

### **Taking it Home:**

- In what areas of your life (relationships, thoughts, etc.) do you find an immediate need to express deep-seated confidence in the sovereign work of God? Of the passages we looked at in this study, which are most helpful to you in this regard? Consider memorizing one of these verses if you find yourself needing to build your confidence in God: 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 13:5-6; 2 Corinthians 12:9.
- List five people who you know are not followers of Jesus. What is their eternal reality apart from Christ? What will you do this week to share God's love with them? (begin with prayer!)
- One billion people still do not have an opportunity to hear the gospel. If you have not done so already, please pick up a missionary prayer guide in the Outreach Center and begin praying for our mission partners who are taking the gospel to, "all the nations."
- Luke 10:27 and Deuteronomy 6:5 command us to love God with all that we are, including our mind. If you don't have a trusted Biblical commentary that you can turn to when you have questions from the Bible buy one. The extra effort spent in studying the Bible pays great spiritual dividends.

### **Resources for Growing**

*The two commentaries listed below are both inexpensive and very accessible. Bethel's Library (Rooms B and C) is a great resource for reference books.*

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old & New Testament, 2 Vol.,

Edited By: Walvoord and Zuck

Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary, Edited By: Radmacher, Allen, House

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## **Recognizing an Unsavory Alliance**

Notes:

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of July 11, 2010  
Ezekiel 38-39

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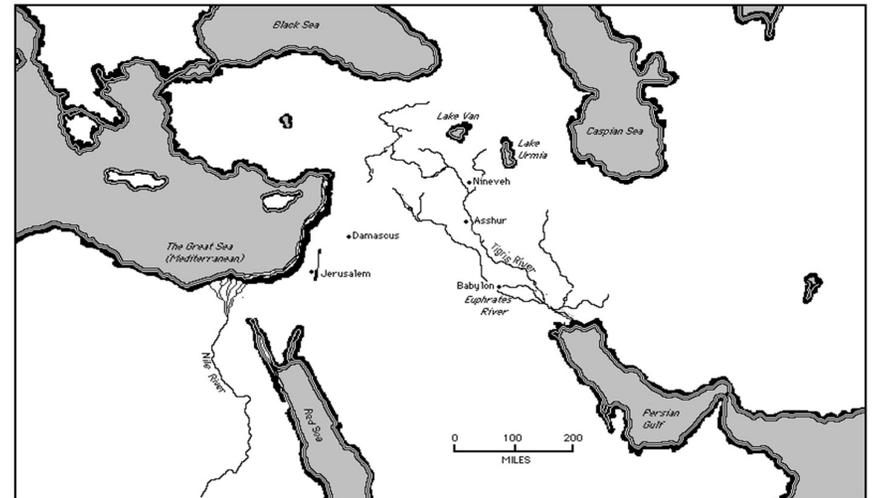
**Quick Review:** As we read the headlines of political unrest and hear the rattling of swords throughout the Middle East, we can't help but wonder, are these signs of Jesus' soon return? Last week we heard clearly Jesus' command to stay alert and be watchful (Mark 13). Nearly 600 years before Jesus, Ezekiel wrote about a day that would come when the enemies of Israel would rise up and wage a cataclysmic war on this tiny nation. Ezekiel's encouragement to Israel was that God is in control; all of this is to display God's glory among the nations and demonstrate His compassion on His people (39:25).

## My Story

- When do you think most about Jesus' return? What events in your life trigger these thoughts?
- How have you personally responded to Jesus' command to stay alert from Mark 13 as it relates to the return of Jesus?

## Growing Deeper

- As you read Ezekiel 38 and 39, you encounter a number of nations. Place these on the map. (Gog, Meshech, Tubal, Persia, Cush, Put, Gomer). Reflect on how these nations come from all four corners of Ezekiel's known world.



- Circle the personal pronouns in 38:16 and underline each time you see "sovereign LORD" (NIV) or "Lord GOD" (ESV) throughout Ezekiel 38 and 39. Make a list of the purposes of God stated in 38:16, 29; 39:7, 21-29.
- As you think about the sovereignty of God displayed throughout Ezekiel 38 and 39, what similarities do you see between Romans 8:31-39 and Ezekiel 39:28-29? Consider also Psalm 2 and Psalm 46. How do these psalms speak to the God's character revealed in Ezekiel 38 and 39?
- In Psalm 96, we hear the Psalmist cry out, "sing...tell... the nations about God's splendor!" God called Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3 to be a blessing to all the nations. When God blesses Israel, he reveals that all the nations will see His glory. How do you see this expressed in Ezekiel 38 and 39? Consider also Galatians 3:6-9; 2 Peter 3:9; Hebrews 10:27; Matthew 28:18-20.