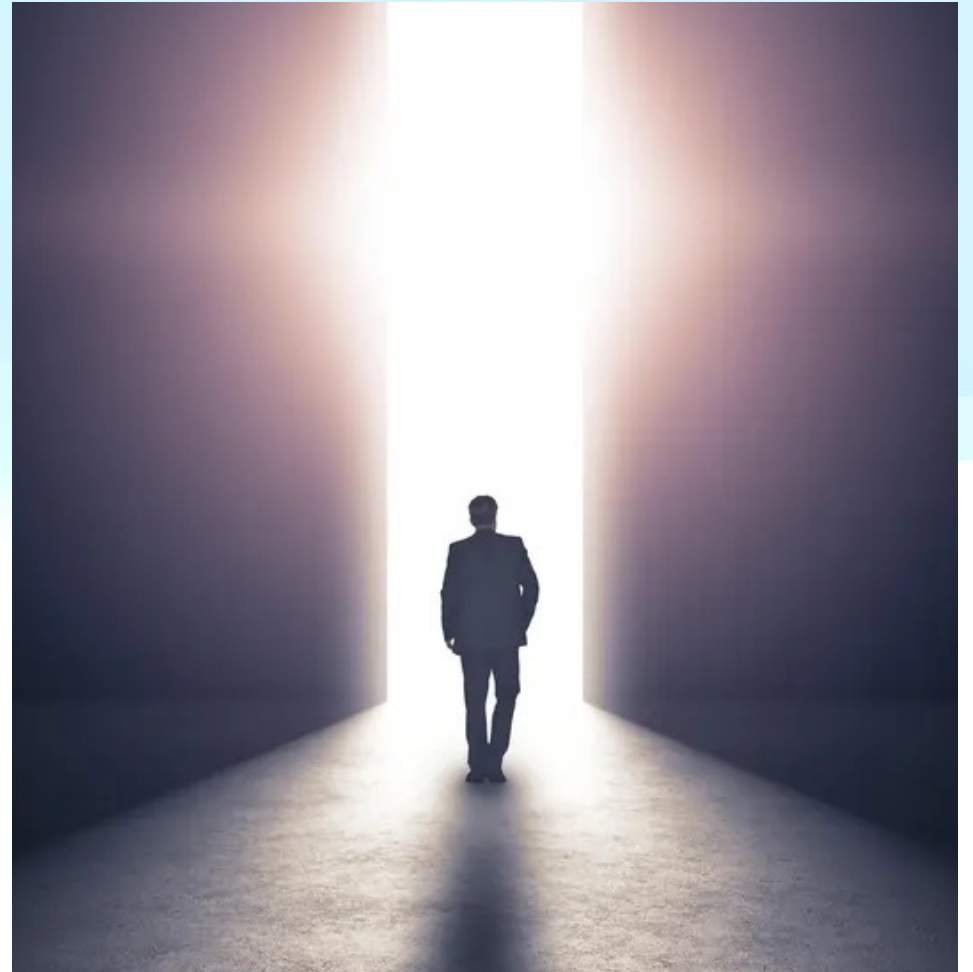
Now **Muslim** clerics say they would help build the Jewish Temple if the coming “**Mahdi**”, Islams “Messiah”, told them to do so.

The coming **Antichrist** may fulfill both Jewish & Islamic traditions!



# The Antichrist would...

- Bring peace to a war-torn world by a **7 year** treaty between Israel & her Muslim neighbors (Dan.9 :27).





- The last **7 years** of the “70 Sevens” from Daniel 9.
- Might be a coincidence, but it seems odd that Israel will burn the captured weapons of the invaders for **7 years...**
- ...and the treaty brought by the Antichrist is for **7 years.**
- And, the Tribulation lasts for **7 years.**

- Therefore, many Bible students believe that the Rapture of the Church must take place **before** the invasion described in Ezekiel.
- We can't be sure.
- So we need to stay busy serving the Lord...
- ...with a hand on the plow and an eye on the sky!

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# The Rapture caught on camera

4...3...2...1... | ...1...2...3...4





**Maranatha!**