

THE DOWNFALL OF RUSSIA FORETOLD

Many Think It Is Predicted by the Prophet Ezekiel—The Destruction of Gog, Magog and Rosh Much Like the War in the East.

RABBI SIMON of Washington, D. C., Hebrew Congregation, declared in a recent address to his people that the Bible foretells positively and explicitly the downfall of Russia. This is the interpretation placed by him and other Hebrew scholars upon the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth chapters of the Book of Ezekiel, and he believes the prophecy may be fulfilled in the war now going on in the far east.

"Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him."

This is the introduction to the two chapters mentioned, as translated by Rabbi Simon, which differs somewhat from that of the English Bible, though it agrees with the "revised version." In it agrees with the view that Ezekiel saw in a vision the doom of the Sclav, "Gog" is the czar; "Magog," the czar-dom; "Rosh" is Russia; "Meshech," the Muscovite; and "Tubal," the subject tribes about the Caspian sea and in Siberia.

PUNISHMENT OF GOG.

Following out this idea Gog, through his prophet, announces that he is against Gog and his land, and that terrible punishment shall be visited upon Magog by the Most High, because of the oppression of Israel. Rabbi Simon in his address said this punishment was surely in store for Russia as the result of long persecution of the Jews and the massacre of innocent people in outbreaks of race and religious hatred. The rabbi admonished his flock that the end of Israel's captivity was approaching, and that they should look upon the Japanese nation as the possible instrument of vengeance in the hand of Jehovah.

The prophet Ezekiel describes in these two chapters a fierce and destructive war, in which the hosts of Gog go out to battle for the purpose of taking and defending a spoil. The Almighty is represented as putting it in the mind of the nation of Magog to marshal its armies and seize upon a defenseless land of "unvalued villages." The armies of Gog overpowered a land, the people of which "have gotten cattle and goods." The robber nation is depicted with ruthless intent reaching out to take possession of this rich country and to appropriate its commerce.

TIME OF WAR.

The prophet says this war will take place "in the latter years upon the mountains of Israel." The military forces are like a cloud to cover the land. They come, a great company of various races, "of the north parts." In this war, Jehovah is represented as taking the sword in His own hand to fight against the battalions of Gog, first to avenge the wrongs of His people, and then to sanctify His name among the nations of the earth. The progress of the war is thus described:

"I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him and upon his bands, and upon the many people with him, as overflowing rain and great hailstones, and fire and brimstone."

RESULTS OF THE CONFLICT.

The results of the war are foretold in no less forcible terms. Gog is turned back with a hook in his jaws, and is left but a sixth part of his dominions. The bow is smitten out of his left hand and the arrows from his right. Defeat follows the campaign in a manner to astonish the world, the vast military forces of the nation that thinks itself invincible being turned to flight and the dead piled in masses upon the mountains and through the valleys. The slain became the prey of beasts and venomous birds.

In the language of the prophecy, the inhabitants of the country burn the abandoned weapons as firewood for seven years. The stench from the dead is so great as to cause "passengers" to avoid the locality, holding their noses. Inhabitants of the land are engaged in the burial of the dead, and men "of regular employment" are singled out for the task, which lasts seven months. The long stretch of burial trenches is called the valley of Hazon-Gog. The rout of the chief prince of Rosh is pictured as complete, and the Most High glories in triumph over the enemies of His people, who afterward will flourish in the land "brought back from the sword."

The two chapters of Ezekiel in which, it is said, the doom of Russia is announced, are an interpretation of the prophecy, which predicts the doom of Tyre, Egypt and several nations of antiquity, and the final triumph of Israel.

MYSTERY TO COMMENTATORS.

These chapters have been a stumbling block always in the way of the commentators. Nothing like the rout of Gog ever happened in the history of Israel. Indeed, not until recent years was the idea advanced that these chapters—possibly the fragment of a larger book—related to Russia as the oppressor of the Hebrews. But the Israelites persecutions in Russia, covering a long period and culminating in the horrible atrocity at Kishinev, have thrown new light upon the subject, so that many biblical scholars have come to believe that the prince of Rosh and the mysterious land of Magog may mean Russia.

Whether the destruction of the hosts of Magog is actually to take place, as described, "in the mountains of Israel"—that is, in the holy land, may be doubted. There are no inhabitants in that country now, no industries or commerce to excite the cupidity of Russia or the ambitions of the "spoil" which Jehovah put it into the mind of Gog to seize. Unless this tragic event shall take place far in the future, it will not find its fulfillment literally in the mountains of Israel.

NOT IN PALESTINE.

But the punishment of Gog, even in the terms of the prophecy, could be administered elsewhere. Indeed, a close reading of the two chapters will show that the scene of the war is not in Palestine. Some see almost a complete fulfillment of Ezekiel's vision in the war between Russia and Japan. The prophet declares that after the evil thought of seeking a spoil has taken possession of Gog, he will form the purpose of going against a peaceful land, "to them that are at rest and have no bars to their gates."

The Russian invasion of Manchuria, a neutral state, by advancing its railroad with the intention of seizing the commerce of the east by intrigue at Peking satisfies the prophecy, stealth and crooked diplomacy backed by Cossack and infantry, while making professions of peace, are so many indications of the "evil purpose" inspired in the mind of the chief prince of Rosh. In the description of the succeeding events Ezekiel, speaking for Jehovah, says: "I will send a fire on Magog and among them that dwell confidently in the lands."

FIRE WITH AMBITION.

If ever nation was "fired" with lust of power, greed of conquest and expansion of territory, the ambitions of the war czar, in St. Petersburg are boundless, and the dominions of the czar, until now, have enlarged almost constantly for several hundred years. On the other hand no nation, England possibly excepted, ever dwelt more confidently in the lands than Japan. It, too, has been "fired" with astonishing patriotism and a purpose to frustrate the designs of Russia.

The picture of the battles in which the hosts of Magog are turned backward, "in ruin upon his bands, an overflowing rain and great hailstones, fire and brimstone," accords well with the terrible engagements on the Yalu, at Liao Yang, on the Shakhe and about Port Arthur. No battles of all time have had such accompaniment of thundering artillery. By day and night the boom of guns, flash of batteries and scream of shells and shrapnel have produced a scene resembling fire and brimstone. The correspondents have described the appalling grandeur of the bombardments, especially the lurid effect of the fighting at night. The armies of Jap and Russian have been subjected to a literal rain of fire. Besides, the military operations in Manchuria, at Port Arthur and on the sea have been interrupted again and again by "an overpowering rain."

RAINS STOP OPERATIONS.

The battle of the Shakhe was stopped by several days of rain. Pursuit by the Japanese at the end of the fighting at Liao Yang was impossible because of the impassable roads. At Port Arthur operations have been suspended by storms, and the Vladivostok fleet probably escaped destruction because of the violent thunderstorm which hid the squadron from the sight and guns of Kamimura. Moreover, the prophet describes a modern battle in the overthrow of Gog in his references to the rain of fire and brimstone upon the combatants.

One of the woes pronounced upon Gog was that the Most High would smite the bow from one hand and the arrows from the other. This by small departure from literalness could mean that Magog should be beaten in both arms of its service, alike on sea and land.

Those who reverently read the history of the world in the prophecies of the Bible have small doubt that Ezekiel foretells the ruin of Russia. If not in the war with Japan, then at some future day, in the fullness of time, in the latter years.—Evening Star, Washington, D. C.

hay comes second with 1,136,363 cars. In computing the revenue an average revenue per 100 pounds per ton, and per car has been struck. These average revenues are taken as the result of experience of years in moving farm products, and therefore can be taken to be as near the actual revenue as it is possible to estimate. Wheat is shown to be the third most fruitful of the farm source of revenue

to the railroads, the crop of 1904 being worth to them at least \$49,449,100. Corn pays the largest transportation tax, which this year will amount to about \$201,699,000. Second on the list in the amount of transportation tax stands hay, which will bring a revenue of about \$82,499,951, while at the bottom of the list stands rye, which will bring the roads \$2,100,000.—Chicago Record-Herald.

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CROPS PAY BIG RAILROAD RATES

Revenue From Farm Products of 1904 Placed at \$483,644,081—Figures Made by Experts—Total Value so Producers in the United States Estimated at \$5,335,000,000.

OF moving the principal crops of the country grown during 1904, the railroads will receive a gross revenue estimated at \$463,644,081. This estimate is the result of a careful compilation made by the traffic department of one of the largest eastern railroad systems, and submitted for the consideration of men who are influential in Wall street, and who own either a controlling or a substantial interest in many of the large railroads east and west. The figures in detail are given in full in an adjoining column.

The statistics from which the probable revenue to be derived from the crop movement of 1904 is estimated were compiled after the labor of hundreds of trained experts from all parts of the country. The object of the compilation was to inform the railway magnates regarding the probable income of 1905, and the amount of equipment and labor that will be necessary to transport the principal agricultural products of the present year.

In arriving at the estimate of the

gross revenue, consideration has been given to the fact that much of the property will be transported by the railroads several times in different forms—that is, to and from the manufacturing and the general markets.

In arriving at the total value of the principal crop products the traffic experts have taken conservative figures which in almost every case are under the present market values of the products. The total crop valuation is estimated at \$5,335,000,000, and if all of it is moved it is shown that the crops would fill 13,220,968 freight cars, which are now at an average capacity of 30 tons. It is also shown that the transportation tax on the whole amounts to about 8 per cent of the valuation.

To transport the entire crop of 2,400,000 bushels of corn alone there would be required a total of 2,400,000 cars, while the estimated production of 62,500,000 tons of hay would require 5,881,818 cars if it was all moved at one time. To transport all of the estimated 60,000,000 head of cattle would require 2,400,000 cars, while the estimated wheat production of 550,000,000 bushels could be carried in 611,000 cars.

Not all of these farm products, however, will be moved by the railroads, as a great deal of them are destined for home consumption. It is said, for example, that not more than 75 per cent of the various grains will be moved by the steam roads, probably only 2 per cent of the hay, 20 per cent of the potato crop, 20 per cent of the cattle and 75 per cent of the hogs, the production of the latter being estimated at 47,000,000 head.

In arriving at the number of carloads, based upon this estimate, it is found that the total cars needed to move the crops at once would be 5,338,183. Corn is the largest movement, the cars estimated being 1,800,000, and

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