

Biblical End Times Significance of US “Epic Fury” and Isreal’s “Roaring Lion” War in Iran

By Jerry Rigglin

Introduction

I confess I really like action movies. The more explosions, the better. Chuck Missler once said, “I am an action movie junkie, and I have to confess it every morning.” He made this comment while teaching somewhere in the Trumpet judgements in Revelation. Personally, I don’t consider action movies to be sinful. The explosions a mostly CGI/AI these days anyway. Feel free to enlighten me if you think otherwise.

But right at this minute we are living through real explosions that are killing real people who are among God’s own, and I could not resist following the action and searching the bible since this is a war between Israel and Persia, albeit with US help.

I believe that this war is preparation for the Gog/Magog war further yet-to-come end times events as explained in Ezekiel 38-39. Here’s 38:9&11: ⁸ *After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered` from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety. ...* ¹¹ *You will say, “I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars”*

Currently, Israel is *certainly* not living in peace and has walls and barbed wire fences all over the place. However, this war could easily provide that peace if it eliminates Iran and the terrorist proxies it supports (the Houthis, Hamas, Hezbollah, etc.). In addition, due to Iran sending missiles and drones all over the Middle East and even into Turkey, it is tightening the relationship between Israel and these countries, except Turkey.

For the purposes of this teaching, we will consider them as a single war. I strongly recommend reading the full chapters, if not the whole books, to get the full meaning of God’s Word about this. Italics, like (*this*), underlines and bold within verses are added by me for emphasis. All bible quotes are from NIV. Large Bible verses are in Times New Roman with shorter excerpts within my comments in *Italics*.

The Gog/Magog War

In Ezekiel 38, the prophet says, speaking for God about a war yet to come (I hope after the Rapture) to Gog/Magog:

⁷“Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them. ⁸ **After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered` from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety.** ⁹ You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land. ¹⁰“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. ¹¹ You will say, “**I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars”**”

I believe that **THIS current war** is the war that Israel has recovered from and is living in peace at the time of the Gog/Magog war. You will see my reasoning here.

The Start of This Story

You may recall that Israel's exile in Babylon ended when Cyrus the Great issued the decree that allowed the rebuilding of the temple, ending the Babylonian exile described in Daniel and Jeremiah. According to historical accounts outside the Bible, particularly in the writings of the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus (Antiquities of the Jews, Book 11, Chapter 1), Cyrus the Great was inspired to issue his decree allowing the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple after reading the prophecies about him in the Book of Isaiah. These prophecies, which name Cyrus explicitly and describe his role in rebuilding Jerusalem and the Temple, are interpreted as the "letter" or written document that influenced him. Josephus does not explicitly name the presenter, but secondary interpretations and traditions suggest it was the prophet Daniel (who served as a high official in the Persian court) or prominent Jews in Babylon who showed Cyrus the scrolls.

- Jeremiah 25:11-12 (around 605-604 BCE): ¹¹ This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. ¹² “But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians,^[a] for their guilt,” declares the Lord, “and will make it desolate forever.
- Jeremiah 29:10: ¹⁰ This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.
- (Ezra 1:1-4 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing: ² “This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. ³ Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. ⁴ And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.”
- 2 Chronicles 36:22-23). ²² In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing: ²³ This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up and may the Lord their God be with them.”
- Isaiah 44:28: Who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose'; saying of Jerusalem, 'She shall be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation shall be laid.'
- Isaiah 45:1-4, 13: “This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: ² I will go before you and will level the mountains^l; I will break down gates of bronze

and cut through bars of iron. ³ I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.

This occurred in the first year of Cyrus's reign over Babylon (539-538 BC), shortly after his conquest of the city in 539 BC.

That was about the *Temple*. I have heard many expositors say the city walls were rebuilt by decree of Xerxes. However, historical evidence (archeology and Josephus) indicates that Xerxes (also known as Ahasuerus in the Book of Esther) did not issue a decree allowing the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. His reign (486–465 BC) is primarily associated with the events of Esther and military campaigns, such as against Greece, but no biblical or historical records attribute a Jerusalem rebuilding decree to him.

The decree specifically authorizing the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls was issued by his son (Esther's step son) and successor, Artaxerxes I (reigned 465–424 BC), to Nehemiah in the 20th year of Artaxerxes' reign (circa 445/444 BC), as described in Nehemiah 2:1-8. Earlier Persian decrees focused on the temple or general restoration:

- Cyrus the Great (538/537 BC): Allowed Jews to return and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1:1-4).
- Darius I (520/519 BC): Affirmed and funded temple reconstruction (Ezra 6:1-12).
- Artaxerxes I (457 BC): Issued a decree to Ezra for temple support and broader restoration of Jerusalem's governance (Ezra 7:11-26), which most scholars interpret as enabling initial city rebuilding efforts.

The Book of Esther

The book of Esther makes a great movie. ("Esther" in the Bible Collection on Amazon Prime.) It includes romance, political intrigue, violence and the good guys win in the end. This war started in Tehran 2 days before the Jewish celebration Purim, described in the book of Esther. That coincides with events of Esther 9:5-10. The key figures are King Xerxes: the ruler of Medo-Persian empire (Iran), who had a very bad temper as you can clearly see if you read the whole book, Mordecai and Esther of the tribe of Benjamin, and Haman, a chief ruler under Xerxes and an Amalekite, the bad guy.

The story in Esther takes place about the same time as the Temple is being rebuilt after the order of Cyrus, and Mordecai and Esther were among those who remained in Babylon. The Citadel of Susa was Xerxes main palace.

Esther 2: ¹⁷ Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. ¹⁸ And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality.

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²¹ During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. ²² But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. ²³ And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were impaled on poles. All this was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.

Esther 3: After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. ² All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt

down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor.

The designation of Haman as "the Agagite" is widely interpreted as indicating descent from Agag, the ancient king of the Amalekites—a nomadic tribe that was a longstanding foe of the Israelites, as depicted in earlier biblical accounts like Exodus 17 and Deuteronomy 25. Agag himself was captured by King Saul (*a Benjamite*) during a campaign against the Amalekites but spared against God's command, only to be executed by the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 15). By labeling Haman an Agagite, the narrative symbolically connects him to this hereditary enmity, portraying his plot to exterminate the Jews as a continuation of the Amalekites' hostility toward Israel. This serves to underscore themes of divine justice and the reversal of fortunes in the story, where the Jews ultimately prevail over their would-be destroyer.

So, the story in Esther is about God's retribution on the Amalekites that Saul did not end and His preparation for the Gog/Magog war in Ezekiel. God Himself will intervene in that war in Israel's favor. I believe the current US/Israel war against Iran is God's hand on Benjamin Netanyahu and Donald Trump to create the peace that exists BEFORE the Gog/Magog war. Let's look further into the book of Esther.

Esther 3: ⁷ In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the lot (*dice*) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar. ⁸ Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. ⁹ If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents^[b] of silver to the king's administrators for the royal treasury." ¹⁰ So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. ¹¹ "Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please."

Understand: Haman's order, under Xerxes seal, was irrevocable under the laws of the Medo-Persian empire (currently centered in Iran).

Esther 3: ¹² Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring. ¹³ Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. ¹⁴ A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day.

Here we see that Haman manipulated Xerxes to allow the slaughter of all the Jews. Yet, as always, God had a remnant who would provide a redeemer.

Esther 4: ¹² When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" ¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: ¹⁶ "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

¹⁷ So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

Esther 5: On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. ² When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

³ Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you."

⁴ "If it pleases the king," replied Esther, "let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him."

⁵ "Bring Haman at once," the king said, "so that we may do what Esther asks."

So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared. ⁶ As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, "Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

⁷ Esther replied, "My petition and my request is this: ⁸ If the king regards me with favor and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question."

⁹ Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai. ¹⁰ Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home.

Calling together his friends and Zeresh, his wife, ¹¹ Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honored him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials. ¹² "And that's not all," Haman added. "I'm the only person Queen Esther invited to accompany the king to the banquet she gave. And she has invited me along with the king tomorrow. ¹³ But all this gives me no satisfaction as long as I see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate."

¹⁴ His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Have a pole set up, reaching to a height of fifty cubits,^[a] and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai impaled on it. Then go with the king to the banquet and enjoy yourself." This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the pole set up.

Esther went to the King at risk of her life and said:

Esther 7: ⁴ For I and my people have been sold to be destroyed, killed and annihilated. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept quiet, because no such distress would justify disturbing the king."

...

¹⁰ So they impaled Haman on the pole he had set up for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided."

Haman was executed on the 17th day of Nisan. Here are some other notable events that happened on the 17th day of Nisan:

Event	Description
Noah's Ark Rests on Mount Ararat	According to some interpretations of the biblical calendar, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat on the 17th of Nisan, symbolizing rebirth after the flood.
Israelites Cross the Red Sea	During the Exodus, the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and left Egypt on the 17th of Nisan.
Israelites Eat First Fruits in the Promised Land	Upon entering the Promised Land, the Israelites ate the first fruits on the 17th of Nisan, and manna ceased to fall.

Event	Description
Haman is Hanged	In the story of Purim, Haman was hanged on the 17th of Nisan (though some sources note it as the 16th).
Cleansing of the Temple by Hezekiah	King Hezekiah cleansed the Temple on the 17th of Nisan.
Resurrection of Jesus	Jesus resurrected on the 17th of Nisan.

The date of Haman's slaughter of the Jews was the 13th of Adar, 319 days after Nisan 17. Haman set a date far enough out to allow time for word to be spread throughout a very large kingdom. They didn't have Facebook or Twitter in those days. King Xerxes issued another order that the Jews could defend themselves and anyone who wanted to help them could, so they had almost a full year to prepare.

Esther 8: ¹¹ The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves; to destroy, kill and annihilate the armed men of any nationality or province who might attack them and their women and children,^[b] and to plunder the property of their enemies. ¹² The day appointed for the Jews to do this in all the provinces of King Xerxes was the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar. ¹³ A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

Esther 9: On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, the edict commanded by the king was to be carried out. On this day the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned and the Jews got the upper hand over those who hated them. ² The Jews assembled in their cities in all the provinces of King Xerxes to attack those determined to destroy them. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities were afraid of them. ³ And all the nobles of the provinces, the satraps, the governors and the king's administrators helped the Jews, because fear of Mordecai had seized them. ⁴ Mordecai was prominent in the palace; his reputation spread throughout the provinces, and he became more and more powerful.

⁵ The Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and they did what they pleased to those who hated them. ⁶ In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men. ⁷ They also killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, ⁸ Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, ⁹ Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Vaizatha, ¹⁰ the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. But they did not lay their hands on the plunder.

It is reasonable to assume 1 or 2 days for these events before the feast of Purim. It was Sunday, March 1, 2026 sometime between 3-5AM in Iran time when the US and Israel struck, on the Hebrew calendar it was the 12th of Adar, 5786. This would coincide precisely with when the events in Esther 9:5-10.

God has a reason for EVERY word, date and name in the bible.

It is also important to note that Saul, Mordecai, Esther and the Apostle Paul were all Benjamites. Jacob's son Benjamin (Son of my right hand) was re-named by Jacob. His mother, dying from childbirth, name him Ben-Oni (sone of my sorrow) but the Holy Spirit induced Jacob to rename him. On his deathbed, Jacob blessed his youngest son Benjamin with the following prophetic words: "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he devours the prey, and at evening he divides the spoil." This blessing (from Genesis 49:27) portrays Benjamin and his descendants as fierce and victorious warriors who conquer in battle and share the rewards

The tribe of Benjamin is noted in biblical history for its military prowess, strategic importance, and

production of key figures who influenced Israelite leadership and survival. Here are some of the most notable accomplishments:

- **Military Excellence and Warrior Skills:** The Benjamites were renowned as fierce, ambidextrous warriors skilled in archery and slinging stones, fulfilling Jacob's prophetic blessing of them as a "ravenous wolf" (Genesis 49:27). They could sling stones at a hair's breadth without missing and were celebrated for their role in battles, including participation in Deborah's victory over Sisera.
- **Deliverance from Oppression through Ehud:** Ehud, a left-handed Benjamite judge, assassinated King Eglon of Moab, leading to an 80-year period of peace for Israel after defeating the Moabites.
- **Production of Israel's First King:** Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, was anointed as the first king of Israel, uniting the tribes and achieving early military victories against enemies like the Ammonites and Philistines.
- **Loyalty to Judah and Preservation of the Southern Kingdom:** After the kingdom split, Benjamin allied with Judah, maintaining a strategic territory that included Jerusalem and contributing to the stability of the southern Kingdom of Judah.
- **Role in Jewish Survival through Mordecai:** Mordecai, a Benjamite and uncle to Queen Esther, played a pivotal role in thwarting Haman's plot to exterminate the Jews in the Persian Empire, leading to the celebration of Purim.
- **Contribution to Early Christianity via Paul:** The apostle Paul (originally Saul of Tarsus) was a Benjamite, whose missionary work and writings significantly shaped the spread of Christianity.

The literal Translation of "Benjamin Netanyahu" is ^[1]Benjamin (בְּנֵימִין) "Son of the right hand" (traditionally understood as son of favor, son of strength, or son of the south).

Netanyahu (נְתַנְיָהוּ) Yahu / Yah = a shortened form of the divine name: "Yahweh has given" or "God has given."

The war against Irian (Persia), was instigated by Benjamin Netanyahu, Son of the right hand given by God, and (we pray) will bring about the peace mentioned in Ezekiel 38.

A bit off topic, but relevant:

Daniel 9:26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. **The people of the ruler who will come** will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

And Jesus says in Matthew 24:2 Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down

The people of the ruler who will come was NOT referring to Romans. The soldiers of the 10th Roman legion were Assyrian conscripts. Assyria included Iran.

An aside: I found that the inscription on Jesus' cross, as described in John 19:19, was "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews," written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. A common reconstruction of the Hebrew version is ישוע הנצרי ומלך היהודים (Yeshua HaNatzri U'Melekh HaYehudim), where the first letter of each word forms the acrostic יהוה (YHWH), representing the name of God, Yahweh or Jehovah. This likely the real reason for the Jewish leaders' objection in John 19:21.

I hope you found this interesting and maybe even enlightening. But remember what the book of Acts says in 17:10-15 (very loosely translated): Don't believe anything Jerry Riggan tells you without searching the scriptures yourself to see if it is true.

And, a shameless plug: Please visit <https://zamarministries.org> and consider donating. Disclosure: I am the President and one of the two main benefactors.

If you are interested, you can see much of my teaching on Revelation at <https://silasministries.org>. It starts when Covid shut down the church I was teaching in. Silas Ministries does not take donations.

Footnotes

[1] Benjamin Netanyahu does not publicly claim descent from a specific biblical tribe of Israel. He has discussed his family origins, including Ashkenazi roots from Eastern Europe (with his father's family originally named Mileikowsky from Poland), and revealed in 2016 that a DNA test on his brother indicated partial Sephardic ancestry tracing back to Spain. Netanyahu has also stated that his family descends from the Vilna Gaon (an 18th-century Lithuanian rabbi), whose lineage some genealogical sources trace back to King David through medieval rabbis like Rashi. King David belonged to the tribe of Judah, but Netanyahu himself has not made any explicit claims about tribal affiliation. Netanyahu changed his name (probably for political purposes) shortly after his emigration to Israel.