

This Week's Developments

January 1 - 6, 2024 [[> go to Dec 10 – 31, 2023](#)]

- Hezbollah warns of all-out war if Israel escalates
- U.S. tries to put out sparks of a new war for Israel
- UK and allies issue 'final warning' to Houthis
- Israel unveils plan for rule in Gaza after the war
- Iran blames Israel, US for deadly blasts near grave
- Ruins of Japan's deadly earthquake seen from space
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

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Hezbollah warns of all-out war if Israel escalates in Lebanon

The Times, January 4, 2024



EVENT

Hezbollah's supreme leader, Hassan Nasrallah, has warned Israel that it is ready for war "without limits" should the IDF attack as Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, heads to the Middle East for a fourth time in an attempt to reduce tensions. Nasrallah declared that Israel's enemies had become "bolder than before, more willing to wage war than before" after Hamas's October 7 terror attack, which he celebrated as an act of resistance that had "brought down the idea of Israel as a safe haven for Jews". "Today I will not make any threats," he said. "But if the enemy decides to wage war on Lebanon, our combat will have no ceiling, no limit." Painting Hezbollah as the protector of the Lebanese state, he declared: **"If war is waged against Lebanon, the national interest will cause us to go to war without limit. We do not fear war.** If we were afraid we would not have opened a new front," he said referring to the escalating exchanges of fire between Hezbollah and Israel.

COMMENT

Israel and Hezbollah continue to exchange fire on a daily basis and have done so since October 7th when Hamas invaded Israel and massacred around 1200 Israelis. Hezbollah was created by Iran back in the 1980's and are many times stronger and more powerful than Hamas. Israel has reached a point when it will no longer tolerate terrorist groups on its borders. As one world affairs editor said this week, "there is increasing appetite in Israel for further conflict with Hezbollah at the Lebanese border." Psalm 83 tells us that "the inhabitants of Tyre" (base of Hezbollah in Lebanon) will indeed be part of the confederacy that comes against Israel. We are also told in Zechariah 11 that Lebanon itself will fail as a nation. A fire will devour their cedars and the mighty cedar will fall...

BIBLE QUOTE

Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars. Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down. There is a voice of the howling of the shepherds; for their glory is spoiled: a voice of the roaring of young lions; for the pride of Jordan is spoiled. *(Zechariah 11:1-3)*

U.S. tries to put out sparks of a new war for Israel

Newsweek, January 4, 2024



As the Biden administration grapples with an increasingly tense and unstable situation in the Middle East, Secretary of State Antony Blinken is heading to the region this weekend for the fourth time in three months on a tour expected to focus largely on easing resurgent **fears that the Israel-Hamas war could erupt into a broader conflict**. With international criticism of Israel's operations in Gaza mounting, growing U.S. concerns about the end game, and more immediate worries about a recent explosion in attacks in the Red Sea, Lebanon, Iran and Iraq, Blinken will have a packed and difficult agenda. He leaves just days after a suspected Israeli attack killed a senior Hamas leader in Beirut and, while a White House spokesman said “nobody should be shedding a tear” over his death, it could further complicate Blinken’s mission. Blinken leaves late Thursday on his latest extended Mideast tour, which will take him to Turkey, Greece, Jordan, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Israel, the West Bank and Egypt.

COMMENT

America is fearful of what could happen in the Middle East. It is now a tinder box ready to explode. They are putting every effort in to try and stop the conflict around Israel getting completely out of hand. Blinken’s visit **“is almost the last opportunity to promote any kind of political move”** in Lebanon, Michael Milshtein—the former head of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Military Intelligence's Department of Palestinian Affairs—told Newsweek. **“I’m not optimistic,”** he added. The trouble is that Israel will not tolerate the status quo any longer. The events of the 7th October showed the true colours and the true intentions of the terror groups that surround them. Israel believes that it has an existential threat and therefore the pricking briars must be removed.

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** them, that despised them; and they shall know that I am the Lord GOD. **The word “round about” is exactly the same word used several times in Zechariah 12 speaking of the time when Israel destroys with fire the people “round about” the inner ring war.** (Ezekiel 28:24)

UK and allies issue 'final warning' to Houthis over Red Sea attacks

The Times, January 3, 2024



EVENT

Britain, the United States and ten other countries have told the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen to stop their “profoundly destabilising” attacks in the Red Sea or “bear the responsibility of the consequences” as tensions sharply increased in the region. The joint statement, which had been days in the planning, was designed to be a “final warning” to the Houthis as the UK and the US prepared military action behind the scenes. Grant Shapps, the defence secretary, said that Britain would “not hesitate to take necessary and proportionate action” against the Houthis, who were part of Tehran’s so-called axis of resistance, should they continue to put innocent lives at risk and threaten the global economy. **The unprecedented warning follows weeks of attacks against commercial vessels crossing the Red Sea**, forcing some major companies to avoid the area, adding huge costs and delays to international shipping.

COMMENT

The Houthi rebels are yet another proxy army for Iran. The Houthis seized control of Yemen’s capital in 2014 and soon controlled much of the north. After Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates opened attack in 2015 in an unsuccessful attempt to rout the Houthis, the Houthis moved increasingly close to Iran as a source of military support. They also want the destruction of Israel and have fired long range missiles from Yemen to Israel since October 7th. These missiles have been intercepted by US ships in the region. The Houthis then went on to attack ships carrying freight through the Red Sea. 12% of all the world’s trade goes through the Suez Canal at the top of the Red Sea. Many ships companies have had to divert away from the Red Sea and sail around Africa adding weeks to the journey. Iran will also besiege the Persian Gulf.....

BIBLE QUOTE

The burden of the desert of the sea [[Persian Gulf](#)]. As whirlwinds in the south pass through; so it cometh from the desert, from a terrible land. A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. **Go up, O Elam [Iran]: besiege, O Media [Iran];** all the sighing thereof have I made to cease. *(Isaiah 21:1-2)*

Israel unveils plan for rule in Gaza after the war

Daily Telegraph, January 5, 2024



EVENT

Israel has unveiled the outline of a plan to rule Gaza after the war, under which it would have security control over the enclave but a Palestinian body would govern civil affairs. Under the “four corner” plan outlined by Yoav Gallant, the defence minister, a multi-national force would take charge of rebuilding Gaza in the wake of Israel’s aerial bombing campaign, which was launched in response to the Oct 7 Hamas massacre. Egypt, which has a border with Gaza and controls the Rafah crossing for aid and people, would also have a prominent but unspecified role in the plan, according to reports by the BBC and the Times of Israel on Thursday. Although **Israel would be in charge of security over Gaza**, it would not create Jewish settlements there, while a Palestinian council would be responsible for civil governance. According to the Times of Israel, this body would not be the Palestinian Authority, which governs the West Bank and which was expelled from Gaza in 2006 by Hamas after its election victory there.

COMMENT

The plan put forward by Israel’s defence minister is based on the assumption that Hamas is no longer in control of Gaza and does not pose a security threat to Israel. This plan is not yet agreed by the Israeli cabinet. Some ministers have called for Jewish resettlement in Gaza and the expulsion of Palestinians there to other countries. Whatever happens we know from Ezekiel 38 that by the time Russia (Gog) invades Israel that there is a time of Israel living safely (confidently) and without walls , bars and gates. It must be after the initial inner ring war is over and Hamas and Hezbollah and Syria etc have been removed from being a threat. Interestingly the inner ring war is mentioned in Ezekiel 38. It is the war that they are recovering from when Russia attacks.

BIBLE QUOTE

A long time from now you will be called into action. In the distant future you will swoop down on the land of Israel, **which will be enjoying peace after recovering from war [the inner ring war]** and after its people have returned from many lands to the mountains of Israel.

(Ezekiel 38:8 NLT)

Iran blames Israel, US for deadly blasts near grave of Guards general Soleimani

France24, January 4, 2024



EVENT

Iran blamed Israel and the United States on Wednesday for twin bomb blasts that killed at least 84 people in the country's south, ripping through a crowd commemorating Revolutionary Guards general Qassem Soleimani four years after his death in a US strike. The two explosions – labelled a "terrorist attack" by state media and regional authorities – came amid high Middle East tensions over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and the killing of a Hamas senior leader in Lebanon on Tuesday. The unclaimed attacks, which sparked fears of a widening conflict in the region, rattled global markets, where oil prices jumped more than three percent and sparked global condemnation. "Washington says USA and Israel had no role in terrorist attack in Kerman, Iran. Really? A fox smells its own lair first," the Iranian president's political deputy, Mohammad Jamshidi, wrote on X, formerly Twitter. "Make no mistake. The responsibility for this crime lies with the US and Zionist regimes (Israel) and terrorism is just a tool," he added.

COMMENT

Iran suffered the worst terrorist attack in the history of the Islamic Republic this week when dozens of people were killed in two bomb blasts in the city of Kerman. Iran immediately blamed Israel and America who have both denied being involved. Interestingly the jihadist group Isis has claimed responsibility for two bombings. The statement, which was posted on Isis-affiliated Telegram channels, claimed two suicide bombers named Omar al-Movahed and Seifollah Mujahed had killed scores of "polytheist" Shia Muslims in the explosions. Isis is Sunni Muslim and Iran is Shia Muslim and the two sides hate each other. We think of the descendants of Ishmael (where the Muslim religion came from) - he will be a wild man and attack every man...

BIBLE QUOTE

And the angel said, "You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means 'God hears'), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress. **This son of yours will be a wild man**, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. **He will live in open hostility against all his relatives.**" (Genesis 16:11-12)

Ruins from Japan's deadly earthquake seen from space

Associated Press, January 2, 2024



EVENT Satellite and aerial images show the extent of the mass devastation across western Japan after a powerful magnitude 7.5 earthquake caused widespread ramifications, including claiming the lives of dozens of people and leveling whole communities. Tsunami waves hit Japan's western seaboard, washing away homes, cars and infrastructure near Ukai and Suzu City. Multiple Maxar satellite images from Ukai show coastal communities wiped out by the earthquake-related events. More than 100 aftershocks were recorded after the initial earthquake, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Also in Ishikawa Prefecture, boats and the port in Suzu were damaged during the earthquake. The Maxar image below shows capsized boats floating near a dock area. The earthquake struck near Anamizu on New Year's Day at 4:10 p.m.

COMMENT The first day of the New Year of 2024 began with a huge 7.5 magnitude earthquake and a tsunami in Japan. 2024 will surely be a momentous year with Bible in hand. The war sparked off on October 7th between Israel and Hamas will surely continue to get worse until Zechariah 12, Psalm 83, Isaiah 17 etc are fulfilled. The initial inner ring war could develop in 2024. It could even be concluded in 2024. However, we don't know how quickly things could get out of control – it could take time – it could happen fast. The Ukraine war will at some point come to some negotiated standoff. It is unlikely Russia will want to invade Israel while still fighting a major war on its border. One thing is certain. Once the contractions have started (and they surely have) they never stop. They get worse and closer together until the final push – and then the baby is born. Jesus's return.

BIBLE QUOTE **A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come;** but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, **but I will see you again and you will rejoice,** and no one will take away your joy. (John 16:21-22)

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

DebkaFile Review (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence) **TV-7 Israel News** **Watchman Newscast**

2024-01-06 Chinese scientists display new-generation electronic warfare weapon design to the world - South China Morning Post

2024-01-06 China-U.S. cooperation 'no longer an option ... but an imperative' - Wang Yi - Reuters

2024-01-06 IDF ELIMINATES Islamic Jihad Official; RAIDS Terror Cell in Judea & Samaria - TBN Israel -10.39 min - YouTube

2024-01-05 Turkiye arrests mossad-linked suspects, triggering new low in bilateral ties - The West Asia Post - 4.58 min - YouTube

2024-01-04 The Three Most Wanted Names on Israel's Hamas Hit List - Vantage with Palki Sharma - 4.43 min - YouTube

2024-01-04 Israel-Iran SECRET WAR Heats Up; U.S. & Britain Plan JOINT ATTACK On Houthis - TBN Israel - 8.38 min - YouTube

2024-01-04 GAZA STRIP Security Vacuum Became EXISTENTIAL THREAT to Israel - 6.50 min - YouTube

2024-01-04 BREAKING- IDF CAPTURES Hamas Rocket Factory; STRIKES Hezbollah Outposts - 11.44 min - YouTube

2024-01-03 China unveils electromagnetic weapon design - 3.41 min - YouTube

2024-01-03 Hamas Leader ASSASINATED In Beirut; IDF Conquers Hamas Outpost In Gaza City - 11.41 min - YouTube

2024-01-01 Iran's warship enters Red Sea - West Asia staring at a full-scale war- - WION 5.47 min - YouTube

2024-01-01 A full-blown war in South China Sea in 2024- - Taiwan enters a 12-day crucial period - 4.40 min - YouTube

2023-12-09 Saudi Arabia & Turkey Just Sanctioned Israel With No More Oil! - 9.53 - YouTube

2023-12-09 The Wider Image - The home for Reuters in-depth visual storytelling

2023-12-09 Palestinians report Israeli battles in Khan Younis after US blocks Gaza ceasefire call - Reuters

2023-12-09 BREAKING- IDF Closing in On Hamas in Gaza - TBN Israel - 5.24 min - YouTube

2023-12-08 Israel Hamas War in Gaza- Is America Pulling Support to Israel- - Vantage with Palki Sharma - 5.13 - YouTube

2023-12-08 China, Russia condemn US Veto on Gaza ceasefire, say Washington complicit in bloodbath - 9.13 min - YouTube

2023-12-07 Russia and Saudi Arabia urge all OPEC+ powers to join oil cuts - Reuters

2023-12-06 Putin Discusses Israel-Hamas War During Rare Visit to UAE, Saudi Arabia - Vantage - 5.02 - YouTube

NATO PRESENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE



- Frankish Territory in 481
- Conquests of Clovis 481-511
- Conquests 531-614
- Conquests 714-768
- Conquests of Charlemagne 768-814
- Dependent territories
- Peoples tributary to Charlemagne
- Kingdom of Siagrius in 486
- Visigothic kingdom of Toulouse in 507
- Boundaries of the empire in 814



Carolingian Empire 481-814



2) Gog (Russia) advances on Turkey, Egypt *



RUSSIA ("CHIEF PRINCE" = "PRINCE OF ROSH")

○ TOBOLSK (Tubal)

○ MOSCOW (Meshech)

"LION"
TARSHISH
UK

GERMANY
(LAND OF
MAGOG)

GOMER
European Economic Community

"YOUNG LIONS"
(USA,
CANADA,
ETC)

Gibraltar

TURKEY
(Togarmah)

IRAQ/IRAN
(Persia)

INDIA

LIBYA

DEDAN

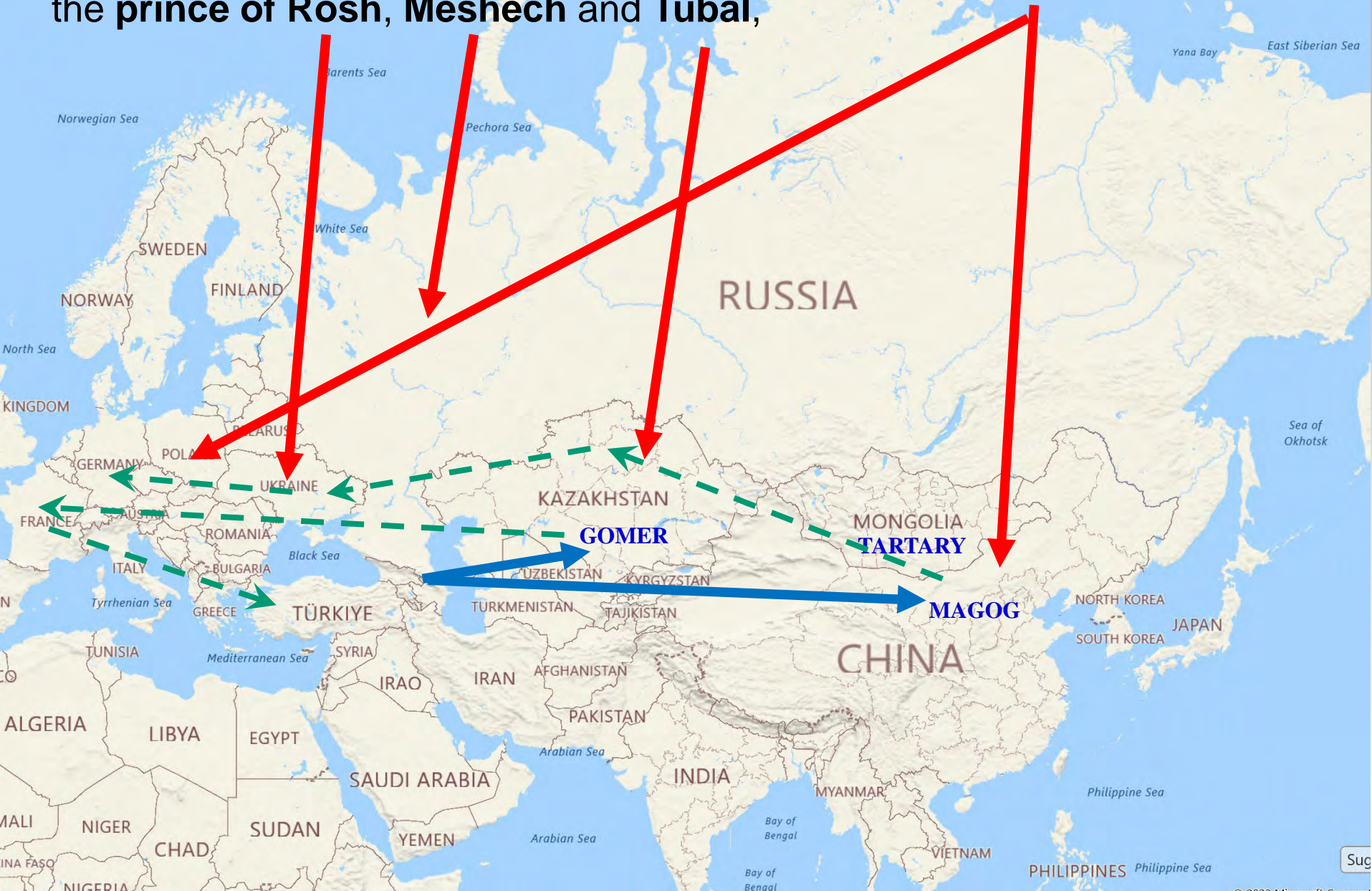
SHEBA

ETHIOPIA

AUSTRALIA

Legend HandOut

"Son of man, set your face toward **Gog of the land of Magog,**
the **prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal,**



"Son of man, set thy face against Gog (head), of the land of Magog (China?), prince of Ros (river in Ukraine) Meshech and Tubal (rivers in Russia)"?

This Week's Developments

December 10 – January 1, 2024

- Chinese scientists display EMP weaponry to the world
- Russia and Israel 'at lowest point' for decades
- Russia loads intercontinental ballistic missile into silo
- Pope approves blessings for same-sex couples
- Israel's Roman swords listed as top find of 2023
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Map 1

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Chinese scientists display new-generation electronic warfare weapon design to the world

South China Morning Post Jan 1, 2024



EVENT

Chinese scientists display new-generation electronic warfare weapon design to the world - Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP). Scientists have revealed the design concepts, key algorithms and manufacturing methods of a new electronic weapon. The weapon is designed to launch multiple beams from a single antenna, targeting various objects simultaneously. The intricate design of a new type of electronic warfare weapon has been revealed by a group of scientists from China – and it is something military forces across the globe are keen to get their hands on. In battle, some less advanced nations may lose control of their electromagnetic spectrum even before losing territorial ground. Losing control of the electromagnetic spectrum will inevitably lead to the loss of air and sea control. Only a handful of nations have acquired the new generation electronic warfare weapon technology, with Israel Aerospace Industries leading the pack with its Scorpius-SP pod. This compact device is roughly the size of an air-to-air missile and can be mounted under a fighter jet's wing. It can identify and simultaneously suppress targets in multiple directions, including fighter jets, ground radars and even incoming missiles, according to the company. In June 2022, Israel announced that an undisclosed Asian country had acquired this “most advanced” aerial electronic warfare equipment in a multimillion-dollar deal.

COMMENT

The Washington Examiner last year warned of an EMP attack by China that could wipe out North America, Europe, and Israel. “This new warfare uses cyber viruses, hacking, physical attacks, non-nuclear EMP weapons, and a nuclear EMP attack against electric grids and critical infrastructures. It renders modern armies, navies, and air forces obsolete. It paves the way for asymmetric warfare by small nations and terrorists. The U.S. is an easy target because virtually everything, military and civilian, relies on computers, and even the Pentagon uses the civilian Internet. The US is the most technologically advanced society, and therefore the most susceptible to EMP attack that could “black out” the Western world, dismantle all electricity and electronics, end water and food supply, and lead to millions of deaths in America. This triple-axis entity of Russia, Iran and China bears watching as the K of N superpower, & home to 20% of world's population.

BIBLE QUOTE

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. ...except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened Dan 12:4 Matt 24:22

Why are ties between Russia and Israel ‘at lowest point since fall of the Soviet Union’?

The Guardian, December 31, 2023



EVENT

When Vladimir Putin spoke by telephone this month to Benjamin Netanyahu, their first conversation in weeks, the two leaders found themselves in an unusual dynamic, **engaging not as partners but against the backdrop of historic tensions.** Once touting their friendly relationship – Netanyahu has used billboards showing himself next to Putin during election campaigning in Israel, even last year – the events of 7 October and Russia’s pro-Palestinian stance in the aftermath have brought a decisive schism in their ties. **“The two countries’ ties are absolutely at the lowest point since the fall of the Soviet Union,”** said Nikolay Kozhanov, a former Russian diplomat in Tehran and now an associate professor at Qatar University. Netanyahu said in a statement he had spoken to Putin and **voiced displeasure with “anti-Israel positions” taken by Moscow’s envoys at the UN, while voicing “robust disapproval” of Russia’s “dangerous” cooperation with its ally Iran.**

COMMENT

It seems quite incredible that Putin who launched the terrible war on Ukraine can lecture Israel about the war it is fighting against Hamas. A day before Putin’s conversation with Netanyahu, Moscow backed a UN resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and said the US was “complicit in Israel’s brutal massacre.” The war in Ukraine has meant that Putin’s relationship with America has collapsed to near zero. Israel’s greatest ally is America so Putin was bound to turn against Israel at some point. Also, Putin has turned to Iran for weapons and drones and in return has supported Iran militarily. So, Putin is supporting Israel’s arch enemy. All of this brings Israel and Russia to loggerheads. It is leading to the time when Russia invades Israel..

BIBLE QUOTE

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them? And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face. (Ezekiel 38:17-18)

Russia loads new intercontinental ballistic missile into silo south of Moscow

Reuters, December 17, 2023



EVENT

Russian rocket forces have loaded a new Yars intercontinental ballistic missile into a silo at the Kozelsk base in the Kaluga region, southwest of Moscow, the defence ministry said. The 23-metre long RS-24 (Yars) missile is designed to carry multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRVs), which allow the missile to deliver multiple nuclear warheads at different targets. "In the Kozelsky compound, Strategic Missile Forces loaded a Yars intercontinental ballistic missile into a silo launcher," the defence ministry said. The defence ministry released a clip of the giant missile being transported to a silo and loaded into a shaft. It accompanied the video with pounding rock music. Russia has the world's largest arsenal of nuclear weapons, closely followed by the United States. Together, Russia and the United States control more than 90% of the world's nuclear weapons. Russia has about 5,889 nuclear warheads while the United States has about 5,244, according to the Federation of American Scientists. Of those, Russia and the United States each have about 1,670 strategic nuclear warheads deployed.

COMMENT

Russia continues to prepare itself for war. This week it loaded a new intercontinental missile into a silo near Moscow. In previous months missile systems designed to intercept aircraft and incoming missiles have been deployed on top of several defence and administrative buildings in downtown Moscow, signalling that the Kremlin is preparing for any attack being directed on the Russian capital. The Bible says that Gog (Russian leader) will "prepare" for war. The word prepare means to be "firmly established", to be "secure", to be "determined", to be "ready". Putin is doing all these things. He has a long term plan for Russia to be a superpower again.

BIBLE QUOTE

Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered Israel, which have been always waste:
(Ezekiel 38:7-8)

Pope approves blessings for same-sex couples that must not resemble marriage

Associated Press, December 19, 2023



EVENT Pope Francis formally approved letting Catholic priests bless same-sex couples, the Vatican announced Monday, a radical shift in policy that aimed at making the church more inclusive while maintaining its strict ban on gay marriage. The document marks the latest gesture of outreach from a pope who has made welcoming LGBTQ+ Catholics a hallmark of his papacy. From his 2013 quip, “Who am I to judge?” about a purportedly gay priest, to his 2023 comment to The Associated Press that “Being homosexual is not a crime,” Francis has distinguished himself from all his predecessors with his message of welcome. “The significance of this news cannot be overstated,” said Francis DeBernardo of New Ways Ministry, which supports LGBTQ+ Catholics. “It is one thing to formally approve same-gender blessings, which he had already pastorally permitted, but to say that people should not be subjected to ‘an exhaustive moral analysis’ to receive God’s love and mercy is an even more significant step.”

COMMENT The Catholic Church is moving closer to accepting same sex relationships and will now bless them. They continue to ban same sex marriage. There are some interesting comments in this article. 1. Being homosexual is not a crime. 2. Who am I to judge. 3. We should not be subject to moral analysis. The Bible answers these comments. 1. Homosexuality is an abomination to God and is classed as sin. Blessing same sex relationships is blessing sin. This cannot be right. 2. Christians are supposed to hold each other accountable for our actions and help each other stay on the right track. 3. God does have a moral code that never changes and we need to follow that code...

BIBLE QUOTE They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men *(Romans 1:25-26 NIV)*

National Geographic lists Israel's Roman swords top find of 2023

The Times, December 6, 2023



EVENT Four ancient but well-preserved swords -- found serendipitously by an Ariel University archaeologist who slipped his hand into a hole in a hidden chamber of a Judean Desert Cave -- have been named the “Number-One Find for 2023” of National Geographic Magazine. The cache of Roman weaponry, protected from the elements for some 1,900 years by the dry heat, included four long and straight (spatha) iron swords and a javelin head. Found in the cave at Israel’s Ein Gedi Nature Reserve, they were presented to journalists under a heavily protected glass case on September 6 by Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) scholars. “To find one sword like this is rare, so four? It’s a dream come true,” the researchers noted. “We couldn’t believe our eyes.” **The weapons cache was most likely hidden by Jewish rebels some 1,900 years ago, the authority said, after being seized from Roman forces.**

COMMENT Each time a new military operation begins Israel gives it an operation name. The name for the conflict that began on October 7th following the Hamas attack was operation “Swords of Iron”. There always seems to be a Biblical link with the names chosen. During the days of Saul there were no blacksmiths as the Philistines stopped Israel from sharpening swords of iron and they controlled what was sharpened. Only Saul and Jonathan had swords for battle. Jonathan and just his armour bearer attacked with a single iron sword. They killed 20 Philistines. Suddenly panic broke out among the Philistines and they fled and began killing each other! Four iron swords from the time when the Jewish rebels fought against their oppressors were found recently...amazing!

BIBLE QUOTE There were no blacksmiths in Israel. The Philistines would not allow them because they were afraid the Israelites would make **iron swords** and spears. So on the day of battle, none of the Israelite soldiers with Saul had **iron swords** or spears. **Only Saul and his son Jonathan had such weapons.** [Read 1 Samuel 14 how Jonathan defeated the Philistines!](#) (1 Samuel 13:19+22)