This Week's Developments

June 9 - 15, 2024

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- Russia begins tactical nuclear weapon drills
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Hezbollah Launches One of Its Largest Retaliatory Strikes on Israel

Foreign Policy, June 12, 2024



EVENT

Hezbollah launched around 170 missiles and rockets at northern Israel on Wednesday in retaliation for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) killing a top Hezbollah commander the day before. The strikes—which targeted Israeli military factories, bases, and an air surveillance station—were one of the largest Hezbollah attacks on Israel since the Israel-Hamas war began eight months ago. No casualties were reported. Hezbollah has traded fire with the IDF nearly every day since the conflict erupted, and in recent weeks, the Iranian-backed militant group has begun targeting Israel's Iron Dome air defense system, sparking wildfires along the border. Last week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned of "very intense action" to "restore security to the north" while visiting one of the blaze sites. On Tuesday, Israeli forces killed Taleb Sami Abdullah (known as Hajj Abu Taleb), the most senior Hezbollah commander to be killed yet.

COMMENT

US officials are publicly and privately urging Israel to avoid escalating the back-and-forth strikes that have been taking place for months between the IDF and the Lebanese militant movement Hezbollah. As one report put it "The conflict could quickly pull in other regional actors if not contained, due to the complex web of alliances and rivalries across the region." Tensions are escalating with Hezbollah which has the largest missile arsenal of any nonstate actor in the world. Hezbollah has said it will only stop its attacks on Israel once Netanyahu agrees to a cease-fire in Gaza. The Bible mentions Hezbollah as the "inhabitants of Tyre" in Psalm 83 and again in Joel 3. It is clear that Hezbollah will get drawn fully into a conflagration with Israel AND that Israel despite being wounded will ultimately defeat their nearby / surrounding enemies. God's judgements are coming.



Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence? and if ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head;

Eyeing showdown with Hezbollah, Israel presses shadow campaign in Syria

Reuters, June 10, 2024



EVENT

Israel has intensified covert strikes in Syria against weapons sites, supply routes and Iranian-linked commanders, seven regional officials and diplomats said, ahead of a threatened full-scale assault on Tehran's key ally Hezbollah in Lebanon. A June 2 air raid that killed 18 people, including an adviser with Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, targeted a clandestine, fortified weapons site near Aleppo, three of the sources said. In May, an air strike hit a convoy of trucks headed to Lebanon carrying missile parts and another raid killed Hezbollah operatives, four said. Israel has for years struck militant groups backed by arch-foe Iran in Syria and elsewhere, in a low-level campaign that burst into open confrontation after Israel and Palestinian group Hamas - another Iranian ally - went to war in Gaza on Oct. 7.

COMMENT

In April there was the first ever direct confrontation between Israel and Iran. Israel bombed the Iranian consulate in Damascus, killing the top IRGC commander for operations in the Levant. In retaliation, Iran fired some 300 missiles and drones at Israel, almost all of which were shot down. Israel then attacked Iranian territory with drones. Since then the fever pitch died down somewhat, however, tension is increasing again because of suspected Iranian weapons transfers to Lebanon. Many believe that escalation could be imminent between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon – hence Israel's strikes against weapons and supply routes in Syria. The Bible says that total destruction of Damascus is coming and that at this point Syria will end as a functioning nation. This is part of the initial inner ring war that takes place before Russia and Iran invade Israel.

BIBLE QUOTE

The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. ... The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria: they shall be as the glory of the children of Israel, saith the LORD of hosts.

(Isaiah 17:1+3)

Russia begins second stage of tactical nuclear weapon drills with Belarus

Reuters, June 11, 2024



EVENT

Russia said on Tuesday its troops had started the second stage of drills to practice the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons alongside Belarusian troops after what Moscow said were threats from Western powers. Russia says the United States and its European allies are pushing the world to the brink of nuclear confrontation by giving Ukraine billions of dollars worth of weapons, some of which are being used against Russian territory. Since sending thousands of troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24 2022, President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly said Russia could use nuclear weapons to defend itself in extreme situations, comments that the West has dismissed as sabre-rattling. Russia last month explicitly linked the nuclear drills ordered by Putin to what it said were "provocative statements and threats by certain Western officials against the Russian Federation"

COMMENT

"The situation on the European continent is quite tense, which is provoked every day by new decisions and actions of European capitals hostile to Russia, and above all by Washington," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said when asked about the drills. The Russian defence ministry announced on Tuesday that Russian and Belarusian units were conducting joint training "for the combat use of non-strategic nuclear weapons". There are two types of nuclear weapons - tactical or strategic. Tactical nuclear weapons are intended to devastate enemy targets in a specific area without causing widespread destruction and radioactive fallout. Strategic nuclear weapons are designed to destroy entire cities and cause vast damage. It is clear that Putin is preparing Russia to use these weapons one day. There is evidence in the Bible that they will be used at some point. Joel 2 speaks of pillars of smoke. Pillars is the Hebrew word for palm trees!



And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars [palm trees] of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

(Joel 2:30-31)

Putin offers ceasefire if Ukraine gives up annexed regions and Nato ambition

The Times, June 14, 2024



EVENT

Vladimir Putin has said he will order a ceasefire and begin peace talks if Ukraine gives up four regions invaded by Russia and abandons plans to join Nato — onerous conditions that were immediately dismissed by Kyiv. While the Kremlin has made similar demands in the past and reportedly suggested a ceasefire behind closed doors, this is the first time Putin has publicly offered a truce and listed his terms. The remarks seemed to be gauged at undercutting a peace conference of Ukrainian and western leaders in Switzerland this weekend, which Putin said would "set the discussion on the wrong track." Russia invaded the southeastern regions of Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia in February 2022, while also making a failed push capture the capital Kyiv in the north. It annexed the four regions later that year but doesn't fully control any of them. If Ukraine gave them up along with Crimea, which Moscow seized in 2014, it would relinquish 22 per cent of its territory.

COMMENT

After over 2 years of war between Russia and Ukraine there are attempts to try and bring about peace. Today President Zelensky of Ukraine will meet representatives of some 90 countries for talks. Russia is not invited, and China declined to participate. Putin has put his own proposals for a ceasefire which involve Ukraine agreeing never to join Nato and also giving up the Donbass area that Russia now occupies. Ukraine is totally against both these ideas. At some point it is likely that some negotiated standoff is achieved. As the Donbass was part of ancient Magog it is highly possible that Putin does get what he wants. We also know that God says Russia will invade Israel with a mighty army. Therefore the Ukraine war is over to a great extent when that occurs...

BIBLE QUOT<u>E</u>

Son of man, set thy face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

A new Cuban missile crisis? Putin sends warships to Havana

The Times, June 12, 2024



EVENT

The arrival of an unusual flotilla in Havana harbour was heralded by the thunderous sound of cannon fire, as 21 guns saluted a Russian "strike group" of warships, including a nuclear submarine. If the heads of locals were turned by the visitors to the colonial heart of the city, so too were those of the Americans who had been shadowing the vessels as they made their way to visit a former Cold War ally at a time of heightened tensions between Russia and the West. At the forefront of the flotilla was a 135-metre frigate, the Admiral Gorshkov, named after the head of the Soviet Union's once formidable Red Fleet. It was not clear whether the grey-hulled ship had been equipped with Russia's latest Zircon hypersonic missiles, capable of flying close to nine times the speed of sound, with a maximum range of 460 miles (740km). On its way to Cuba, the flotilla conducted drills in the Atlantic, simulating a missile strike on a group of enemy ships, according to Russia's ministry of defence, which released video of the exercise.

COMMENT

In 1962 Soviet nuclear weapons placed in Cuba brought the world as close as it has ever come to nuclear war. It became known as the Cuban missile crisis. Some are comparing Russian warships coming with 30 miles of US shores as a comparable escalation. John Kirby, the White House national security spokesman, has insisted the fleet does not represent an "imminent threat". James Bosworth, a political risk analyst, wrote in the World Politics Review that Russia is demonstrating "power projection" using its warships. The Bible says that Russia will come against the king of the south (US/UK) with "many ships." As well as invading Israel with many ships Russia could also use its ships around the world. Russia is clearly preparing for conflict....

BIBLE QUOTE

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

(Daniel 11:40)

UK's Labour pledges to recognize Palestinian state

Jerusalem Post, June 13, 2024



EVENT

Britain's opposition Labour Party, which is far ahead in polls before a July 4 election, pledged on Thursday to recognize a Palestinian state as a contribution to a renewed peace process. "Palestinian statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people," said Labour's election manifesto - the collection of policies it would enact if it forms the next government. "We are committed to recognizing a Palestinian state as a contribution to a renewed peace process which results in a two-state solution with a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state." The current Conservative-led government has previously said Britain could formally recognize a Palestinian state before the end of a peace process and that Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip must be given "the political perspective of a credible route to a Palestinian state and a new future."

COMMENT

In May, Spain, Ireland, and Norway officially recognised a Palestinian state, prompting an angry reaction from Israel, which has found itself increasingly isolated after more than seven months of conflict in Gaza. With Labour way ahead in the polls in the UK it looks highly possible that they will announce recognition of a Palestinian state. Labour has historically been far more anti Israel than the Conservative party. Labour leadership has been battling to distance itself from antisemitism within grass roots labour members. A new labour government will almost certainly be harder on Israel. The UK (like ancient Tyre) has been growing ever more distant from Israel. Joel 3 tells us that the nations of the world will divide God's land. We are also told that judgement is coming on the ships of Tarshish – symbolic of Britain's 'power. The two things could well be connected...

BIBLE QUOTE

For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: And upon all the cedars of Lebanon [home of Hezbollah], that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, [Golan Heights] ... And upon all the ships of Tarshish [UK] Interesting Britain is linked to these places (Isaiah 2:12-16)

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