

## MAGOGUE AND GOMER. (*ELPIS ISRAEL*)

We know from the Hebrew scriptures that Magogue and Gomer were the names of the two sons of Japheth: and it is to ancient Hebrew authority alone that we can resort to learn where, according to the common repute of the Israelites, the nations which descended from these two heads of families, and which *long retained the proper names* of those heads, were spread and established.

**Josephus** says, “that Japhet, the son of Noah, had seven sons; who, proceeding from their primitive seats in the mountains of Taurus and Amanus, ascended Asia to the river **Tanais** (or **Don**); and there entering Europe, penetrated as far westward as the Straits of Gibraltar, occupying the lands which they successively met with in their progress; all of which were uninhabited; and bequeathed their names to their different families, or nations. That Gomer founded the Gomari, whom the Greeks, at that time, called Galatæ—*τοὺς νῦν ὕφ’ Ἑλλήνων Γαλάτας χαλούμενους*;—and that Magogue founded the Magogæ, whom the Greeks then called Scythæ, *Σχύθαι*.” It only, therefore, remains for us to ascertain which were the nations that the Greeks, in the time of Josephus, called Scythæ, and which they then called *Galatæ*; and to observe whether the geographical affinities of these nations are such as answer to those which are plainly required by the prophecy for Magogue and Gomer.

**Herodotus**, the most ancient Greek writer accessible, acquaints us “that the name Scythæ was a name given by the Greeks to an ancient and widely extended people of Europe, who had spread themselves from the river **Tanais**,

or Don, westward along the banks of the **Ister**, or **Danube**". "The Greeks," observes **Major Rennel**, "appear to have first used the term Scythia, in its application to their neighbours, the Scythians of the Euxine, who were also called *Getæ*; , or *Gothi*; and were those who afterwards subdued the Roman empire: and from which original stock the present race of people in Europe seem to be descended." And again, "the Scythians of Herodotus appear to have extended themselves in length from *Hungary, Transylvania, and Wallachia*, on the westward, to the river **Don** on the eastward." Thus the testimony of Herodotus and Josephus is in perfect agreement concerning the progress of **Magogue and Gomer**. In these same regions the Scythæ continued many ages after Herodotus, and even long after the time of Josephus; for Dion Cassius, who lived 150 years after Josephus, and above 200 after Christ, relates, that Pompey, in his return into Europe from Asia, "determined to pass to the **Ister**, or **Danube**, through the Scythæ; and so to enter Italy". These were the original Scythæ. But Herodotus states further, that a portion of the same people, in an after age, turned back upon the European seats of their fathers, and established themselves in Asia; and from these sprung the Asiatic Scythæ, who, in process of time, almost engrossed the name to themselves.

Since the name of Scythæ, *i.e.*, **Magogue** is to be considered not by itself, but in geographical connection with **Galatæ, or Gomer**, we have only to inquire, whether any geographical affinity is really ascribed by the Greeks to the Scythæ and Galatæ; and to ascertain to what regions of the earth those names, so

associated were applied. If we can discover these two points, we ought thereby to have discovered specifically the Magogue of the prophecy, which is to be associated with the region, or people of Gomer.

**Diodorus Siculus**, who lived about a century before Josephus, traces them much further into Europe than the Danube; *even to the shores of the Baltic, and to the very confines of the Galatæ of the Greeks*. In speaking of the amber-found upon the shores of that sea, he there places the region expressly denominated, “Scythia above, or north of, Galatia”. In which description we at length find the Scythæ, or Magogue, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Galatæ of the Greeks, or Gomer.

Galatia, Γαλατία, is the common and familiar name used by all the earlier Greek historians for Gaul, the Gailia of the Latins; and Galatæ, Γαλάται, is the common Greek name for Gauls, or the Galli of the Latins. Thus, “all the Galatæ” (or Gauls), says **Strabo**, “were called Celtæ by the Greeks”; and the converse is equally true: “the Celtæ were called Galatæ by the Greeks, and Galli by the Latins.” To inquire, *Who* were “the Galatæ of the Greeks”? is, therefore, the same as to inquire, *Who* were the Galli of the Romans? A colony of these Galatæ, or Galli, indeed, in the third century before Christ, emigrated from Gaul and established themselves in Asia Minor; where they were ever after called by their Greek name **Galatians**. **Diodorus**’ “Scythia above Gaul extending towards the Baltic”, accurately describes that large tract of Europe above the **Rhine**, or *northern boundary of Gaul*, through which flow the rivers **Elbe**, **Ems**, and **Weser**.

Here, and in the countries immediately adjoining, were *the SCYTHÆ bordering upon the GALATÆ on the north*; that is to say, a considerable part of **MAGOGUE**, *geographically associated with GOMER*. Diodorus elsewhere describes the northern part of Galatia, or Gaul, as *confining upon Scythia*. “The Greeks”, says he, “call those who inhabit **Marseilles** and the inland territory, and all those who dwell towards the **Alps** and the **Pyrenean Mountains**, by the name of Celts; but those who occupy the country lying to the northward, between the Ocean and the **Hercynian** mountain, and all others as far as Scythia, they denominate Galatæ; but the Romans call all those nations by one collective appellation, Galatæ; that is, Galli.” These geographical affinities unite in the name of Celto-Scythæ, mentioned by **Strabo**. “The ancient Greeks”, says he, “at first called the northern nations by the general name of Scythians; but when they became acquainted with the nations *in the West*, they began to call them by different names of Celts, Celto-Scythæ”; and again, “the ancient Greek historians called the northern nations, collectively, Scythians, and Celto-Scythæ”; which latter name plainly denoted the most western portion of the Scythæ, adjoining Gaul; of the number of whom were the Scythæ on the north of the Galatæ, or the *Σχύθαι ὑπέρ Γαλατίας*.

In this general description may easily be discerned that extended portion of *the West of Europe*, comprehending ancient Gaul, Belgium, and the countries bordering upon them, which constituted in our day the Napoleon empire.

**Gomer, then, points immediately to France.** It is a curious coincidence that Louis Philippe paid his visit to England in the *Gomer*. When this vessel was thus

named, did they adopt it allusively to their country being originally peopled by the descendants of Gomer? “Scythia above Gaul”, or Magogue above Gomer, or to the north of it, through which flowed the **Elbe**, **Ems**, and **Weser**, was the country from whence proceeded principally that renowned people, who, in the early ages of Romanism, formed an extensive confederacy with their kindred nations upon the **Rhine**, which had migrated successively thither from the regions of the Danube; and who, under the common denomination of FRANKS, overran Gaul, and subdued it; and finally establishing their power and population in the conquered country, permanently superseded the name of Gaul by that of FRANCE. “As for the seats of the Franks”, says the “Universal History”, “it appears from their constant excursions into Gaul, that they dwelt *on the banks of the Rhine*, in the neighbourhood of Mentz. All historians speak of them as placed there till their settling in Gaul. Their country, according to the best modern geographers and historians, was bounded on the north by the Ocean; on the west by the Ocean and the **Rhine**; on the south by the Maine; and on the east by the **Weser**.”

These, therefore, were the Κελτό—Σχύθαι, or Σχύθαι ὑπὲρ τὴν Γαλατίαν, the Celto-Scythians, or Scythians on the northern confine of Gaul; that is, Magogue in contiguity with Gomer. The Chaldean interpreter **applies the name of Magogue to the Germans**; in short, all the ancients looked for the Magogue of scripture in the West [of Europe]. The Scythæ of Asia, who, as we have seen, were only a partial emigration, or reflux, from their ancient stock in Europe, cannot, with any soundness of criticism, be taken account of in this argument.



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Celts and Scythians freely interacted through trading and travel networks reaching from the Caspian Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.







# Europe

- 1. LITHUANIA
- 2. LUXEMBOURG
- 3. LIECHTENSTEIN
- 4. CZECH REPUBLIC
- 5. BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
- 6. YUGOSLAVIA



