

# Ezekiel 38:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee,  
O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

## Analysis

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**Divine Declaration of Judgment:** The phrase "Thus saith the Lord GOD" (koh amar Adonai YHWH) introduces a solemn prophetic oracle with the highest divine authority, using both the covenant name YHWH and the sovereign title Adonai. The declaration "I am against thee" (hineni elekha) is a covenant lawsuit formula, indicating God's active opposition and judicial stance against Gog.

**Identity of Gog:** Gog of the land of Magog, identified as "chief prince" (nesi rosh)—though some translations render this as "prince of Rosh") of Meshech and Tubal, has sparked extensive scholarly debate regarding precise historical identification. Meshech and Tubal were descendants of Japheth (Genesis 10:2), associated with regions in Asia Minor near the Black Sea. The prophetic language here is deliberately apocalyptic, describing a future coalition of nations opposing God's restored people. This passage functions as both historical prophecy and eschatological vision, demonstrating that no earthly power, regardless of military might or strategic alliance, can successfully oppose the sovereign will of God when He declares opposition. The certainty of God's victory over Gog encourages believers facing overwhelming opposition.

## Historical Context

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Ezekiel prophesied during the Babylonian exile (593-571 BC), and chapters 38-39 describe a future invasion of restored Israel by northern forces. Meshech and Tubal were known trading partners with Tyre (Ezekiel 27:13), located in regions

corresponding to parts of modern-day Turkey. Ancient identification placed them near the Black Sea and Caucasus regions. The prophecy envisions a time after Israel's return from exile when they would face a final great threat. Jewish and Christian interpreters have variously identified Gog with different historical figures and future eschatological enemies. The prophecy emphasizes God's sovereignty over history and His ultimate protection of His covenant people, regardless of the magnitude of opposition they face.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does God's direct opposition to Gog reveal about divine sovereignty over earthly powers?
2. How should we interpret the identity of Gog, Meshech, and Tubal—as historical peoples, symbolic enemies, or both?
3. What is the relationship between Ezekiel's Gog prophecy and similar apocalyptic battles described in Revelation 20:8?
4. Why does God allow this invasion to occur before intervening on behalf of His people?
5. How does this prophecy encourage believers facing overwhelming opposition today?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶל יָבֹ	הִנֵּנִי יְהוָה	אֲדַבֵּר יְהוָה	כֹּה אָמַר	אָמַר	יְהוָה
H413	H2005	GOD H3069	the Lord H136	And say H559	And say H3541
וְתִבֶּלֶת:	מֶשֶׁךְ	רֹאשׁ	נָשִׁיא	גּוֹג	
H8422	H4902	H7218	prince H5387	Behold I am against thee O Gog H1463	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 13:8** (References God): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD.