

# Perspective

By L. Jim Tuck

August 7, 2025

## Japan in Prophecy

In 1945, Japan promised never to build a military again. Article 9 of their constitution, formed after WWII, is unequivocal: "The Japanese people forever renounce war and the threat or use of force." However, in 2022, they announced a \$320 billion military program. Japan is significantly building up its military capabilities in response to increasing regional threats, particularly from China, North Korea, and Russia. Japan is launching their largest military expansion since World War II. This shift signifies a departure from Japan's post-war pacifism and aims to modernize its defense capabilities. The military buildup is largely driven by concerns of China's military expansion, North Korea's missile tests, and Russia's activities in the region. Japan is also fortifying alliances, particularly with the U.S., to enhance its security in the Indo-Pacific region. How does Japan play into the upcoming end-time prophetic events?

### What is the identity of Japan and Japheth's descendants?

After the flood of Noah, the children of Japheth were scattered in the lands of East Asia. In Genesis 10, commonly referred to as the table of nations, verses 1-5 speak of the descendants of Japheth: *"This is the account of Noah's sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and their descendants. Shem, Ham and Japheth had children after the flood. Japheth's descendants were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. Gomer's descendants were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. Javan's descendants were the people from Elishah, Tarshish, Cyprus, and Rhodes. From these descendants the people of the coastlands spread into their own countries. Each nation had its own language and families."*

The seven sons of Japheth, which he had after the flood, are Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech and Tiras (Genesis 10:2, 1 Chronicles 1:5). According to the first-century historian, Josephus, the descendants of Japheth also populated the areas around the Taurus and Amanus mountains and made their homes in Asia (*Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 1, Chapter 6, Section 1).

Research done on the lost tribes of Israel by Steven M. Collins suggests that from Gomer, after the flood, sprang oriental nations like China; from Magog arose those who would live in Russia, and Javan's descendants eventually migrated to Japan.

### What has happened to Japan's pacifism?

The Constitution of Japan was enacted on May 3, 1947. It is often referred to as the "Postwar Constitution" or the "MacArthur Constitution," because of its origin during the Allied power's occupation of Japan following World War II. The new constitution in effect transformed the entire Japanese society. Japan had been more of a fascist-type state ruled by Hirohito. He ascended the throne in 1926 and was worshipped as a god in Japan. He was considered a living deity, embodying the national spirit and authority. The idea that the Emperor of Japan was deity played a significant role in shaping their nationalistic and militaristic identity. He publicly renounced his deity in 1946.

The new constitution brought forth a more vibrant pacifistic nation which became an economic powerhouse in the world. The Japanese Economic Miracle occurred from the 1950s to the 1970s. Japan experienced rapid economic growth, shooting its real GDP up nearly 500% from 1960 to 1989. Key factors contributing to this growth included its technological ingenuity as well as increased international trade. It significantly marked a major change in its economy and society, and it made them, as of 2025, the third richest nation on earth with a \$5 trillion GNP behind the U.S. with \$30.34 trillion, and China with \$19.53 trillion. The gross national product (GNP) is the sum of all domestic and foreign output generated by citizens of a given country.

Japan has gradually drifted away from its pacifist stance. Its historic focus on rebuilding and economic development has been primary factor in its meteoric economic wealth. It can now funnel a part of that huge wealth into military expansion. It plans to devote 2% of the GNP, to beef up its military strength. Japan has had no war since the formal surrender of its forces on September 2, 1945, marking the end of World War II. What will happen in the future? Prophecy gives an end time scenario which will surprise the most avid students of the Bible.

## **What do prophetic scriptures say about Japan and other nations of the Orient?**

The nations of the Orient are identified in the prophecies of Ezekiel 38 and 39. Russia is generally considered to be part of the Orient, as the term "Orient" refers to the East, particularly in relation to Europe. God inspired Ezekiel to record Ezekiel 38:1-2: *"Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him.'"*

The marginal reference gives the words "chief prince" as "prince of Rosh," and this points to Russia. In regard to this passage, *E.W. Bullinger Commentary* states: "the head, or leader of *Rosh*. Hebrew *Rosh*, which may point to Russia." A Biblical figure, King Mosokh, also known as Meshech, founded the city of Moskva from which comes the word Moscow. This passage in Ezekiel definitely points to Russia!

This prophecy plainly shows Russia (*Rosh*) together with Tubal (modern historic city of Tobolsk in Siberia). They will be allied together with other nations of the Orient and will form a great alliance. Notice now what Ezekiel 38:5-6 reveals: *"Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you."*

In a marginal reference it says that Ethiopia is "Cush" and Libya is "Put," but the translators rendered the words in error. Neither the prophecy or the ancient names have anything to do with these African nations, but identify with the eastern peoples of Pakistan and India, the descendants of Cush and Put. The revitalized Japan will be a part of what will play into staggering end time events. With these prophecies we can also see the significance of the current close relationship between Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran. All of these nations united along with other nations of the Orient, will form a formidable alliance of power to fight in the final conflict.

### **The final great conflict on earth**

Revelation 16:12-16 prophesies: *"Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 'Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.' And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon."*

The 200-million-man army mentioned in Revelation 9:16 is often interpreted as part of this prophecy regarding the end times in the context of the Great Tribulation. The vast hordes of the East will march toward the West. The Euphrates River will dry up to provide a clear path for these great military forces. The battle of Armageddon prophecy suggests this army will be part of a larger conflict involving the Beast power and the kings of the East, which will include the nations of the Orient which form the great eastern alliance spoken of in Ezekiel 38.

### **The good news is Christ wins!**

At the end of the age, Revelation 13 reveals a great beast will emerge. This will also be the prophesied Antichrist or Beast power, and it will rise out of Europe and will be the 7<sup>th</sup> revival of the Holy Roman Empire. Daniel 11 pertains to the time of the end (Daniel 11:35). Daniel 11:40-43 further informs us this Beast power is this dark leader, the king of the North, and the king of the South will push at this bellicose king of the North. This agitated king of the North will come at him like a whirlwind, and he successfully defeats many nations. *"But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore, he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many."* (Daniel 11:44)

The military alliance of the East will trouble him as they gather to invade the Mideast to confront this belligerent king of the North. At first, they will have a fierce battle with one another, but at the second coming of Jesus Christ, they then turn their powerful vengeance on Him. Revelation 17:14 gives us the good news: *"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."*

Jesus is the Lord of lords and King of Kings, and He will defeat all who gather against Him (Revelation 11:15)! We definitely want to be on the winning side of this final great conflict! That is why Armageddon is also called *the battle of that great day of God Almighty*. We want to make sure we are preparing spiritually to be fully with our great Lord, and that we will be counted among those who are called, chosen, and faithful!