

# Who are the Peoples of Rosh?



By Craig M White  
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## ***Who are the Peoples of Rosh?***

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### **Bible study articles in this series:**

- *An Introduction to the Table of Nations.*
- *The Sanctity of Nationhood in the Bible.*
- *When do the Armies of Ezekiel 38 and 39 Invade Israel?*
- *Where are the 'Lost' Tribes of Israel in the Modern World? An Introduction.*
- *Who are the Mysterious Sukkiim?*

### **Suggested reading:**

- "Othniel, Cushan-Rishathaim, and the Date of the Exodus", *Artifax*, Summer 2017, pp. 14-20 by Clyde Billington.
- "Rosh: An Ancient Land known to Ezekiel", *Grace Theological Journal*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 1985, pp. 67-89 by James D. Price.
- *Foes from the Northern Frontier* by Edwin M. Yamauchi.
- *In Search of ... the Origin of Nations* by Craig M. White (chapters 8, 12).
- *The Balts* by Marija Gimbutas.
- *The Origins of the Slavic Nations* by Serhii Plokhyy.
- *The Relations Between Ancient Russia and Scandinavia and the Origin of the Russian State* by Vilhelm Thomsen.
- *The World of the Neo-Hittite Kingdoms* by Trevor Bryce.

## Introduction

The 2022 AD Russian-Ukrainian conflict has re-ignited an interest in the Biblical origins of the peoples of Russia.<sup>1</sup>

President Putin has appealed to history in an attempt to convince the Ukrainians and Byelorussians that they, together with the Great Russians, are the same people and should unite.

Is this true? Are they the same people or rather similar people that live adjacent to one another? We shall see. For example, the Ukrainians have been separate for a longer period than they have united with the Great Russians (refer to Tom McTague, “Putin’s no throwback – he’s a very modern leader”, *Australian Financial Review*, 18 February 2022, pp. 4R-5R).<sup>2</sup> Is it possible that the current configuration of the peoples located in and near the western portion of Russia can extend back to their original homeland, in a roughly similar configuration?

The purpose of this article is not to re-hash the histories of the peoples of the Middle East or the Slavic nations of eastern Europe which would mean that a book of 400 pages would be required. Instead, I ask the reader to familiarise themselves with an outline of those histories and to follow me in a discussion of the Biblical origins of some of the peoples of western Russia. Books such as *The Origins of the Slavic Nations* by Serhii Plokhyy, *The World of the Neo-Hittite Kingdoms* by Trevor Bryce and *The Balts* by Marija Gimbutas are worthwhile reads in this context.

In this article we explore the peoples of Rosh mentioned in the Scriptures and their likely modern-day location and I expand upon the peoples of Rosh who reside alongside other nations resident within Russia and former Soviet Union republics. The other peoples of Russia, Ukraine and Baltic states are covered in detail in my book *In Search of ... the Origin of Nations* (chapters 8, 12).

## The Mitanni

Let us commence the search for the origin of the Rosh and surrounding peoples with Abraham – you will come to see the logic of that as we journey through this study.

Abraham had a concubine, Keturah (see Gen 23:2; 25:1, 6; 1Chron 1:32)<sup>3</sup> and the sons that

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<sup>1</sup> A number of celebrities proudly acknowledge their Ukrainian roots (or partial roots) such as Mila Kunis, Milla Jovovich, David Duchovny, Leonardo DiCaprio, Vera Farmiga, Olga Kurylenko. Some give the appearance of the more western Abrahamic stock, others more the traditional Ukrainian and some have an Asiatic influence.

<sup>2</sup> Refer also to Duncan Allan (et al) *Myths and misconceptions in the debate on Russia*, Chatham House website, 13 May 2021. Eg: “The claim that the peoples of Ukraine and Belarus are sub-nations of a single community known as the triune’ or all-Russian nations is an ideological construct dating back to imperial times.”

<sup>3</sup> Jamieson, Faussett and Brown’s *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible* (1871) states: “Abraham took a wife — rather, “had taken”; for Keturah is called Abraham’s concubine, or secondary wife (1Ch 1:32); and as, from her bearing six sons to him, it is improbable that he married after Sarah’s death; and

he had from her are:

- Zimran
- Jokshan
  - Sheba
  - Dedan
    - Asshurim
    - Letushim
    - Leummim
- Medan
- Midian
  - Ephah
  - Epher
  - Hanoch
  - Abidah
  - Eldaah
- Ishbak
- Shuah

These were sent to the east country apparently just north of the area of Arabia and then they migrated to around the northern portions of the Euphrates (Gen 25:6). The descendants of Abraham through Keturah would have settled in the region of the Caucasus, both north and south of the mountain range.

After multiplying greatly, they came pouring down into Anatolia and northern Mesopotamia (with some settling south of Edom in northwest Arabia), becoming known at that time as the Hurrians (Leonard Cottrell, *The Concise Encyclopedia of Archaeology*, p. 178). One branch of Hurrians were known as the *Mitanni* and their rulers the *Maryanni*. They were evidently named after their forefather Midian. Dr Cowley suggests that these Mitanni are direct descendants of Midian (Sydney Bristowe, *Sargon the Magnificent*, p. 12).

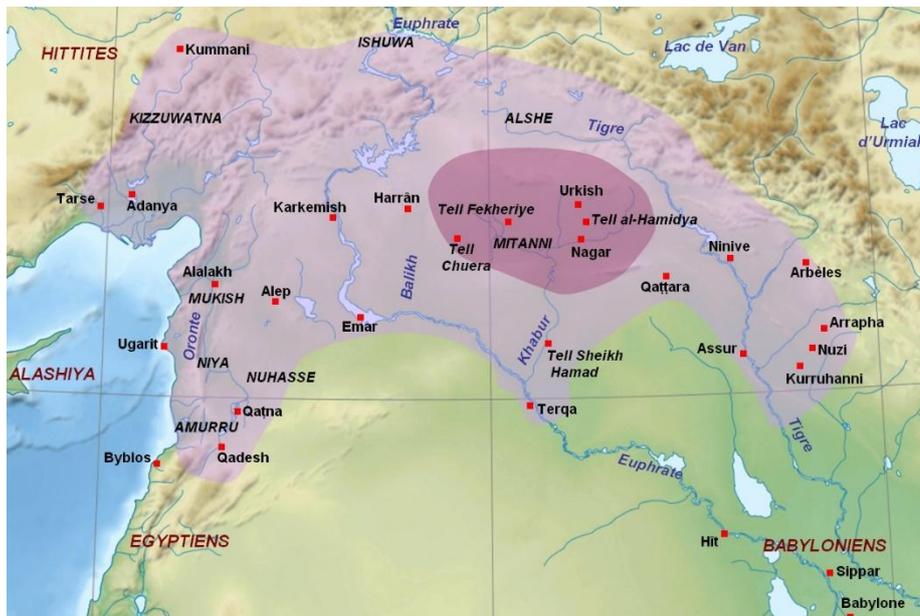
The Mitanni were of the White (called *Aryan* by historians)<sup>4</sup> branch of the Indo-Europeans (Arthur Basham, *The Wonder that was India*, p. 29) with their fair skin and often-times blonde hair. The bust of Queen Nefertete (a Midianitess) and the wife of Pharaoh Amenohotep, reveal her features and facial type as clearly Nordic (Ayyaswami Kalyanraman, *Aryatarangini. The Saga of the Indo-Aryans*, Vol. 1, p. 79). The Mitanni invoked the gods of the Aryans (= noble – it is not a racial or racist term) and used their Vedic names. It may be significant that the first god they invoked is the Vedic Sun-god, Mitra or Mithra which may have been Midian himself deified. In so many ways they were quite similar to their neighbours the Hittites (Robert Gayre of Gayre, *The Syro-Mesopotamian Ethnology as Revealed in Genesis X*, p. 23). Dr Gayre writes:

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also as he sent them all out to seek their own independence, during his lifetime, it is clear that this marriage is related here out of its chronological order, merely to form a proper winding up of the patriarch's history." Refer also to Adam Clarke's *Commentary on the Bible* (1817), Keil & Delitzsch's *Commentary on the Old Testament* (1861 ff) and a number of other specialists agree.

<sup>4</sup> The term *Aryan* is not to be confused with Hitler's misapplication of the term.

"The evidence for the connection with Aryans rests not only on the evidence we have given, and their location, but on such things as god-names. Thus they had Teshup, who is identical with Tarku, Huthor of Anatolia. The nearby Hittite military aristocracy had Mitra, Uranna and Nasaatiia (Mitra, Varunna, Indra and Nasatya). One of the Mitannian tribes was called the Kharrri, and some think this is Arya" (ibid, pp. 23-24).



Mitanni kingdom at its greatest extent

Many Mitanni settled for a time in Asshur (Gayre, ibid, pp. 20-21) which was merely the linking up of "contiguous" peoples (Gayre, ibid) as their military ruling classes were related (Ayyaswami Kalyanaraman, *Aryatarangini. The Saga of the Indo-Aryans*, Vol. 1, p. 178). Their royal names reflected their worship of the Aryan deities and they possessed specialised knowledge of horse-breeding like their relatives in north-west India (Kalyanaraman, ibid, p. 178)<sup>5</sup>. One of their gods was Teshub, the god of battles, with his thunderbolt in his hand; he was later called Thor in Europe. Like the Hittites, their relatives, they were a warlike people (Gayre, ibid, p. 29).

What became of these mysterious Mitanni after their kingdom fell c1400 BC? Haddon comments

"The 'Aryans' of Mitanni were called by the Greeks Mattienoi; they are possibly the ancestors of the modern Kurds." (Alfred Haddon, *The Wandering of Peoples*, p. 21)<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Interestingly, an ancient idol of the god Vishnu was found in the Volga region in an old village which may indicate migrations from the area we are discussing herein (*Ancient Vishnu Idol Can Change View on Russian History*, Mosnews.com, 1 April 2007).

<sup>6</sup> Note: "Large numbers of the Mitanni were, however, evicted and transferred to the land of the Hittites, where the Greeks subsequently found them, and where they are believed to be represented by the modern Kurds, the hereditary enemies of the Armenians." (Donald Mackenzie, *Myths of Babylonia and Assyria*, p. 283). Some clues can be found in the article *The Glorious Gutians* by Samar Abbas.

Indeed, the Kurds (living in the same area as the ancient Mitanni) may well be the mixed remnant of Arabic peoples with the Mittanni and Hittites. But what of those which did not mix and remain in the area? Of them Cappieri notes that "nothing more is heard of them; they disappear in unknown India" (Mario Cappieri, *The Mesopotamians of the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages*, p. 152)<sup>7</sup>.

If so, where are they located today?



## The Land of Rashu

A famous prophecy in the book of Ezekiel speaks of a ruling class over the Great Russians (Meschech and Tubal):

"Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, **the chief prince** of Meschech and Tubal" (Ezekiel 38:2).

The question arises whether the word Rosh is a description or a proper name. In this regard I would recommend "Rosh: An Ancient Land known to Ezekiel", *Grace Theological Journal*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 1985, pp. 67-89 by James Price.<sup>8</sup>

Note that the Kurds are spread all over into Asia Minor, Armenia, Iran, Iraq, etc (James Pritchard, *Researches into the Physical History of Mankind*, Vol. IV, p. 69). Divided into a number of tribes and castes (ibid, pp. 70-71). Some are light-skinned and ruddy (ibid, p. 77).

An article appeared in *The Times* and reprinted in *The Australian* (20-21 April 1991): "The oldest Sumerian records show that about 2000BC a people called Kuit, later Kurtie, was living in the mountainous region of the upper Tigris ... The ancient Greeks and Romans thought the Kurds were the original Aryans, the great-grandfathers of all Indo-Europeans, and called them Medes."

<sup>7</sup> One historian from Lviv, Ukraine, actually traces the original Kurds as having migrated into the Ukraine (Valentyn Stetsyuk, *Cimmerians in Eastern European History*).

<sup>8</sup> Researcher Jon Ruthven wrote: "But other indications, such as geographical location, ethnography, and the general description of the culture, provide us with some confidence that there is a direct connection between

Price uses linguistic methodologies to convincingly argue that the Hebrew word for *Rosh* in Ezekiel is a name, not merely a description. It does refer to a people (and no doubt the leader of those people) hence, Price argues, the correct translation for Ezekiel 38:2-3; 39:1 is "prince of *Rosh*, Meshech, and Tubal."<sup>9</sup>

The marginal note for this verse reads "or, Prince of the chief". The translators derived this from Jerome's Latin Vulgate which read "Principem Capitis", because the Hebrew word for "chief prince" is "Ro'sh" (Ethelbert Bullinger, *The Companion Bible*, p. 1161), meaning "head" or "leader" (Bullinger, *ibid*). The *Septuagint* rendering is "Ruler of Rosh".

Perhaps this "prince" indicates the historical monarchy in Russia and also its possible revival at some future time?

So who is Rosh? Where is Rosh? And what has Rosh to do with the vanished Mitanni? Everything.

You may search the Scriptures from one end to the other, and you will find only one Rosh mentioned, and that is in Genesis. He was a son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21), one of ten brothers. When we come to the book of Numbers, only five are mentioned (Numbers 26:38; see I Chronicles 8:1-2). Later, in I Chronicles, only three are referred to (I Chronicles 7:6). Why? Either because their line had become extinct (Bullinger, *ibid*, p. 540), or because they had migrated outwards as they were, by instinct, a pioneering, adventurous and exploring people. The tribe of Benjamin, or rather a part of it, was possibly in Asia Minor at some stage (Herbert Hannay, *European And Other Race Origins*, p. 246) and if so, probably dwelt with the Mitanni. Both because the Mitanni were blond and/or because Rosh lived with them, the Kingdom of Mitanni became known as the "land of Rashu" (James Orr (ed) *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, Article "Rosh"), *Rash* or *Rosh* meaning "blond". Also, nearby dwelt the Urartians, descendants of Arphaxad. Their last great ruler was Rusa II who built great cities and huge defences. He established the religious centre and fortress of *Rusai-urau.tur* or *Rusa-patari* which means 'the small city of Rusa' (John Boardman (ed), *The Cambridge Ancient History*, Vol. 3, Pt. 1, p. 360).

Several years ago an alert contact of mine came across an article "Othniel, Cushan-Rishathaim, and the Date of the Exodus", *Artifax*, Summer 2017, pp. 14-20 by Clyde Billington, based on Judges 3:7-11 which mentions Cushan-Rishathaim. I was most grateful for him sending the article to me as it not only confirmed my studies, but also added additional valuable facts. Below are pertinent extracts from this important article:

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the Rosh of Ezekiel and the tribal Rus from which the modern Russia derives its name. Indeed this is the suggestion of one Russian historian, who states: "The first reference to the Russ, the ancestors of the Russian rulers, is found in Ezekiel 38:2ff." ("Ezekiel's Rosh and Russia: a connection?", *Bibliotheca Sacra*, Vol. 125 (Oct.-Dec 1968), pp. 324-333)

<sup>9</sup> "... historical sources confirm that a large group of Rosh people lived (in both ancient and medieval times) in the area of Russia, the Ukraine, and north of the Black Sea. Second, the people who lived on the north shore of the Black Sea were known to the ancient Greeks by a variety of names: Aorsi, Ros, Rox, Roxolanai, and Tauroi." (Clyde Billington, "The Rosh People in History and Prophecy: Part Three", *The Michigan Theological Journal*, Vol. 4, No. 1, Spring 1993, p. 38).

“While King Cushan is not mentioned in other known historical sources, his people the Rishathaim are referred to in a number of ancient texts. **The Rishathaim are identified with an ancient people better known to historians today as the Mitanni** ... The Rishathaim are mentioned in a variety of ancient sources. An inscription from the reign of Hatshepsut [ruled ca. 1518-1482 B.C.] mentions the "Country of Reshet.”” (p. 14)

“The Rishim people can be connected to the Kingdom of Mitanni in a rather strange way. An ancient people called the "Rsi" conquered northern India sometime before ca. 1300 B.C. The exact date for the Rsi invasion into India is not known. However, it is known that the great Indus Civilization began to disappear in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., and it is also known that an "Indo-Aryan" race replaced the native peoples of the Indus Civilization in the Indus Valley. Indo-Aryans are a branch of the Indo-European peoples ... “The modern Indian historian and ethnologist Ramaprasad Chanda in his book *The Indo-Aryan Races* (Chandra, 1969, p. 180) writes that the Rsi people were a "Fair-haired" people who invaded India "from the far north." Thutmose III is known to have brought blond captives back to Egypt from his campaigns to the north against the Mitanni in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century BC.” (p. 15)

“... a variety of other ancient sources strongly suggest that they called themselves something like the "Rish" or by variants of that name such as "Teresh" and "Reshet." It is nearly certain that these Rish people did not originally call themselves Mitannians.” (p. 16)

“The name Mitanni is almost certainly not Indo-European, and it almost certainly comes from the Hurrian language. The ending –anni on the name Mit-anni is a known Hurrian nominal ending.” (p. 16)

“The historical and textual evidence also suggests that the Indo-Aryan ethnic group that founded and ruled **Mitanni called themselves originally by a name that sounded something like "Rish" or "Ras."** This name is reflected in Judges 3:7-11 where Cushan is said to have been from an ethnic group called the "Rishathaim.”” (p. 19) [emphasis mine]

But where are the Rosh today?

Herodotus (c484-425BC) indicated that the Matienians were with the peoples of Tubal and Meschech (*The Histories*, Book 3 (*Thalia*), Chapter 94)<sup>10</sup>; while centuries later, Pliny (c23-79AD) wrote of the Matiani as if in the direction of southern Russia over the Caucasus (*The Natural History*, Book 6, Chapter 18, Sections 17-18).<sup>11</sup> Dr Gesenius in his meticulous

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<sup>10</sup> Herodotus wrote: “The Paricanii and Ethiopians of Asia, the seventeenth, paid four hundred; the **Matieni**, Saspiri, and Alarodii were the eighteenth, and two hundred talents were the appointed tribute. **The Moschi, Tibareni, Macrones, Mossynoeci**, and Mares, the nineteenth province, were ordered to pay three hundred. The Indians made up the twentieth province. These are more in number than any nation of which we know, and they paid a greater tribute than any other province, namely three hundred and sixty talents of gold dust.” [emphasis mine]

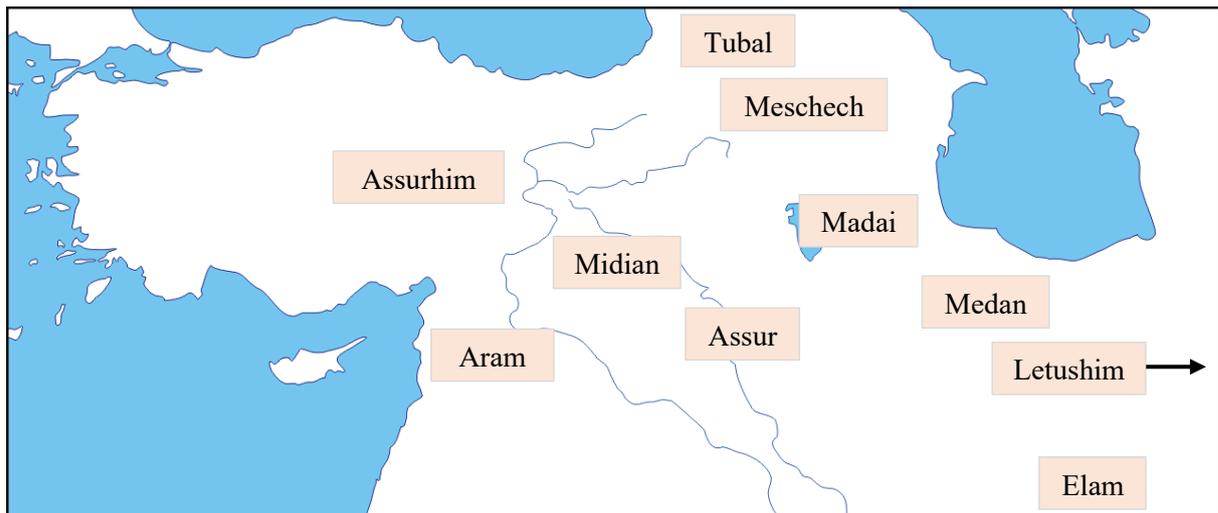
<sup>11</sup> “**Matiene** was the name of a kingdom in northwestern Iran on the lands of the earlier kingdom of the Mannae. Ancient historians including Strabo, Ptolemy, Herodotus, Polybius, and Pliny mention names such as

Hebrew and English Lexicon maintains that

"Rosh was a designation for the tribes then north of the Taurus Mountains, dwelling in the neighbourhood of the Volga" (Wilhelm Gesenius, *Hebrew And English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, pp. 534, 626, 955, 1121).

He concluded that in this name we have the first trace, historically, of the Rus or Russian state.

Another scholarly work worth a read is "An attempt to interpret some Anatolian and Caucasian ethnonyms of the classical sources", *Sprache und Kultur*, No. 3, pp. 68-83 by Giorgi Kavtaradze. In this work he painstakingly demonstrates how peoples known as the *Mosche (Mesches)*, *Tibareni* and *Mossynoeci* were living in proximity to the *Matienians* as neighbours in the ancient world (pp. 79-80). Don't these names sound familiar and possibly be identifiable with Biblical names? These peoples migrated into the region we call Russia and dwell there alongside each other to this day, in a similar configuration to when they lived contiguous to each other in the ancient Near East.



The early locations of some of the nations

## Rosh - the original Russians

Bishop Lowth of England wrote in 1710 that Rosh should be taken as a proper name in Ezekiel from whence the Russians derive their name.<sup>12</sup>

**Mantiane, Martiane, Matiana, Matiani, Matiene, Martuni** to designate a region located to the northwest of Media." ("Matiene", *Wikipedia*) [emphasis mine]

<sup>12</sup> "These are the progenitors, as proved not only from locality but from descent, of the Russians; the name Russian being probably derived from Rosh; Muscovy, or Muscovites, from Meshech; and Tubal in all likelihood the origin of Tobolsk. You may trace in short by names that exist in Russia, as well as by national and geographical distribution of races, the ancient arrangement specified clearly and distinctly in Genesis, and referred to by Ezekiel. These names and this identification, I have already said, are not formed to suit the Scriptures to present or contingent events. **Bishop Lowth, than whom there was no more sober interpreter of prophecy, says, "Rosh, taken as a proper name, in Ezekiel signifies the inhabitants of Scythia, from whom**

I feel that it is important to quote at length from another source to cement this important concept in the reader's mind. This time from an author during the early years of last century, Greenberry Rupert who quotes from Dr Daniel Schenkel's *Bibel-Lexicon*:

“Rosh in Hesek 38:2, 3; 39:1, is the name of a people of the north, named along with Meschech and Tubal, and all together as subject people of Gog...Rosh as a proper name for a people does not, to be sure, occur anywhere else before the tenth century A.D., when it is found in use by Byzantine and oriental writers; but the statements concerning the same people, dwelling in northern Taurus, as also towards the Muscovite Mountains, or, as some other authors maintain, on the Taurian Peninsula (Crimea), and still further to the north along the Volga, - agree in a most striking manner with the combination of Rosh, Meschech, and Tubal ... Rosh is the oldest historical name to designate the tribal peoples of the Russians of history, a combination which already Bocharat has made, and for whom as a connecting link he has taken the Roxolani or Roxalani mentioned by Pliny (62-110), Ptolemy, and others, taking it for granted that the latter name arose from a connection of the Rox-Rosh with the Alani" (Greenberry Rupert, *The Yellow Peril*, pp. 127-28).

The German scholar, Dr Keil, after very thorough grammatical analysis of Ezekiel 38:2-3 states that the word translated "chief prince" should be correctly rendered as a proper name, *Rosh*. He says, that many Arabic and Byzantine writers frequently mention a people which they call Ros or Rus dwelling among certain Scythian tribes in the country of Taurus (Carl Keil, *Biblical Commentary on the Prophecies of Ezekiel*, Vol. 2, pp. 159-60). Another researcher, Victor Kachur, in one of his works, makes mention of the Rusi who were in southern Russia; they claimed that many of their tribe were living with the Cimmerian Scythians (Victor Kachur, *The Trans-Caucasion Migration of the Rusi Tribes*, pp. 5, 7). Interestingly, Bowle maintains that although the name *Rus* is a Norse word, there is enough evidence that it is of Iranian origin (John Bowle, *The Concise Encyclopedia of Archaeology*, p. 154)<sup>13</sup>. After all, the Mitanni-Rosh originally dwelt on the border of ancient Iran and spoke

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**the modern Russians derive their name.** This is the judgment of a very wise and a very learned prelate. Taking the maps I have referred to where the ancient dispersion is arranged; taking the lineal, genealogical descent of these heads or fathers of the nations, **we fairly arrive at the conclusion that Rosh, Meshech, Tubal, exist in their descendants at this moment in the northern and southern parts of Russia**, by the Euxine Sea, the Sea of Azoff, and the Don, and the Dnieper, and among the Cossacks." (quoted in John Cumming, *The Destiny of Nations*, p. 127) [emphasis mine]

“The “chief prince of Ezekiel xxxviii. 2, is rendered in the Septuagint apxovta 'Pws, and the Hebrew justifies this translation, and therefore in sound and no doubt in significance it relates to Russia. Gibbon, however, thinks the name is of Scandinavian origin and describes the Ruses derived from Ruts, the Finnish name of Sweden. The Rev. Hollis Reade says: “The word here rendered ' chief ' is Rosh, which, if taken as a proper name, as many commentators do, is the name of a portion of the Scythians from whom the modern Russians have their origin. Magog was the son of Japheth, from whom the Scythians are supposed to be derived. Tubal was the fifth son, and Meshech the sixth son, of Japheth. They are supposed to be the progenitors of the Muscovites, another large portion of the Russian Empire. The Tartars, from whom descended the Turks, are of Scythian origin. The Mogul Tartars are to this day called Magog by Arabian writers." (p. 128).

<sup>13</sup> Many theories abound as to the origin of the Rus. See Hilda Davidson, *The Viking Road to Byzantium*, pp. 59-60.

the Aryan/Iranian tongue.<sup>14</sup>

What does *Rus* mean? It probably means 'blond'.<sup>15</sup> Byelorussia, also spelt Belorussia and sometimes known as White Ruthenia, is situated close to the Baltic peoples. According to Lubachko, the name of *Belaia Rus* or *Belarus* derives from the fact that they are a people with light-coloured hair (Ivan Lubachko, *Belorussia Under Soviet Rule. 1917-1957*, p. 1) though views differ as to the origin of the name.<sup>16</sup>

The meaning of names can, after all, evolve and change over time. And even transfer to a different people.

## The Varangian Rus

The origins of Russia are related in the *Chronicle of Nestor* or *Russian Primary Chronicle* which was written in Perchersky Monastery of Kiev toward the end of the 11th century, placing the following event in 862 AD. Of these tribes it says:

“Among them there was no law, and tribe rose up against tribe, and there were feuds among them, and they began to fight each other. And they spoke among themselves: 'We must find a prince who will rule justly over us'. And they crossed the sea to the Varangians, the Rus, for the Varangians were called Rus, as others are called Swedes, others Norwegians and Anglians, others Gotlanders, thus also these men. The Chaudes, Slovenes, Krivichi and Vesses said to these Rus, 'Our land is great and rich, yet there is no order in it. Come therefore and rule over us' ". (quoted in Hilda Davidson, *The Viking Road to Byzantium*)

They knew that these peoples possessed apparent leadership and administrative qualities. Who could their ancestors be? Professor Hannay explains that the tribe of Benjamin, or a part of it, migrated into Scandinavia (Herbert Hannay, *European And Other Race Origins*, pp. 465-66). No wonder that area of Russia south of the Baltic Sea became known as "Swithoid the Great" or "Sweden the Great". Thus it is speculated by Edwin Yamauchi that the Vikings gave the name of *Rus* to the White Russians (*Foes from the Northern Frontier*, p. 20). But as we shall see, the appellation of *Rus* was already in use by tribes in southern Russia.

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<sup>14</sup> “But how are we to explain the name Russia? The old-fashioned view was to derive the word from the Rhozolani. This, however, has long been abandoned. One thing is certain, namely, that these Rhozolani were of Oriental descent, a **Medic** or Iranic tribe. They disappear from history, having, like so many other tribes — as, for instance, the Pechenegs and the Khozars—been swallowed up by the huge waves of immigration which overflowed the country”. (William Morfill, *Russia*, pp. 17, 19) [emphasis mine]

<sup>15</sup> See for example Leon Poliakov, *The Aryan Myth. A History of Racist and Nationalist Ideas in Europe*, p. 113. The Russian "rysyi" = reddish-blond (Birch Moonwomon, "Color Categorization in Early Greek", *The Journal of Indo-European Studies*. Vol. 22, Nos. 1 & 2, p. 45). An alternative hypothesis suggests that the word may be of Scandinavian origin, meaning 'raft'.

<sup>16</sup> Cross lists the Belorussian tribes as the Polyanians, Derevljans, the peoples of Novgorod, Severians, Dregovichians, Polotians and the "Buzhians, who live along the river Bug" (Samuel Cross, *The Russian Primary Chronicle*, p. 55). But Geipel lists them as Severjane, Radimichi, Krivitchi, Polotchane and Dregovitchi (John Geipel, *The Europeans: an Ethnohistorical Survey*, p. 229). The tribe of the Nervy may be their ancestors (Nicholas Vakar, *Belorussia. The Making of a Nation*, p. 39).

While western scholars accept this as the origin of the Rus, Soviet scholars contended that the Rus were Slavs from the southern steppes (Yamauchi, *ibid*, p. 21)<sup>17</sup>. Both are probably correct as we have seen for there is no evidence of a tribe from Scandinavia called Ros or Rus, but a tribe of the Antes was known as the *Ros* and later modified to *Rus* which resided along the river Ros, a tributary of the Dnieper in the southern Ukraine, just north of the Black Sea (Dennis Elliott, "The Origin of Russia", *The Testimony*, May 1993, pp. 175-78).

Note: Anciently a people known as the *Sauromatae* or *Sarmatians* (indicating Median and Madai origins), identified as an Iranian people by historians, dwelt in southern Russia in an area known as *Rasapu* from the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. These people were also known as the *Rashu* and *Ras*.

Concerning the Varangian Vikings referred to above, they created the first Rus state with the capital at Kiev. They went on wild raids further south not unlike that of their brethren into Britain and France during the same general period of history (William Langer, *Encyclopedia of World History*, pp. 258-59; Arthur Koestler, *The Thirteenth Tribe*, pp. 77-78).

Dr Vilhelm Thomsen, writing in *The Relations between Ancient Russia and Scandinavia, and the Origin of the Russian State* relates how the Russ became familiar to Constantinople as they (the Viking-Varangian-Rus) threatened that city.



The routes of the Vikings

The ninth chapter of the work by Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus (written c 950AD) is titled *About the Rhos who came from Russia to Constantinople with their boats*. He even

<sup>17</sup> See also Nicholas Riasanovsky "The Norman Theory of the Origin of the Russian State", *The Russian Review*, Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 96-110.

gives the names of the rapids through which the Rhos came. The 'Russian' words are pure Scandinavian. This is chapter 9 of his work *On Administering the Empire* (ie the administration of the eastern Roman Empire). In fact, all the original Russian royal family of the House of Rurik in the early chronicles have pure Scandinavian names. The *Russian Primary Chronicle* records Rurik as the first mysterious ruler of Russia. He was succeeded by his son Oleg who rapidly expanded the kingdom southwards - it was he who forced a treaty from the Byzantine Empire. From *Rus* we derive *Rusyn*, the name for the western Ukrainians. This term is still used for those Ukrainian descendants who lived within the old Austro-Hungarian Empire.

This state founded by Rurik, was called Kievan *Rus*. Various small kingdoms arose from Rurik's descendants and the dynasty divided into three rival groupings around 1054 AD. Some princes merged with the Lithuanians. Centuries later the dynasty virtually ended in 1598 AD with a short revival a few years later.

In 1613 AD Mikhail I founded the Romanov dynasty until the Communist revolution in 1917. It should be mentioned that Mikhail's first wife was a Rurik but she bore him no children. Later, the German-born Catherine the Great took the throne – she was partially of Rurik stock.

After they had completed their work in White Russia, the mass of these eastern Vikings later returned to Scandinavia (Bertil Lundman, "The Racial History of Scandinavia", *The Mankind Quarterly*, 1962, Vol. 3, No. 2, p. 4), their royal house remaining in Russia and probably intermarrying with the White Russians (Belorussians).

When the Mongols sacked Moscow and swarmed into western Russia, they took back captive with them thousands of White Russians. This accounts, in part, for their demise, which has been accentuated in the Twentieth Century; not only were tens of thousands slaughtered during the Revolution of 1917, not only did Stalin murder even more during the great purges of the 1930s, but it had been a Communist policy to Slavinise the neo-Nordic peoples of the Baltic region (Yaroslav Bilinsky, "Education and the Non-Russian Peoples in the Soviet Union", *Comparative Education Review*, June 1964, pp. 78-89).

These fair White Russians, who are fairer than the Great Russians (Francis Huxley, *Peoples of the World in Colour*, p. 123), comprise a mere 9.4 millions (Wilmot Robertson, *The Dispossessed Majority*, p. 562).

Prophetically, nothing much is said about Midian. Perhaps the peoples in the book of Judges where they are allies of the Amalekites (Gog), are a type the future eastern hordes (Judges 7:12). Through Habbakuk, God says that the Midianites (the Mitanni) will tremble at Him when He begins to intervene in world affairs (Habbakuk 3: 7-8). They are also referred to prophetically in Jeremiah 25:25. The Rosh are mentioned in context of the early years of Christ's Millennial reign where they are leading a rebellion against the Messiah (Ezek 38:1-6).

## Medan

Midian's brother was Medan. Who could be descended from him today?

Historically, the Medanites dwelt alongside the Mitanni and they formed a kingdom in the Middle East in the tenth and ninth centuries BC. It is for this reason that historians call the Mitanni the "early Medes". The empire of the Medanites or Medes is often referred to in textbooks as the Amadai-Mada-Medes empire (Mario Cappieri, *The Mesopotamians of the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages*, p. 152. NB: Madai, Midian and Medan were closely associated with each other at that time and are still to this day). The *Amadai* were descendants of Madai who were subject to the Medes, the ruling class of the Empire. Herodotus lists their tribes as the Busae or Buza (that is the natives), Parataceni, Struchates, Arizanti, Budii or Budini and Magi (*The Histories*, Book 1, Chapter 101).

What was the physical type of the Medes? All historians mention that the earliest tribes of the Medians "belonged to the Aryan stock" (Mario Cappieri, *The Mesopotamians of the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages*, p. 39) and as such were an Indo-European people (Laurence Waddell, *The Makers of Civilization*, pp. 61, 79; Laurence Waddell, *The Phoenician Origins of the Britons, Scots and Anglo-Saxons*, p. 14) and that they formed a ruling class over the Madai (Robert Gayre of Gayre, *The Syro-Mesopotamian Ethnology as Revealed in Genesis X*, pp. 20, 49). This Mede ruling class called themselves *Arioi* or *Arii* (Herbert Hannay, *European And Other Race Origins*, p. 200), meaning Aryan (= noble).

The Medes were more numerous and powerful than the Persians who were of the same race but who seem to have been an eastern Median tribe who broke away (Mario Cappieri, *The Mesopotamians of the Chalcolithic and Bronze Ages*, p. 139). The Persians were first in the central-west areas of Persia then later in the south-west (Arthur Cotterell, *The Encyclopedia of Ancient Civilizations*, p. 147). From what can be gathered by historians, these Aryan Persians originated in a far away land called Airyanem-Vaejo and came into the Iranian plateau possibly from southern Russia (Clement Huart, *Ancient Persia and Iranian Civilization*, p. 26). They were basically pastoral and possessed watch-dogs, sheep, oxen and horses and travelled in wagons which had axles and wheels. In general, researchers trace the Indo-Aryans to the Austro-Hungarian plains or to southwest Russia (Edwin Yamauchi *Persia and the Bible*, p. 33). This author agrees that that is where many of them migrated to, but their homeland prior to that would have been in the Middle East. Professor Hannay throws further light on the original Persians:

".. the present inhabitants of Persia...succeeded to territories which were abandoned ... and to a name imprinted thereon by the ... White Race which then disappeared. These incomers, who now go by the name of Farsiyan ... are doubtless the descendants of the Non-Persian subject-populations of antiquity, are not racially identical with the Persians who vanished" (Herbert Hannay, *European And Other Race Origins*, p. 315).

Professor Sayce, writing in his famous *The Races of the Old Testament*, agrees that the original Persians belonged to the fair-skinned, Nordic division of the White Race:

"The physical type of the country-men of Darius and Xerxes, like that of their modern descendants, was Aryan in all of its traits. Travellers still speak of the fair-complexioned, blue-eyed populations met with in the Persian highlands ... The Persians were at the outset a Median tribe." (Archibald Sayce, *The Races of the Old Testament*, pp. 162-63)<sup>18</sup>

They called themselves Airya (Aryan). Darius the Great on his tomb calls himself "an Arya of Arya(n) descent". Xerxes called himself "harri", meaning "noble" or Aryan. Today Persia is known as Iran or Aryan, but these people are not the original Persians or Medes as we have seen. Professor Sayce affirms that the original Persians were a tribe who were originally with the Medes but who broke away from them for a time and had established themselves next to the Elamites (Sayce, *ibid* p. 163). He further states that

**"The Medes** proper were an Aryan people, who claimed relationship to the Aryans of Northern India and the Aryan populations of Europe, and **one of the tribes belonging to them was that of the Persians** ... But in classical times the older inhabitants of the regions into which the Medes migrated were classed along with them under the general title of 'Medes'" (Sayce, *ibid*, pp. 45-46). [emphasis mine]

According to Herodotus, the Persian tribes were: the *Pasargadae* (Persian Goths?), Maraphii, Maspaii (descendants of Mash?), Panthialaei, *Derusiaei* (note *rus*), Germani (certain Hittites), Dai, Mardi (a tribe of Elamites), Dropci and Sagartii (*The Histories*, Book 1, Chapter 125, Sections 3-4). They called the land which they settled in southern Iran as *Parsuash*. The same territory is still called *Farsistan* to this day. Their chief towns were Persepolis (known today as Takht-e Jamshīd) and Parsagarda after which the Hebrews called the Persians "Parsa" (James Douglas (ed), *New Bible Dictionary*, p. 970); and the Euphrates River "Perath" or "Peres" - "River of the Persians". Of course the name originated from a geographical region in southern Iran which was called "Persis", the Greek form of the old Persian "Parsa". After the Assyrian Empire collapsed, the Persians annexed Elam. They became closely identified with the Elamites who live today in parts of eastern Europe; the Persian kings even ruled from the Anshan district of Susa in Elam. It seems quite plausible that the true, original Persians, descend from Medan and/or two sons of Midian, Ephah and Epher. These may be the Apharsites mentioned by Ezra (Ezra 4: 9) and whom Bullinger and others reckon as Persians (Ethelbert Bullinger, *The Companion Bible*, p. 623).

The peoples in Persia today are mixed. The fairest Persians are those living around Persepolis (Takht-e Jamshīd) who are slender, have chestnut hair and are fairer than the surrounding Persians but there are still a few blondes among them (Francis Huxley, *Peoples of the World in Colour*, p. 127; Vere Childe, *The Aryans*. p. 160). Also in north-west Iran many blondes persist (Griffith Taylor, *Environment, Race and Migration*, pp. 186, 214) and still have features akin to Europeans (Taylor, *ibid*, p. 210) and have intermarried with the Semites (Francis Huxley, *Peoples of the World in Colour*, p. 127 ) and others.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> A good book on Darius is *Darius the Mede: A Reappraisal* by Steven Anderson.

<sup>19</sup> However, the original inhabitants of the area were, of course, the self-same Medo-Persians referred to in the book of Daniel which conquered Babylon in October 539 BC while its king Nabonidus was away campaigning in Arabia at the time and it took some time to capture him (William Culican *The Medes and Persians*, p. 54. Belshazzar was second in line after Nabonidus and Daniel was the third ruler; see Daniel 5:1, 7,

Finally, the Medes are prophesied to come against end-time Babylon in Jeremiah 51:28, undoubtedly as part of the prophesied eastern forces.

## The Brahmins

Most people have heard of the Brahmin caste of India. Who are they? In India the Persians were known as Parsees, from whom descend, in part, the Brahmins who were also the highest caste. Brahmin may mean "son of Abraham".<sup>20</sup>

The Brahmins, although now substantially mixed, are fairer than the average Indian, tall, slim and some even with red hair - somewhat Nordic in appearance (William Hunter, *A Brief History of the Indian Peoples*, p. 62; Ayyaswami Kalyanaraman, *Aryatarangini. The Saga of the Indo-Aryans*, Vol. 2, p. 438; John Beddoe, *The Anthropological History of Europe*, p. 27). They ruled India for centuries despite invading armies, religions and dynasties (William Hunter, *A Brief History of the Indian Peoples*, p. 62). Their laws and customs are collected in the *Code of Manu*, setting the law into three branches: domestic and civil rights and duties; administration and justice; and religious purifications and penance. They even kept the castes apart, forbidding intermarriage (William Hunter, *A Brief History of the Indian Peoples*, p. 66), but did not adhere strictly to this policy and no pure Brahmin may be found today.

Descended in part from Abraham through Medan, they, via their amazing work, spread this *Code of Manu* and became the civilizers of much ancient India (William Hunter, *A Brief History of the Indian Peoples*, p. 66).

The caste system in India seems to have a racial origin according to some scholars and was originally defined by colour: Brahmins were said to be white, Kshatriyas red, Vaishyas yellow, and Shudras black. However, others point out that these colours refer more to qualities of each class rather than race. This may be the case now, but race classification by the northern invaders seems to have been the order of the day. In this regard, I have before me an article from the *Arizona Republic* which details research on this issue:

"The [northern] invaders apparently ... set up the rigid caste system that exists today. Their [mixed] descendants are still the elite within Hindu society.

"Thus today's genetic patterns, the researchers explained, vividly reflect a historic event, or events, that occurred 3,000 or 4,000 years ago. The gene

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16, 30). The Bible predicts that the coming Babylon/US of Europe would begin to arise 2520 years after the complete subjugation of the original Babylon.

In this light, *Time* magazine had an amazing front cover in a mid-1990 edition (25 June 1990. Special issue: *Germany. Toward Unity*; in fact, 90% of this edition was devoted to German reunification. The cover depicted the two Germanies growing together out of a truncated tree stump - Daniel himself likened it to such (Dan 4:14-16, 23-26. See also 5:24-31; Luke 21:24; Rom 11:25b). Each of the Germanies represented the leading powers of Western and Eastern Europe (minus Russia) and it is a united Germany which is leading the two halves of Europe toward eventual unification in the prophesied National European Social Empire - a future U. S. of Europe.

<sup>20</sup> One wonders if the ancient Hindi god Brahma and his consort, Saraswati, are corrupt derivations of Abraham and Sarah?

patterns “are consistent with a historical scenario in which invading Caucasoids ... established the caste system and occupied the highest positions.”

“The ancient story holds that invaders known as Indo-Europeans, or true Aryans, came from Eastern Europe or western Asia and conquered the Indian subcontinent who had arrived earlier from African and other parts of Asia ...

“But, he [Jorde of the University of Utah], added “when we look at the Y chromosome DNA, we see a very different pattern. The lower castes are most similar to Asians, and the [mixed] upper castes are more European than Asian.” (Robert Cooke, “India’s castes seen in genetics”, *Arizona Republic*, 30 May 1999)

Others in the vicinity are the fairer-skinned Kalash peoples residing in north-west Pakistan. According to one theory they were part of the migration of the Indo-Aryans during pre-Vedic times which would date them to about 1,400 BC. Another theory claims that they are descendants of Alexander the Great’s army, given that some of their features appear to be Syrian Greek and their language seems to be a later form of Sanskrit.

## Where are the Medes and Persians Today?

When the peoples of Madai migrated to the Ukraine, these Medanites migrated with them and dwelt in close proximity to Madai and Midian as they had in the Middle East in previous centuries. Pliny refers to these Medanites as the tribe of Medi which dwelt north-west of the Black Sea (*The Natural History*, Book 4, Chapter 1, Section 2). Of Thrace he writes

**“the Medi, who live on the right bank of the river Struna** right up to the Bisaltae abovementioned, and the Digerrri and the various sections of the Bessi on the left bank, as far as the river Mesto” (Book 4, Chapter 11, Section 40) [emphasis mine]

Herodotus indicates that the Medes were in upper Asia or inner Asia, north of the Caucasian Mountains (*The Histories*, Book 4, Chapters 1, 12) and Strabo (c64 BC – 23 AD) who lived in Pontus (in northern Turkey) stated that the Maedi were a people of Thrace bordering on the Illyrian Thunatae (ie western Ukrainian/Rumanian area) (*Geography*, Book 7, Chapter 5, Section 7).<sup>21</sup>

Broadly speaking, the Medi dwelt in western Russia near and in Rumania. Lempriere's *A Classical Dictionary* also makes reference to them, but as the "Medobythini, a people of Thrace" (p. 365). It should also be noted that a river in the Baltic region was known as the *Persante* (Henrik Birnbaum, "Indo-Europeans between the Baltic and the Black Sea", *The Journal of Indo-European Studies*, Vol. 12, Nos. 3 & 4, p. 238). which may be a direct derivation of Persian.

*Peoples, Nations and Cultures* by Professor John Mackenzie explains:

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<sup>21</sup> He also mentions “the Caucasian, or Moschian, Mountains” (Book 11, Chapter 2, Section 1).

“The name of the Belorussians is thought to derive either from their light blond hair, their white folk costumes or from the fact that their land remained unconquered by the Mongols in the 13<sup>th</sup> century ... Before the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Belorussians had no experience of national independence, having always been under Soviet, Russian, Lithuanian or Polish rule.” (p. 295)



*Belorussian national dress*

As they migrated into Russia out of the Middle East, their language gradually changed. D'iakonov notes

"The fate of the Iranian dialects is ... very vague ... in the first millennium B.C.E. **the language of the Ukrainian Scythians was still understandable for the ancient Medians**" (Igor D'iakonov, "On the Original Home of the Speakers of Indo-European", *Journal of Indo-European Studies*, Vol. 13, Nos. 1 & 2, p. 148). [emphasis mine]

Such a revelation. His statement is obviously self-explanatory. We have seen historical reference to the Medi and Medo tribes in the western Ukraine as being descended from the original Medes. One of the tribes of the Medes was Budii according to Herodotus: he refers to the Budini (or Boudini) nation he visited near the Borysthenes (*The Histories*, Book 4, Chapter 21, Section 108). They dwelt among the *Sauromatai*. Soviet historian Vakar writes that the word Budini is a variation of Vudini, Veneti, Venedi or Vendi and that various authorities feel that they may well be the most ancient of Slavic tribes and remote ancestors of the Belorussians (Nicholas Vakar, *Belorussia. The Making of a Nation*, p. 38).

Today one branch of these Medo-Persian people is known as the Buzhians or Volhynians and they dwell in north-west Ukraine. Physical anthropologists tell us that like the White Russians, they are slightly shorter than the central/eastern Ukrainians (Madai) and have a high percentage of blondes. Overall, their eyes are a light-brown in colour, but many have

blue eyes. They are fair-skinned (John Geipel, *The Europeans: an Ethnohistorical Survey*, p. 230) and like the mixed remnants in Iran, their headform is brachycephalic (Carlton Coon, *The Races of Europe*, pp. 570-71; Griffith Taylor, *Environment, Race and Migration*, p. 214) while their closest genetic relatives are the White Russians (*Great Soviet Encyclopedia*, Vol. 10, p. 610).

The Volhynians are often included with the Belorussians by historians. Let us also remember that the original name of the Volhynians was Buzhians (Samuel Cross, *The Russian Primary Chronicle*, p. 38). One of the tribes of the Medes were the Busae, as we saw previously. Surely, then, the blonde, neo-Nordic Volhynians descend from the Medo-Persians? Another tribe among the Medo-Persians was the Sagartii. In southern Russia anciently dwelt the Saghadu (Herbert Hannay, *European And Other Race Origins*, p. 310) or Sagetai (Hannay, *ibid*, p. 311). Various other people in that area were called Persae and Parthi by Roman writers (Hannay, *ibid*, p. 422). With them were the Dahi tribe, very likely descended from the Dai tribe of Persia.

Another tribe of ancient Persia was the Derusiaei - could this have been the remnants of the Mitanni? A district of Medo-Persia was named Gedrosia (Michael Grant, *Ancient History Atlas. 1700 BC to AD 565*, p. 21; Edward Rapson, *Ancient India*, map between pages 28, 29) and later we find the Gerus or Gerrhus river in Georgia flowing into the Caspian Sea (Lempriere's *A Classical Dictionary*, p. 282). Another river with the same name was found in Scythia (Lempriere, *ibid*). Also, a city of Gerusa once existed in Georgia (Lempriere, *ibid*).

## Conclusions

At the outset of this article I referred to Russian President Putin and his open ambition to unite the territories of the old Russian Empire and Soviet Union (refer to the **Appendix. Territorial Expansion of Russia** for a map of this expansion over these vast territories that took centuries). Especially uniting the nations of Belorussia and Ukraine with Russia itself. Will he succeed?

Ethnically take a close look at photographs of himself – from his youth to the present. What do you see? I see a man representing many of the people in western Russia that are a mix of Abrahamic and Meshech stock. So today, the peoples of Russia are from a number of sons listed under Japheth, but many are also descended from Abraham's concubine Keturah.

The scores of ethnic groups resident in this vast country can be more-or-less categorised into several stocks or nations. Biblically we can be reasonably sure of the following origins of these peoples:

- Great Russians – Meshech and Tubal
- Belorussians (White Russians) – Midian with Medan in the south
- Ukrainians (Ruthenians) – mainly Madai with Medan in the northwest
- Central Asian – Gog/Edom
- Far eastern Asians and Eskimos – Magog
- Plus many others

This is all explained in my book *In Search of ... the Origins of Nations* (chapters 8, 12).

Of course the boundaries of these nations do not show a clear racial picture. Instead, there is some overlap and like all nations, demonstrate a model of a cline.

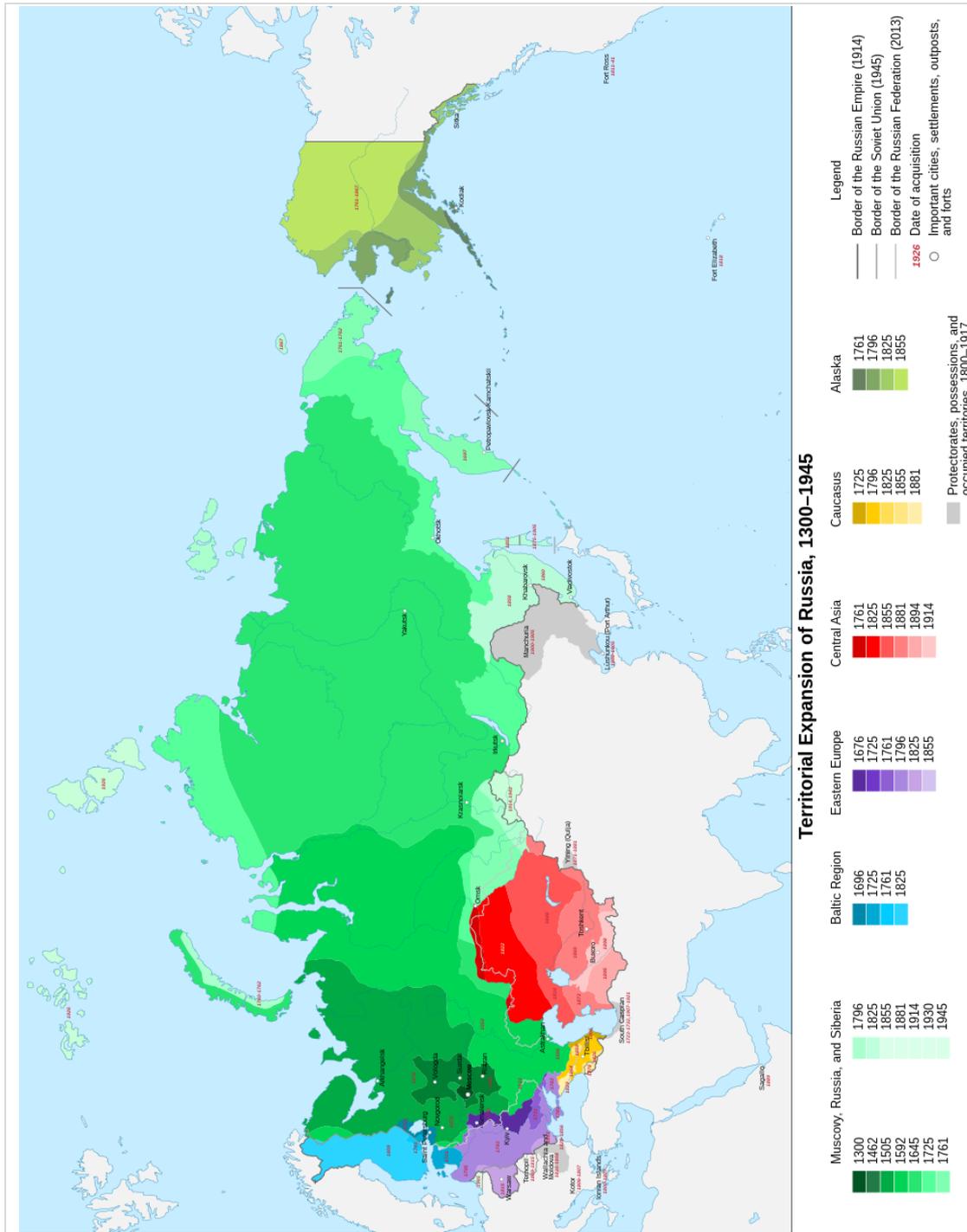
Today the majority of the Latvians, Lithuanians, Belorussians and northwest Ukrainians plus some others of their stock scattered across the greatness of Russia, descend from Abraham through Keturah, dwelling among the peoples of Meshech and Tubal.

From the above research, one can conclude that the Belorussians and northwest Ukrainians descend from Abraham's sons Midian and Medan.



*The modern locations of the nations discussed in this article*

# Appendix. Territorial Expansion of Russia



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## ***Who are the Peoples of Rosh?***

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