## This Week's Developments

## < June 2 - 8, 2024 >

- Gaza ceasefire: Biden says deal 'must get done'
- Israel nears decision on Lebanon border offensive
- West crossing a dangerous new threshold in Ukraine
- Russia & Sudan negotiate over weapons-for-port deal
- US and British airstrikes hit Yemen, Houthis say
- World War 3 has already started
- Additional & Supporting Articles

## Gaza ceasefire: Biden says deal 'must get done'

The Times, June 4, 2024



#### **EVENT**

President Biden has said the ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas "must get done" as the US sought support from the UN to back the proposal. "We are working for a ceasefire and hostage deal that would allow the United States and our partners to begin the work to rebuild homes, schools and hospitals in Gaza to help repair communities destroyed in the chaos of war. This deal must get done," Biden tweeted on Twitter/X. The comments come after the US circulated a one-page draft resolution to the UN Security Council to back the three-phase truce, which seeks to free all hostages, allow aid into the territory and end the almost eight-month war in Gaza. "We call on Hamas to accept this deal, that Israel is ready to move forward with, and we urge countries with influence over Hamas to help ensure that it does so," the group, which includes the US and the UK, wrote in a joint statement. Yet the Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu has signalled to local media that the deal is conditional, saying the country will only agree to a ceasefire that includes the elimination of Hamas.

### COMMENT

Since October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 and the terrible Hamas attack on Israel, Biden has tried to cajole, coax and pressure Netanyahu to engage in discussions about a deal to end the war. The White House set deadlines and even red lines all of which faded. This latest and possibly final throw of the dice to get a deal looks likely to fail. Netanyahu said "claims that we agreed to a ceasefire without our conditions being met are incorrect". He reiterated that the primary aim of the war was "the elimination of Hamas". Israel remains determined to remove the pricking brier of Hamas. The Bible says that this will happen. Despite international pressure Israel's nearby enemies will be destroyed.

## BIBLE QUOTE

And there shall be no more a pricking brier unto the house of Israel, nor any grieving thorn of all that are round about [surrounding / nearby] them, that despised them; and they shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

# Israel nears decision on Lebanon border offensive, army chief says

Reuters, June 4, 2024



#### **EVENT**

Israel is ready for an offensive along the northern border with Lebanon and is nearing a decision, the chief of staff said on Tuesday, as the Hezbollah movement said it was not seeking to widen the conflict but was ready to fight any war imposed on it. The conflict between Hezbollah and Israel, which has been fought in parallel to the Gaza war, has intensified in recent days, adding to concerns that an even wider confrontation could break out between the heavily armed adversaries. Israeli Military Chief of General Staff Herzi Halevi said the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) were ready to move to an offensive in the north. "We are prepared after a very good process of training up to the level of a General Staff exercise to move to an offensive in the north," he said in a recorded statement. "We are approaching a decision point." The hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah have been their worst since they waged war in 2006, and tens of thousands of people on both sides of the border have been forced to flee their homes.

## COMMENT

This week there have been a number of "full escalation" warnings about a full blown war between Israel and Hezbollah. Hezbollah announced on Tuesday it had launched a squadron of one-way attack drones at an Israeli military barracks for a second consecutive day, calling it a response to a deadly Israeli attack in Naqoura, Lebanon. Large fires broke out in northern Israel overnight, Israeli police said early Tuesday, attributing the blazes to rocket fire from southern Lebanon. In Zechariah 12 we read that the leaders of Israel will become like a flaming torch among sheaves. And that they will burn up and consume the surrounding people (Hamas / Hezbollah). War is coming....

## BIBLE QUOTE

"On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume all the surrounding peoples right and left, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place.

(Zechariah 12:6 NIV)

# The West is crossing a dangerous new threshold Ukraine

The Times, June 1, 2024



#### **EVENT**

Since the autumn of 2022 Ukraine's western backers have crossed one threshold after another in response to President Putin's invasion of his neighbour. After much agonising, the West first gave Kyiv offensive multiple-launch rockets, then Patriot air defence missiles, then Nato tanks, then cruise missiles, then F-16 aircraft, and latterly, ATACMS — the US army's tactical ballistic missile system. On Thursday, President Biden took a hesitant step across the most delicate threshold of all, announcing that Ukraine could use some of the most offensive of these US weapons to strike at targets on the Russian side of the border opposite Ukraine's Kharkiv region. No wonder Kremlin figures are rushing to the microphone to issue — as usual — dark threats about escalation towards a general European war. Nato is determined not to be frightened by Russian bluster, even though some of its individual leaders manifestly are. Like the US military aid package in April, Nato simply views this threshold as one it must now cross if Ukraine is to stay in the fight against a rapidly mobilising Russian war machine

## **COMMENT**

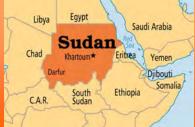
Ukraine is already believed to have used the British-supplied Storm Shadow cruise missile, with London's permission, against fixed targets on the Russian side of the border. A number of long-range weapons systems may be involved in the coming weeks. Ukraine has already used U.S. weapons to strike inside Russia in recent days, according to a U.S. senator and a Western official familiar with the matter. The Bible says specifically that the king of the south (US/UK) will "push" – militarily provoke – Gog the Russian ruler. The word "push" means to "gore" as a horn of an animal. It is a good analogy for what is happening. Missile strikes using US/UK weapons = a goring of Gog.

## BIBLE QUOTE

And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him [Gog]: 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.

## Russia and Sudan negotiate over weapons-for-port deal

Associated Press, June 5, 2024



### **EVENT**

A Sudanese delegation arrived in Russia for talks this week for what Sudanese officials have said is a trip aimed at finalizing an agreement that would grant Russia their first African port. A senior Sudanese army official said in an interview last month the delegation will conclude a deal in which the Kremlin will offer "vital weapons and munitions" to Sudan in exchange for a "logistics supply point." The agreement fulfills a Kremlin ambition to establish a warm water port on Sudan's strategically important Red Sea coast; a previous deal was halted after a military coup in Sudan in 2019. The Kremlin has considered a Red Sea port a priority since 2008. It would allow Russia "to protect its economic interests in the area and improve its military posture vis-à-vis the West," according to the think tank Institute for the Study of War. Russian defense experts believe a Sudan port would expand Russia's access to trade through the Suez Canal, and Russians would view the port as proof of the country's great power status.

## **COMMENT**

Russia's alignment to Sudan is foretold in Ezekiel 38. The AV translates a place called Cush in the Hebrew as Ethiopia. Cush isn't really Ethiopia. Cush at the time of Ezekiel corresponds almost exactly to Sudan. Or to be even more accurate North Sudan. Sudan split into two nations in 2011. From 1070 BC to AD350 the area we now know as North Sudan was called the Kingdom of Kush. North Sudan is mainly Islamic. South Sudan is mainly Christian. So who is Putin working with militarily?... the answer is North Sudan – ancient Kush! It corresponds exactly with Ezekiel 38. We also know Gog comes with many ships. This port will help Gog with this. North Sudan is also allied to Iran as they are Shia Muslim. Iran is also on the list of nations that are allied to Russia.

## BIBLE QUOTE

I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. Persia, Cush {AV says Ethiopia} and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets,

(Ezekiel 38:4-5 NIV)

## US and British airstrikes hit Yemen, Houthis say

Reuters, June 7, 2024



#### **EVENT**

U.S. and British forces carried out six airstrikes on targets in Yemen on Friday, a Houthirun television station said. Four attacks were made on the airport of Hodeidah - a main port city on the Red Sea - and the seaport of Salif to the north, Al-Masirah TV said. Two strikes also hit the Al-Thawra region north of the Yemeni capital Sanaa, it said. The Houthis, who control Sanaa and most populous areas, have attacked international shipping in the Red Sea since November in solidarity with the Palestinians in the war between Israel and Hamas militants, drawing U.S. and British retaliatory strikes since February. Yemen's Houthi rebels on Thursday said they had launched two joint military attacks with the Iraqi Islamic Resistance militia group against ships at Israel's Haifa port, a claim denied by the Israeli army. Like Hezbollah in Lebanon and other armed groups in Syria, the Houthis and the Iraqi group, which includes several armed factions, are part of the so-called Axis of Resistance, an anti-western political and military coalition led by

## COMMENT

Tehran.

The Sabeans were an ancient group of South Arabians. They founded the kingdom of Saba in modern-day Yemen. In Joel 3 we read of the sons and daughters of the "coasts of Philistia" i.e. the Gaza Strip - being sold to the Sabeans. The Sabeans lived in modern day Yemen. We may well see the destruction of Hamas and the deportation of some Palestinians to Yemen. The Houthi terrorist group is a Shia Islamist political and military organization that emerged from Yemen in the 1990s. They are based in Yemen and back Hamas and the war against Israel. Following the outbreak of the 2023 Israel–Hamas war, the Houthis began to fire missiles at Israel and to attack ships off Yemen's coast in the Red Sea. Yemen has a part to play in Bible prophecy.

## BIBLE QUOTE

And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: for the LORD hath spoken it. Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:

(Joel 3:8-9)

## World War 3 has already started

Daily Telegraph, June 6, 2024



### **EVENT**

The D-Day commemorations in Normandy took place against a sombre backdrop. Ukraine's war for national survival has been raging for over two years, and the Middle East is on fire. While the Second World War is in our thoughts this week, we should soon be turning our thoughts on World War Three. Putin has demonstrated military aggression in Ukraine and Georgia and shown a willingness in the former to commit to a lengthy and costly military campaign of attrition. Iran, meanwhile, has taken advantage of chaos in the Middle East to establish regional hegemony since the Iraq War in 2003. Tehran has built influential and violent proxies in Yemen, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, funded and supported by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which provides command, training and arms for these proxies. With all eyes on Normandy, the Third World War is closer than we realise: we are already fighting it.

## **COMMENT**

As the world remembers events of the Second World War with Bible in hand we know that World War 3 is coming. The Bible calls it Armageddon. It is a time when all nations will be gathered against Jerusalem to battle. Israel will be the epicentre of global conflict and Jerusalem will be at the heart of it. The word 'Armageddon' is made up of three Hebrew words presented below in an anglicised form: Arema – a heap of sheaves, Gai – valley, Dan – judgement. When all these elements are combined, the word is found to mean: 'A heap of sheaves in a valley for judgement.' Joel 3 connects these themes together. Joel 3:2 tells us all nations will be gathered and "I will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat. Joel 3:14 connects this valley of Jehoshaphat closely to Rev 16:16 and Armageddon. "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision."

## BIBLE QUOTE

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

(Revelation 16:15-16)

## This Week's Developments

## < May 19 – June 1, 2024 >

- The last 48 hours may change the Middle East forever
- Israel defiant after ICJ rules it must stop Gaza attack
- Iran and Hamas leaders meet, vow to destroy Israel
- Russia begins nuclear weapon drills near Ukraine
- Putin wants Ukraine ceasefire on current frontlines
- Spain, Norway & Ireland recognise a Palestinian state
- Additional & Supporting Articles

# The last 48 hours may change the Middle East forever

Newsweek, May 21, 2024



#### **EVENT**

As if the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip and the surrounding unrest were not enough to test the volatile fault lines of the Middle East, the sudden death of the Iranian president and the decision by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to seek warrants for the arrest of Israel's prime minister and top Hamas leaders raise new questions about the fate of the region. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi was confirmed dead Monday alongside his entourage, including Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and other senior officials, when their helicopter crashed a day earlier upon a return trip from a visit to the border with neighboring Azerbaijan. Just hours after news of Raisi's death was announced, ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan made international headlines when he confirmed his highly anticipated decision to seek an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, alongside Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and Hamas' two top leaders, Political Bureau Chair Ismail Haniyeh and Gaza chief Yahya Sinwar.

### COMMENT

There have been a number of major developments in the Middle East in the last week or so. About 10 days ago the president and also the foreign minister of Iran were both killed when their helicopter crashed in bad weather. The strange thing is (not fully explained yet) why 2 other helicopters in the convoy survived and landed OK. It's thrown the Iranian government into crisis mode as Raisi was was a major cog in the government and tipped to be the next supreme leader. Whatever the cause of the crash we can surely see God's hand in this as we know he sets up every world leader and some are the basest of man – however they are bringing about His plan and purpose. Another major event was the ICC making an international arrest warrant for Netanyahu.

## BIBLE QUOTE

Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: See Daniel 4:17

## Israel defiant after ICJ rules it must stop Gaza attack

The Telegraph, May 24, 2024



#### **EVENT**

Israel remained defiant on Friday after the UN's top court ruled that it should stop its operations in Gaza. Israeli officials lashed out at the landmark ruling, claiming that the International Court of Justice had got it wrong. "Israel has not and will not carry out military operations in the Rafah area that create living conditions that could cause the destruction of the Palestinian civilian population, in whole or in part," national security adviser Tzachi Hanegbi said in a joint statement with the foreign ministry spokesman. Judges at the court ruled Israel must immediately halt its military offensive in Gaza. The United Nations' top court accepted arguments by South Africa for the enforcement of emergency provisional measures to protect Palestinians civilians. The petition is part of a wider genocide case brought by South Africa against Israel, which judges have not yet ruled on. "The state of Israel must immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza," presiding judge Nawaf Salam said on Friday.

## COMMENT

Orders from the ICJ, which rules in disputes between countries, are legally binding and cannot be appealed, but the court has no means of enforcing its decisions. The ICJ accuses Israel of genocide (the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group). The word "genocide" didn't exist before 1944. It is a very specific term coined by a Polish-Jewish lawyer named Raphael Lemkin who sought to describe Nazi policies of systematic murder during the Holocaust. Israel is not committing genocide but instead is fighting against terrorists who call for the destruction of Israel as a nation... genocide!

## BIBLE QUOTE

Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar;....: If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever. Israel will NEVER be destroyed (Jeremiah 31:36-37)

# Iran's Khamenei and Hamas leader meet, vow to destroy Israel

Israel World News, May 23, 2024



## **EVENT**

During a meeting, Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh declared that they would see the day when "Israel will be eliminated." Haniyeh was visiting Iran representing Hamas at the funeral of Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash. "The divine promise to eliminate the Zionist entity will be fulfilled, and we will see the day when Palestine will rise from the river to the sea," Khamenei told Haniyeh during the meeting. Haniyeh responded, "God willing we will see that day together." Referencing recent anti-Israel protests on college campuses, Iranian religious leader expressed approval of widespread endorsement of their joint cause. "Who would have believed that one day, slogans in support of Palestine would be raised in US universities and that the flag of Palestine would be raised there?" Also attending Raisi's funeral were Deputy leader of Hezbollah, Naim Qassem, and a representative from the Houthi terror group.

## COMMENT

Following the death of the Iranian president many of Israel's enemies gathered in Iran to attend his funeral. It was an opportunity for those who want to destroy Israel to come together and reaffirm their commitment to bring Israel to an end through whatever means. In this article we read of the leaders of Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthi's all calling for the elimination of Israel. Psalm 83 speaks of a coalition of Israel's nearby enemies who call for the total destruction of the nation of Israel. Assyria we are told joins these local enemies. Ancient Assyria covered Syria, Iraq and Iran. Iran has proxy armies in all these countries and all of them have one objective – to destroy Israel. Psalm 83 is playing out before us and will evolve into the initial inner ring war....

## BIBLE QUOTE

They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: <a href="CLICK HERE">CLICK HERE</a> to watch new video on Iran in Bible Prophecy. (Psalm 83:3-5)

## Russia begins nuclear weapon drills near Ukraine

The Times, May 21, 2024



## **EVENT**

Russia has begun drills to practice the launch and use of tactical nuclear weapons, a move the Kremlin has said is in response to "escalatory" comments by western officials about the war in Ukraine. The exercises are being held in undisclosed locations close to areas of Ukraine occupied by Russian forces. They involve Iskander and hypersonic Kinzhal missiles and are aimed at testing "the readiness of combat units to respond and to unconditionally ensure the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Russian state", the Russian defence ministry said. Moscow has said that the drills are being staged because of comments by British and French officials. President Macron told the Economist magazine that Nato troops could be sent to Ukraine, while Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton, the foreign secretary, said Britain would not object if Kyiv used its missiles to hit targets inside Russia.

## COMMENT

Britain, France and Germany have now given the greenlight to allow their weapons given to Ukraine to be used against Russia. President Biden was holding back and did not want US weapons used directly against Russia. However, this changed yesterday. Joe Biden has given Ukraine permission to use American-supplied weapons to strike targets in Russia, but only near the Kharkiv region, US officials say. Russia will see this move as an escalation and a huge provocation. It comes at a time when Russia is practising using tactical nuclear weapons. Dmitry Medvedev said on Friday that Russia was not bluffing when it spoke of the possibility of using tactical nuclear weapons against Ukraine. The Bible says that Gog will use "shocking destruction" to succeed. We have seen shocking destruction but it is possible there is more to come in Ukraine.

## BIBLE QUOTE

At the end of their rule, when their sin is at its height, a fierce king, a master of intrigue, will rise to power. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause a shocking amount of destruction and succeed in everything he does. He will destroy powerful leaders and devastate the holy people.

(Daniel 8:23-24 NLT)

## Putin wants Ukraine ceasefire on current frontlines

Reuters, May 24, 2024



## **EVENT**

Russian President Vladimir Putin is ready to halt the war in Ukraine with a negotiated ceasefire that recognises the current battlefield lines, four Russian sources told Reuters, saying he is prepared to fight on if Kyiv and the West do not respond. Three of the sources, familiar with discussions in Putin's entourage, said the veteran Russian leader had expressed frustration to a small group of advisers about what he views as Western-backed attempts to stymie negotiations and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's decision to rule out talks. "Putin can fight for as long as it takes, but Putin is also ready for a ceasefire – to freeze the war," said another of the four, a senior Russian source who has worked with Putin and has knowledge of top level conversations in the Kremlin. He, like the others cited in this story, spoke on condition of anonymity given the matter's sensitivity. For this account, Reuters spoke to a total of five people who work with or have worked with Putin at a senior level in the political and business worlds.

#### COMMENT

It is highly likely that the war in Ukraine has reached some negotiated standoff or settlement before the outer circle war begins. Russia we know is going to invade Israel with the help of Iran, Turkey and other nations. To do this will require a huge force and military focus. No nation on earth wants to fight two major wars at once and few are capable of doing so - even for a short period of time. Therefore, it makes sense that the Ukraine war at the very least is not happening at the intensity it is now. The other point is that ancient Magog covered southern Russia and south eastern Ukraine. It is this exact terrorist that Putin is saying he will accept as a condition of stopping the war. In other words Putin (Gog) wants the final piece of Magog. This is his bottom line...

## BIBLE QUOTE

The word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, set your face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. And I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, (Ezekiel 38:1-4)

# Spain, Norway and Ireland formally recognize a Palestinian state as EU rift with Israel widens

Associated Press, May 28, 2024



## **EVENT**

Spain, Norway and Ireland formally recognized a Palestinian state on Tuesday in a coordinated effort by the three Western European nations to add international pressure on Israel to soften its response to last year's Hamas-led attack. Israel condemned the diplomatic move, which will have no immediate impact on the war in Gaza. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said in a televised address from Madrid that "this is a historic decision that has a single goal, and that is to help Israelis and Palestinians achieve peace." Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz quickly lashed out at Spain on X, saying that Sánchez's government was "being complicit in inciting genocide against Jews and war crimes." Ireland and Norway soon joined Spain in formalizing a decision they had jointly announced the previous week. The Palestinian flag was raised in Dublin outside Leinster House, the seat of Ireland's parliament.

## **COMMENT**

As of May 2024, the State of Palestine is recognized as a sovereign state by 145 of the 193 member states of the United Nations. This now includes Ireland, Norway and Spain. We might ask what actual land the so-called State of Palestine covers? The State of Palestine had been officially declared by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on 15 November 1988, claiming sovereignty over the internationally recognized Palestinian territories: the West Bank, which includes East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. This remains the case today. So essentially the vast majority of the nations of the world see the Palestinian State as having East Jerusalem as part of its territory. Israel of course does not recognise any of this. And nor does God himself. In fact in Joel 3 which describes events leading to Armageddon God says the nations will divide his land...

## BIBLE QUOTE

For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land

(Joel 3:1-2)

- 2024-06-08 Biden aide raises possible increased deployments of U.S. strategic nuclear weapons Reuters
- 2024-06-08 Benny Gantz delays statement after hostage rescue Reuters
- 2024-06-07 Putin threatens to supply Britain's enemies with his advanced missiles 2.58 min YouTube
- 2024-06-07 IDF Strike Kills Terrorists INSIDE UNRWA School; Hamas REJECTS Hostage Deal TBN Israel 14.28 min YouTube
- 2024-06-07 IDF ELIMINATES Senior Hamas Leader; Nears Hezbollah OFFENSIVE Decision TBN Israel -15.39 min YouTube
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- 2024-05-31 Trump supporters call for riots and violent retribution after verdict Reuters
- 2024-05-31 Israel's Gantz at the crossroads over challenge to Netanyahu Reuters
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- 2024-04-24 As climate risks rise, so does your insurance Canada's National Observer- Climate News







of Ros (river in Ukraine) Meshech and Tubal (rivers in Russia)"?

## This Week's Developments

< May 19 – June 8, 2024 >

- Amid war, Putin looks east
- Benny Gantz delays statement after hostage rescue
- Trump supporters call for riots and violent retribution
- Putin: oil pipeline alongside new gas link to China?
- Study: Summer 2023 was the hottest in 2,000 years
- Additional & Supporting Articles

## Amid war, Putin looks east

Reuters, June 7, 2024



### **EVENT**

Cut off from the West, Russia is pitching its \$2 trillion economy to giants like China and Saudi Arabia and longer-term prospects like Zimbabwe and Afghanistan at its premier investment forum in St Petersburg, which was founded by the tsars as a window to Europe. The war in Ukraine has led to the biggest upheaval in Russia's relations with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, and Western sanctions have forced a once-in-a-century revolution in Russia's economic relations. Since Peter the Great laid the foundations of the modern Russian state and made St Petersburg the capital in the early 18th Century, Russia's rulers have looked to the West as a source of technology, investment and ideas. The 2022 invasion of Ukraine, though, has forced President Vladimir Putin to pivot towards Asia and the rest of the non-Western world amid what the Kremlin says amounts to an economic blockade by the United States and its European allies. Western sanctions have not torpedoed Russia's economy, however, and Moscow has nurtured ties with China, major regional powers in the Middle East and across Africa and Latin America. It is less clear, though, how much cash these countries are prepared to invest in Russia's economy, and at what price. No blockbuster deals were announced so far. But Russian officials say it is just beginning - and that relations with the West are ruined for a generation.

## **COMMENT**

- Besides China, Russia is also courting African nations such as South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria. Saudi Arabia and Iran delegates were in attendance as were delegates from some European countries like Bulgaria. This coincides with the Russo/China pipeline proposal headline, and the recent visit of Putin to China for talks with President Xi. However, no deals have been struck yet, and now that Ukraine has been given the green light to strike within Russian borders the pressure is on and Putin is not happy. A lot of factors are weighing in and it is not difficult to envision that things could come to a head very quickly. We wonder sometimes what part this war plays in the prophetic picture, but here we see a major shift of focus.

## BIBLE QUOTE

I saw come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs ... for they are spirits of demons, doing signs—which go forth unto the kings of the earth, and of the whole world, to bring them together to the battle of that great day of God the Almighty; — and they did bring them together to the place that is called in Hebrew Armageddon.

Rev 16:14,16

## Benny Gantz delays statement after hostage rescue

Reuters, June 7, 2024



## **EVENT**

Israel's centrist war cabinet minister Benny Gantz has delayed a statement he was due to give later on Saturday in which he was widely expected to announce his resignation from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's emergency government. Last month, Gantz presented the conservative prime minister with a June 8 deadline to come up with a clear day-after strategy for Gaza, where Israel has been pressing a devastating military offensive against the ruling Palestinian militant group Hamas. But following news that Israeli forces had rescued four Israeli hostages alive from Gaza, the minister's spokespeople said his statement would be postponed. They did not give a new time for the address, in which political commentators in leading Israeli newspapers said he was expected to announce his resignation. The departure of Gantz's centrist party would not pose an immediate threat to Netanyahu's governing coalition, which controls 64 of parliament's 120 seats, but it could have a serious impact nonetheless. With Gantz gone, Netanyahu would have to rely more heavily on the political backing of ultra-nationalist parties.

## **COMMENT**

Polls have shown Gantz' coalition Resilience Party to be the most formidable political rival to Netanyahu's Likud coalition, while polls have also indicated a recent revival of Netanyahu's popularity being the most favored person for Prime Minister. Israeli politics are complicated, but Netanyahu has shown himself to be a formidable political foe to anyone running against him. But even if Gantz were to displace Netanyahu, things would not change because Gantz shares the same objectives relative to Hamas, the West Bank and the 2 state solution. Israel and the world, it seems, are on a collision course.

## BIBLE QUOTE

Jerusalem, city of David, the place of my altar, you are in for trouble! Celebrate your festivals year after year. I will still make you suffer, and your people will cry when I make an altar of you. I will surround you and prepare to attack from all sides. From deep in the earth, you will call out for help with only a faint whisper. Then your cruel enemies will suddenly be swept away like dust in a windstorm.

# Trump supporters call for riots and violent retribution after verdict

Reuters, May 31, 2024



## **EVENT**

Supporters of former President Donald Trump, enraged by his conviction on 34 felony counts by a New York jury, flooded pro-Trump websites (Truth Social, Patriots.Win and the Gateway Pundit) with calls for riots, revolution and violent retribution. "Someone in NY with nothing to lose needs to take care of (judge) Merchan," wrote one commentator on Patriots.Win. "Hopefully he gets met with illegals with a machete," the post said in reference to illegal immigrants. On Gateway Pundit, one poster suggested shooting liberals "Time to start capping some leftys," said the post. "This cannot be fixed by voting." After Thursday's verdict, many of [Trump's] supporters also said that the American political system was broken and that only violent action could save the country. "1,000,000 men (armed) need to go to Washington and hang everyone. That's the only solution," said one poster on Patriots.win. Another added: "Trump should already know he has an army willing to fight and die for him if he says the words...!'ll take up arms if he asks." One researcher who studies extremist militias said the guilty verdict could inspire violence by reinforcing a conviction among some of Trump's supporters that he's a victim of a conspiracy orchestrated by his enemies.

## COMMENT

It would appear that since Trump entered the political arena people seem more than ever to feel encouraged and licensed to total uninhibited expression, vocal and/or physical, of whatever they want to say or do without consideration for anyone else but themselves and their own ideas and opinions, and willing to take up arms to enforce it. This is nothing but human nature in its unrestricted raw, and it is taking over the world in which we live. This is not unexpected if we follow God's word. It has been predicted, and our consolation is that the worse it gets, the closer we are to the great Divine restitution of all things.

## BIBLE QUOTE

...in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 2Ti 3:2-4

# Putin says oil pipeline could run alongside planned new gas link to China

Reuters, May 17, 2024



### **EVENT**

Russia could deliver oil as well as gas to China along a planned route via Mongolia, President Vladimir Putin said on Friday. Putin, wrapping up a two-day visit to China, said he and his hosts had confirmed their interest in moving forward with the proposed gas pipeline, the Power of Siberia 2. "Moreover, it's possible to lay both a gas pipeline and an oil pipeline in the same corridor," Putin said, appearing to revive an idea that was discussed as far back as 2018. However, he said there were also other options for supplying Russian energy to China including by tanker along the Northern Sea Route via the Arctic. "All options are possible, they are all acceptable and economically feasible. It's necessary to choose the best one. I am sure this work will also be completed," he told a televised news conference. The project has taken on added urgency for Russia as it bids to ramp up gas shipments to China to make up for the collapse of its exports to Europe because of the war in Ukraine.

## COMMENT

China will need fuel due to it's growing economy and there is no more reliable supplier than Russia. They also see it as being immune to Western sanctions. Russia currently sends gas to China through the Power of Siberia 1 pipeline, which began operating in 2019 and runs through eastern Siberia into northeast China - almost the exact location of the settlement of the ancient Magogian migration. The pipeline would carry 50 billion cubic metres of gas per year from the Yamal region in northern Russia - almost as much as the now idle Nord Stream 1 pipeline from Russia to Germany under the Baltic Sea that was damaged by explosions in 2022. Pipelines, etc., serve as political connectors tying nations together as one unit – a K of N coalition of Russia, China, Iran, Turkey, etc.

## BIBLE QUOTE

Eze 38:2 Son of man, let your face be turned against Gog, of the land of Magog (Eastern Russia, Mongolia, China?), the ruler of Rosh (Ukraine), Meshech (Russia), and Tubal (Kazakhistan); .... Persia (Iran), Cush, and Put (Africa) with them;

# Summer 2023 was the hottest in 2,000 years, study says

Reuters, May 14, 2024



## **EVENT**

The intense northern hemisphere summer heat that drove wildfires across the Mediterranean, buckled roads in Texas and strained power grids in China last year made it not just the warmest summer on record - but the warmest in some 2,000 years, new research suggests. New work published in the journal "Nature" suggests the 2023 heat eclipsed temperatures over a far longer timeline - a finding established by looking at meteorological records dating to the mid-1800s and temperature data based on the analysis of tree rings across nine northern sites. Based on tree ring data, the summer months in 2023 were on average 2.2 C (4 F) warmer than the estimated average temperature across the years 1 to 1890. Heatwaves are already taking a toll on people's health, with more than 150,000 deaths in 43 countries linked to heatwaves for each year between 1990 and 2019. When the data are adjusted for population size, Europe had the highest per capita toll with an average of 655 heat-related deaths each year per 10 million residents. Within the region, Greece, Malta, and Italy registered the highest excess deaths. Extreme heat can trigger heart problems and breathing difficulty or cause heat stroke.

## COMMENT

The casualties attributed to extreme temperatures account for about 1% of global deaths - roughly the same toll taken by the global COVID-19 pandemic. More than half of those heatwave-related excess deaths occurred in populous Asia. The increasing air temperatures are almost in synch with the increasing political and social temperature extremes we see throughout modern society, more "me, myself and I", less concern about "you", less tolerance for others and the opinions of others, shorter temper fuses, etc. There is possibility a connection between man's greed and the compromised earth's climate

## BIBLE QUOTE

Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Rom 8:20-22 Many rulers have ravaged my vineyard, trampling down the vines and turning all its beauty into a barren wilderness. They have made it an empty wasteland; I hear its mournful cry. The whole land is desolate, and no one even cares. – God

Jer 12:10-11