

## THE MIDDLE EAST CAULDRON

The Middle East is a simmering pot, and one day it will reach boiling point and spill over like a volcano, to engulf the region, and the world, in a fiery ordeal.

Iraq has already boiled over. Baghdad is burning. Lebanon is on the brink of more tragic days. Gaza is a powder keg waiting to explode. Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Sudan are seething, and the battles continue to rage in Afghanistan. Iran and Syria are heating and stirring the cauldron, and of course, Satan “the god of this world” (2 Cor 4:4), is unceasingly supplying the fuel to bring the pot to the boil.

There are many other pots also simmering around the world. The Scripture refers to one of them as “the kingdoms of the north.”

Look at this prophecy ...

“The Word of YHWH came to me saying, ‘What do you see, Jeremiah?’ And I said, ‘I see a branch of an almond tree.’ Then YHWH said to me, ‘You have seen well, for **I am watching over My Word to perform it.**’

“The Word of YHWH came to me a second time saying, ‘What do you see?’ And I said, ‘I see a **boiling pot, tilting away from the north.**’ Then YHWH said to me, ‘Out of the north the evil will be poured out on all the inhabitants of the land.

“*Now watch for I am calling all the clans of the **kingdoms of the north,***’ declares *the Sovereign Master* YHWH; ‘and they will come, and each one will set up his throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all its surrounding walls, and against all the cities of Judah. I will pronounce My judgments on them concerning all their wickedness, because they have forsaken Me, and burned incense to other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.’” (Jeremiah 1:11-16)

The primary fulfillment of this prophecy was the invasion of Israel by Babylon in BC 586. But Biblical prophecies often have more than one fulfillment. And there is certainly an endtime alliance of the kings of the north that is going to become a boiling pot in these last days. As Ezekiel also said:

“The Sovereign Master, YHWH, says: ‘Listen! I am against you, O Gog, chief

prince of Rosh (*Russia*), Meshech (*Moscow*), and Tubal (*Tobolsk- Asiatic Russia*). I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws and bring you out with your whole army - your horses and horsemen all fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing swords.

‘Persia (*Iran*), Cush (*Ethiopia*), and Put (*Libya*) will be with them, all with shields and helmets; Gomer (*Germany*) also with all its troops; and the House of Togarmah from the far north (*Turkey and the Turkic people of Central Asia*) with all its troops - many nations with you. Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them.

‘After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will invade the land that has recovered from the sword, whose people have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had long been desolate. Its people had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them are living securely. 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 ...

“Then you will come from your place out of the **remote parts of the north**, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army; and you will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land - it will be in the last days. I will bring you against My land, in order that the nations may know Me, when I am sanctified in you before their eyes, O Gog.’  
(Ezekiel 38:3-9, 15-16)

The nations named in this prophecy are all part of a great Russian-led confederation that will invade Israel during World War in the first year of the Tribulation. And today we can see this boiling pot simmering and tilting towards the Promised Land.

In the last week of November, King Abdullah of Jordan warned that 2007 could witness three simultaneous wars in the region in the coming year – in Iraq, Lebanon and in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Ominous signs are all around: the Democrat’s victory in US; Syria establishing relations with Iraq; the Iraqi president’s visit to Iran; and Ahmadinejad and Khamenei both promising help to Iraq; Somalia falling to Islamic fundamentalism, and threatening Ethiopia.

Let’s look at some of the latest developments in the simmering Middle East cauldron. And remember ...

“When these things begin to take place, straighten and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21:28)