

# The Nature and Timing of the Gog-Magog Invasion of Israel

by Jeremy James



**Statues of Gog and Magog at the Guildhall in the City of London**

A great deal has been written about the future military invasion of Israel described in chapters 38 and 39 of the Book of Ezekiel. Despite the lengthy expository opinions expressed by dedicated scholars of Bible prophecy, there has yet to emerge a clear consensus regarding the timing and nature of the Gog-Magog incursion into the Holy Land.

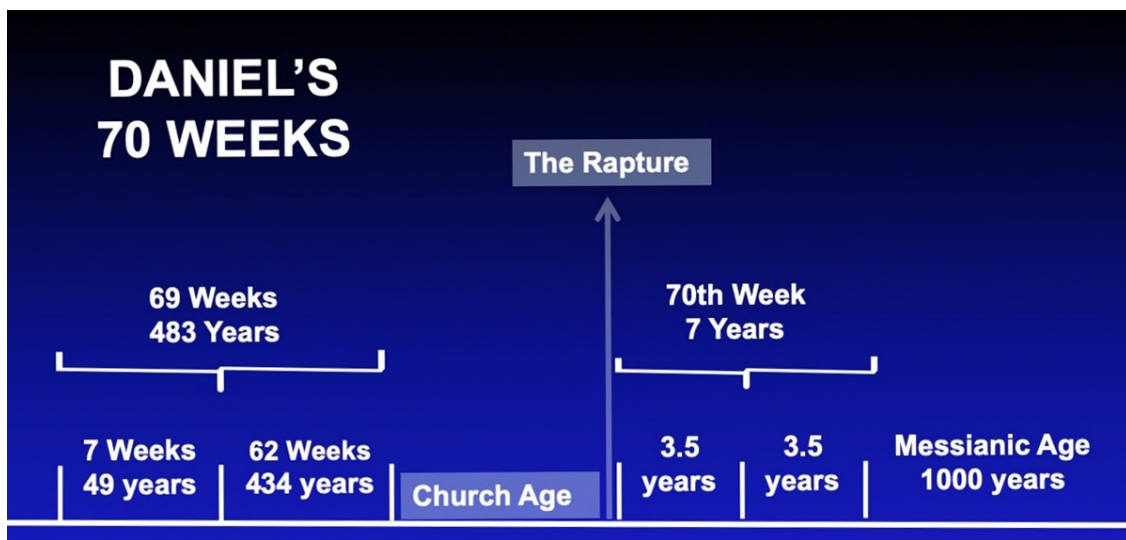
We won't attempt to settle the matter in this paper, but we would like, as far as we can, to identify aspects of End Time prophecy which, if better understood, would assist us greatly in determining an accurate timeline for this massive military invasion.

For reasons that are difficult to understand, some excellent commentators have made what appear to us to be serious errors in their examination of this prophetic event. Let's take just one example. In his very fine study of the End Time, *The Footsteps of the Messiah*, Arnold Fruchtenbaum – who has taken a very comprehensive approach to his subject – does not place the Gog-Magog invasion within the 7-year period of the Tribulation.

The reason, apparently, is that, like many Bible scholars, he believes the Gog-Magog invasion must occur before the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel, that is before the 7-year Tribulation begins. We understand that Randall Price and Thomas Ice share the same opinion. No doubt they adduce sound hermeneutical reasons in support of their position, but no matter how well they may argue their case, it is flatly refuted by the very last verse in Chapter 39:

**“Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.”  
(Ezekiel 39:29)**

This verse is referring to the spiritual impact on Israel and her people of the incredible humiliation inflicted by God on the vast armies of Gog-Magog. The Word of God is saying that when this tumultuous period is over, Israel will finally know and recognize the LORD. If Arnold Fruchtenbaum and others were right when they contend that the Gog-Magog invasion occurs before the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel, then, according to verse 29, the people of Israel would already know and recognize the LORD at the start of the 7-year Tribulation! However, we know for certain that this is not the case. The “**time of Jacob’s trouble**” is the means that God will use to bring this about. So the Gog-Magog invasion must take place sometime during the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel.



### **Distinguishing the Gog-Magog invasion from Armageddon**

The next big question is whether the Gog-Magog invasion is linked directly to, if not coterminous with, the conflict known as Armageddon.

Many Bible scholars have pointed to a number of decisive differences between the Gog-Magog invasion described by Ezekiel and the great prophetic encounter between Jesus and the forces of the Antichrist. The following table sets out some of the most obvious:

1	Gog-Magog involves a coalition of certain nations only, while Armageddon draws participants from all nations.
2	The Gog-Magog invasion is cut to ribbons by 'natural' disasters and internecine conflicts, while the forces at Armageddon are destroyed by Jesus.
3	The Jews bury the dead left after the Gog-Magog invasion, but birds of prey consume the corpses left on the plain of Armageddon (Megiddo).
4	Israel "dwelleth safely" (Ezekiel 38:14) at the time of the Gog-Magog invasion, but this is certainly not the case in the period leading up to Armageddon.
5	The Gog-Magog invasion is condemned by a number of nations (Ezekiel 38:13) but no nation condemns the conflict planned for Armageddon.

Spiritually speaking, the annihilation of the Gog-Magog invaders is carried out by our Heavenly Father, not Jesus. It is a massive demonstration of His mighty power before the whole world. It corresponds, in a sense, to the annihilation of Pharaoh's army in the depths of the Red Sea. By venting His anger or displeasure in this way, the Father is telling Israel that He absolutely will not permit the righteous remnant to be harmed, while at the same time He is telling the nations of the world that HE is the God of Israel and that, unless they repent, they too will be destroyed – just like all the nations which sent military forces to support the Gog-Magog invasion.

By doing this, the Father is preparing the way for His Son. He is declaring emphatically, with awesome power, that His Son is returning to the earth, just as He promised, and that he will thoroughly purge the world of all wickedness. Seen in that light, the annihilation of Gog-Magog is a solemn message to all mankind, a final warning before Jesus returns, at His Father's request, to bring to a triumphant conclusion the Great Day of the LORD.

The annihilation of Gog-Magog is an especially sharp rebuke – and a wake-up call – to the children of Israel. They were saved from the invaders ONLY through His great mercy. They had no effective defense to offer by their own strength. Despite their wretched rejection of His Son and two thousand years of obstinate rebellion, the LORD stepped in and, with great fury, obliterated a massive army that was on the point of killing every last one of them.



We think of the Great Day of the LORD as a time of divine wrath – and rightly so – but even at this critical hour the LORD tempers retribution with mercy by allowing one sixth of the invading army to survive.

### **The invasion takes place during the first half of the Tribulation**

From our examination so far of the Gog-Magog invasion we have established that (a) it must occur during the 7-year Tribulation and (b) it is entirely separate from the events that take place later at Armageddon. We can even say with certainty that it must take place during the first half of the 7-year Tribulation period because, at the midpoint, the Antichrist commits the abomination of desolation at the Temple in Jerusalem and in doing so hurls the entire nation of Israel into a storm of confusion and terror.

We can see here an immense difference, from an evangelical perspective, between the LORD's suppression of the Gog-Magog invasion and the annihilation of the wicked at Armageddon. The former takes place at a time when rebellious men have one final opportunity to reflect on what God has wrought and, moved by what they have seen, to repent. The events at Armageddon do not offer this opportunity. They strike with awesome finality and all who have rejected Christ and taken the Mark of the Beast are lost.



***Armageddon* by J P Pettitt**

### **Daniel mentions the Gog-Magog invasion**

The Book of Daniel reveals the future political history of the Gentile world in outline in Chapters 11 and 12. The verses pertaining to the 70<sup>th</sup> Week (11:36-45 and 12:1-3) are given in **Appendix A**.

Of these, the verses that are most relevant to our study are as follows:

- [40] And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.**
- [41] He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.**
- [42] He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.**
- [43] But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.**
- [44] But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.**
- [45] And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.**

Note the reference in verse 40 to “the king of the north”. Most commentators interpret the reference to “he” in the following verse (41) as a reference to the Antichrist. Given that the previous verse had been speaking about “the king of the north” it would seem more consistent, grammatically, to take this pronoun as a reference to the subject just mentioned, namely “the king of the north”, and to interpret the verses that immediately follow (42-45) as a further elaboration of his military campaign in the vicinity of Israel.



If we take this approach then verses 40-45 could be paraphrased as follows (with additional text to show how these verses relate to other End Time events):

In the End Time the king of the south [i.e. the leader of an Arabic or Islamic military confederacy] invades the domain of Israel. The first “him” in verse 40 is the Antichrist who, following his 7-year peace agreement with Israel, has assigned himself the role of ‘Protector’ of Israel. Up to this point the king of the south had been aligned with Russia, the king of the north. However, when the Arab/Islamic confederacy invades Israel, the Russians and their allies decide to act immediately and prevent the king of the south from getting control over Israel. They invade the countries concerned, including Israel, and put down all opposition. The only region that succeeds in holding the Russians at bay is the modern country of Jordan [See the reference to Edom, Moab and Ammon in verse 42]. The Russians have a particular interest in obtaining the precious metals and other antiquities stored in Egypt. We are told that the forces of Libya and Ethiopia join Gog. (They may have been part of the invading force assembled by “the king of the south” but later changed sides.)

The Russians have greatly extended themselves in this campaign and become concerned by news that the “kings of the east” [China etc] are mobilising their armies. There are also reports that their supply lines to the north are set to come under attack by the Antichrist. So Gog, the king of the north, returns swiftly to the land of Israel (“the glorious land” of verse 41) and sets up his headquarters somewhere between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea. He is now set to destroy the nation of Israel but, at this point, God intervenes. He causes the Gog-Magog armies to turn on each other. A huge deluge of rain causes all of their vehicles and equipment to sink in the mud, and massive hailstones bombard their armies with crushing effect. As verse 45 says, Gog is helpless. The Israelis didn’t have to fire a single shot in their defense. God in heaven did it all. And Gog is killed.



**Gideon and his men**

## **The Old Testament victories that prefigure the defeat of Gog**

We are given many examples in the Old Testament of the LORD's method of dealing with invading armies. The Midianites and the Amalekites attacked and killed one another while Gideon and his 300 men looked on. When another confederacy – Ammon, Moab and Edom – invaded Israel in the time of Jehoshaphat, the king marched with his priests to the place appointed, singing praises to God! When they arrived they found that every enemy soldier had been killed. The Ammonites and Moabites had turned on the Edomites and slaughtered them all. They then turned on each other and not one survived. It took the children of Israel three days to gather all the booty.

And we all familiar with the great victory that Joshua inflicted on the huge army assembled by the five Canaanite kings on the plain of Gibeon. The LORD sent massive hailstones which terrified and scattered the heathen army and killed a great many of them. It was on this occasion that Joshua asked the LORD to command the sun and the moon to stand still (above our flat stationary earth) so that his men could thoroughly rout the enemy.

### **The Four End Time Kings in Daniel & Revelation**

The progression of End Time events is easier to understand when studied with reference to the four kings mentioned in Revelation 16:12 and chapters 11 and 12 of the Book of Daniel.

The first is “the king of the south”. He is the leader of the confederacy of Arab nations that attack Israel before the king of the north launches his invasion [See Daniel 11:40]. They would appear to comprise Egypt and possibly Libya, Ethiopia and Sudan. Jordan, too, is a candidate.

The next is “the king of the north” [We examine the composition of his alliance in **Appendix B.**]

The “kings of the east” are the oriental nations, led by China, which invade Israel at the time of Armageddon. These are mentioned in Revelation 16:12.

The fourth king is not described as the *king of the west*, but it is an appropriate title for the Antichrist. He takes command of the countries of Europe that controlled the old Roman Empire and uses his authority as *king of the west* (ruler of a Federated Europe) to sign a 7-year peace treaty with Israel.



## **A dreadful problem for the Antichrist**

The evident similarities between these Old Testament battles and the annihilation of Gog-Magog will mean a great deal to many Israelis. They will see that the LORD God who helped them in former times is doing so again. Their Covenant God has come to their aid in their darkest hour! They will start to realize that their salvation, both on earth and in eternity, is grounded wholly in their relationship with this wonderful God.

They will also start to look again at Isaiah 53 and ask themselves whether their Covenant God may already have sent their Messiah. And if He did, then they rejected him!

This poses a dreadful problem for the Antichrist. While he greatly welcomed the destruction of Russia, since it left a huge political vacuum on the international stage, a vacuum he could fill in his quest for total world domination, he will detest the WAY God conducted His destruction of Gog-Magog. His Hand was so clearly and mightily revealed before the whole world, in resounding Old Testament terms, that there was now a real danger that many Jews would start to wake up.

Even with his extensive control over the media, details of the LORD's mighty work would be communicated widely by those among the Gog-Magog invasion force who were allowed to survive – indeed, many of them may have come to faith in Christ. Besides, vast regions of the Holy Land would be covered with the shattered remnants of their military equipment and the bodies of those slain by the furious storm of rock-hard hailstones.



**The Two Witnesses as depicted in the 11<sup>th</sup> century *Bamberg Apocalypse***



This would explain why the Antichrist hastens to Jerusalem and attempts to convince the Jews of his Messianic credentials with a stunning display of his supernatural powers, culminating in the abomination of desolation in the Temple. Recent events have forced his hand. He is compelled by circumstances to make public his claim to deity.

### **The Antichrist will present himself as a benevolent figure**

Up to this point, the Antichrist has very likely taken great care to present himself before the world as a benevolent leader. The slaughter of Christians who refused to take the Mark of the Beast will probably be conducted in secret, possibly under cover of an ongoing pandemic exercise where those who were allegedly ‘infected’ are relocated to secure quarantine facilities. Tens of millions could be killed in this way and the general public would have no knowledge of it. Many people would have their suspicions, of course, but hard evidence of what was happening would be difficult to obtain.



His trip to Jerusalem would also be designed to rid himself once and for all of the Two Witnesses. For three and a half years these two anointed individuals had resisted all attempts by his followers to gain access to the ‘third’ Temple. The worldwide jubilation that greets his victory will be short-lived, however. After three and a half days their bodies will come back to life and ascend into heaven while the whole world looks on (via television and the Internet). Once again, a miraculous act of God will have humiliated or embarrassed the Antichrist.

The abomination of desolation is thus an act of intense anger, a furious and incredibly blasphemous response to the way the LORD frustrated his efforts to become the unopposed ruler of the world. His behavior thereafter is one of bestial hatred and appalling cruelty. If he can’t have the earth for himself then he will render it uninhabitable.



**Two enormous wicker figures, representing Gog and Magog, are carried annually through the City of London in the Guildhall Parade. This parade is probably the oldest civic procession in the world, having been conducted almost annually since the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. The current Lord Mayor is the 695<sup>th</sup> since the time of King John. The office itself dates from 1189. The parade was first broadcast live on television in 1937 and is now the longest-running televised broadcast in the world. Since the Lord Mayor is always a high-ranking Freemason, the parade is an elaborate Masonic ceremony (see photo overleaf).**

**The event is known officially as the Lord Mayor's Show and takes place on the second Saturday in November. The new Lord Mayor of the City [an autonomous Illuminati enclave] walks from the Guildhall, his seat of power, to Westminster and pledges his loyalty to the reigning monarch. The parade, which consists of hundreds of floats, horses and sundry groups of people, including brass bands, then makes its way back to the City.**

**Gog and Magog, who are celebrated in effigy form, are regarded as the "guardians" of the City. They would appear to correspond to the "princes" – powerful demonic entities – which, according to Daniel chapter 10, oversee nations or geographical regions on behalf of Satan.**

### **Proof that Gog is the figure depicted in Daniel 11:45**

Daniel 12:1 announces the next major salvation event for Israel after the Gog-Magog invasion. This is another stunning intervention by God Who sends the angel Michael to protect the righteous Jewish remnant who flee Jerusalem after the abomination of desolation:

**“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.” (Daniel 12:1)**

The Antichrist is not mentioned by name in this passage. The accent is taken off the Man of Sin and placed squarely on Michael, the angelic savior whom the Father will send to preserve Israel until such time as He sends His Son.

This passage should be interpreted without regard to the manmade break between chapters 11 and 12. The reference to the arrival of Michael is part of the same narrative that began at 11:40. It shows that the Antichrist is still alive – since otherwise Michael would have no-one to oppose him! – which implies that the individual who is killed in 11:45 (“**yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him**”) is not the Antichrist but, as we have already noted, the leader of the Gog-Magog invasion.



## **CONCLUSION**

This paper is, of necessity, a short examination of a subject that is usually discussed in greater detail or in book form. We are obliged to trim our material in many places and to rely on the reader’s existing knowledge of End Time events to fill in the gaps.

We have striven to give an ‘alternative’ view to that normally presented in many commentaries on End Time events. We are not being dogmatic. Nevertheless, we are keen to draw attention to this interpretation of the Gog-Magog invasion since it appears to fit more consistently with other passages of Scripture and offers, we believe, a convincing chronology of events during the 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel.

While we have no desire to speculate on the identity of the Antichrist, there is good reason to assign a central role in his rise to power to the Freemasonic network that controls both the political and economic systems of Europe, along with its military and police force. This organization alone would appear to possess the high-level, behind-the-scenes influence needed to enable a single individual to seize control of Europe by “flatteries” and to do so within a relatively short span of time. Given the role to date of the UK in co-ordinating and advancing the New World Order agenda, the individual concerned will probably be drawn from their own Merovingian ranks.

Just as Jesus came from a chosen bloodline – the House of David – Satan wants *his* ‘son’ to come from a long-established Luciferian bloodline. Given that the oldest familial line of this kind, as far as we know, is the House of Windsor, the Antichrist is likely to be a senior figure in the British royal family or a lesser known individual in the same bloodline who exploits his proximity to the monarchy to advance, with Masonic assistance, to a position of absolute power on the European stage.

Before closing we would like to make an observation about the ‘battle’ of Armageddon. The Antichrist will arrive with all his forces, but the kings of the east will also converge on Israel with their own armies. Each will want to annihilate the other. The sudden appearance of Christ however, who is seen in the sky across the whole earth, arriving in glory with his heavenly army, puts terrible fear into both sides and convinces them that they need to unite against this common foe.

We know from Daniel chapter 2 that the Antichrist never manages to secure complete military dominance over the entire earth. The closest he gets, it would seem, is supreme military commander of the Satanic armies at the battle of Armageddon:

**“...they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.”  
(Daniel 2:43)**

Despite the best efforts of the New World Order and its demon-inspired leaders, the high degree of mutual co-operation required to keep all of the main players working in unison to the end will not be achieved. They may be working closely with one another at the moment (behind the scenes), but as the End Time draws near Europe appears to lose control over Russia and China.

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**“And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”**

**– Revelation 19:14-16**

Praise the LORD!

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**Jeremy James**

**Ireland**

**September 12, 2024**



**The Book of Daniel,**

**Chapter 11 (36-45) followed immediately by Chapter 12 (1-3)**

[36] And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

[37] Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

[38] But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

[39] Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

[40] And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

[41] He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

[42] He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

[43] But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.

[44] But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.

[45] And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

[1] And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

[2] And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

[3] And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

## APPENDIX B

### Composition of the Gog-Magog Invasion Force

There has been much discussion among Bible scholars regarding the Hebrew word *Rosh* in chapters 38 and 39 of Ezekiel. The KJV translates it by “chief” as in the expression “chief prince”, while others believe it is a proper noun or placename, just like Meshech and Tubal, two placenames that appear in the same verse as *Rosh* on three occasions in Ezekiel. The latter is probably correct since Meshech and Tubal have been identified by scholars with major urban settlements in Russia.

To a great extent this is a side issue since a more obvious reference to the geographical location of Gog’s homeland is given in Ezekiel 38:6, 38:15 and 39:2. The relevant Hebrew words are *sapon yereka* which the KJV translates as “north quarters” but which can also be rendered as “uttermost parts of the north” (ESV, RSV and ASV) or “remote parts of the north” (NASB and LSB). In short, the land of Gog is about as far north of Israel as it is possible to go. Strong’s concordance links the root of *sapon* with *dark, gloomy* and *unknown* – which are appropriate descriptions of this remote region.

The Word of God tells us that this invasion force is brought by the LORD’s express decree to invade Israel. By doing so He is using them as a means to shake the heathen nations with a devastating demonstration of His great power. He will be “**sanctified**” by the outcome, meaning the victory wrought exclusively by His own might will show to the world that He is the God above all gods. It is only fitting therefore that He should use a great military empire like Russia (along with her allies) for this awesome purpose:

**“And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.” (Ezekiel 38:16)**

The Gog alliance includes the countries mentioned in verses 5-6:

**“Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.” (Ezekiel 38:5-6)**

The main ones given are Persia (*Paras*), Ethiopia (*Cush*), Libya (*Put*), Gomer (*Gomer*), and Togarmah (*Togarmah*).

We also know from Daniel 11:43 that both Libya and Ethiopia join Gog:

**“But he [i.e. Gog] shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.”**

**(Daniel 11:43)**

Fruchtenbaum is very likely correct when he says (on p.108 of *The Footsteps of the Messiah*) that *Put* refers, not to Libya, but to Somalia, which borders on Ethiopia.

Gesenius and Strong define the expression “at his steps” as being in the company of, or “figuratively, companionship”.

We could spend time exploring which modern nations correspond to these five regions or territories but it is not necessary for purposes of this paper. For readers who wish to do so a great deal of information about them is available online.

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