

This Week's Developments

May 8 - 14, 2022

- IDF opens largest training drill in Israeli history
- Syria's Bashar Assad pays rare visit to ally Iran
- Putin may resort to nuclear weapons over Ukraine
- Ukrainian troops shell Russians with US howitzers
- Sanctions cost Russian economy a decade of growth
- Turkey not supportive of Finland, Sweden joining NATO
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IDF opens largest training drill in Israeli history

Jerusalem Post, May 9, 2022



EVENT

As tensions boil over in the West Bank amid a string of deadly terrorist attacks in Israel, the IDF **launched the largest exercise in its history on Sunday**. Thousands of soldiers and reservists will take part in the drill, dubbed “**Chariots of Fire**,” including the air force, navy and regular and reserve forces. The four-week drill will simulate a multifront and multidimensional war against Israel’s enemies in the air, at sea, on land and on the cyber front. “There **won’t be a unit that doesn’t take part in this drill**,” IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Ran Kohav said. **The goal of the drill is to improve the readiness of the entire military and examine the ability of troops** to carry out a powerful and prolonged campaign against enemy forces. It will also reveal logistics and firepower issues that soldiers might face in a war. The drill is unique and **unprecedented in scope** and will enable the army to maintain a high level of readiness in an ever-changing environment.

COMMENT

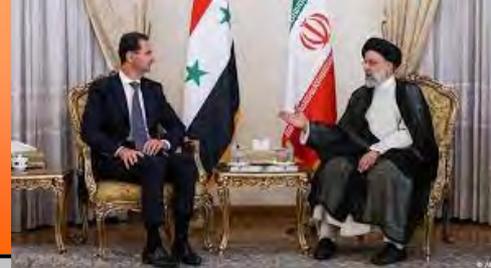
Tensions in and around Israel have been escalating in recent weeks. Since March 22, a sharp rise in attacks or “armed operations” by Palestinians carried out inside Israel has led to the killing of 14 people, including three police officers. **Israel has informed its allies that it is preparing to send assassination teams to kill Hamas leaders abroad retaliation for these attacks**. On top of this we now have Israel’s largest training drill in their history taking place. Interestingly they have called this drill “Chariots of Fire”. This is a direct quote from the Bible. Elisha and his servant were surrounded by Syrian enemies. The servant was scared. So Elisha prayed to God and his servant was then **able to see the LORD’s “chariots of fire” around about them**. Elisha prayed and all the Syrian army were struck with blindness. We can see the message Israel is giving here!

BIBLE QUOTE

behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and **chariots of fire** round about Elisha. (2 Kings 6:11)

Syria's Bashar Assad pays rare visit to ally Iran

DW News, May 8, 2022



EVENT

Syrian President Bashar Assad has visited Iran for only the second time since the civil war broke out in his country. The two nations are united by their enmity toward Israel. Syrian President Bashar Assad paid a short visit to Tehran on Sunday, meeting with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi during his brief sojourn, according to Iranian and Syrian media. It was only the second visit Assad has made to Iran since Syria's civil war began in 2011, although Tehran has been a consistent supporter of the Damascus regime and has given it financial and military support during the 11-year conflict. Assad was quoted as saying that "the strategic ties between Iran and Syria have prevented the Zionist regime's [Israel's] dominance in the region." Assad also reportedly said that strong relations between Iran and Syria served to curb US influence in the Middle East.

COMMENT

While the world is understandably focused on Ukraine we keep our eyes just as focused on Israel. We know at some point the world's attention (all nations) will be drawn to conflict around Israel. Initially there is an inner ring war around Israel involving Hamas, Hezbollah and the Palestinians in general. But these peoples (pricking briers that surround Israel) are backed by Syria and Iran. Psalm 83 tells us that Assur (Assyria) joins with the people that surround Israel and help them in their aim to destroy Israel. Assyria at the time Psalm 83 was written covers modern Syria and stretched out into western Iran. We see these 2 nations working together "united by their enmity of Israel." Russia has begun to pull some troops out of Syria to support the war in Ukraine. Iran is stepping into this gap left and all this means the initial inner ring war has got closer....

BIBLE QUOTE

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:; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: they have helped the children of Lot. Selah.

(Psalm 83:4-8)

Putin may resort to nuclear weapons over Ukraine, US intelligence warns

The Times, May 11, 2022



EVENT

President Putin may resort to using nuclear weapons to prevent a war of attrition in Ukraine, US intelligence has warned. Avril Haines, the director of national intelligence, told the US Senate armed services committee that the next phase of Russia's invasion remained uncertain and was likely to become "more unpredictable and escalatory". Putin could potentially turn to nuclear weapons if he perceived an existential threat either to his regime or to Russia, Haines said. Haines told the Senate that the US did not see an "imminent" threat that Moscow would use nuclear weapons but that if Putin were to believe that he was losing the war in Ukraine or that Nato was "either intervening or about to intervene in that context" he might resort to nuclear weapons. The increasing likelihood of a drawn-out war could see Putin turn to more drastic options including imposing martial law, reorienting industrial production or potentially escalating military actions.

COMMENT

Putin sees southern and eastern Ukraine as not another nation but as an integral part of Russia. For this reason, this is about taking back what he believes is Russia territory rather than conquering another nation. This is important to understand because Putin (in his mind) must succeed in this war. It would be an existential risk to Russia's whole future without this part of Ukraine within the borders of Russia itself, he argues. This is why analysts say that if Putin thinks he looks like losing this war he could likely resort to the most extreme methods to win ie nuclear weapons. The Bible says in Daniel 8 that the latter day king of the north (Gog / Putin) will "cause a shocking amount of destruction". Another version says he will cause "astounding devastation". It also says he will do it "without warning". All the indicators from God are that he will do this....

BIBLE QUOTE

He will cause a shocking amount of destruction and succeed in everything he does. He will destroy powerful leaders and devastate the holy people. He will be a master of deception and will become arrogant; he will destroy many without warning. .
(Daniel 8:24- 25 NLT)

Ukrainian troops shell Russians with American howitzers

The Times, May 9, 2022



EVENT

American howitzers have begun shelling Russian positions while Ukrainian soldiers have received jammers to shoot down enemy reconnaissance drones. The latest shipment of western armaments to arrive in Ukraine includes the M777, a relatively light and manoeuvrable 155mm howitzer made by the US division of BAE Systems with a maximum range of 25 miles. Defence experts believe that whichever side is able to combine artillery fire with drones more effectively will have a significant advantage in the Donbas, the coal-mining region in the east of Ukraine that has become the main theatre of the war. Reconnaissance drones are used to scout out enemy targets, which are then pounded with artillery. The US is donating an estimated 90 M777s to Kyiv as well as tens of thousands of artillery rounds. The Pentagon said that the “vast majority” had arrived over the weekend, and footage shared online suggests that the Ukrainians have begun deploying the heavy weaponry already.

COMMENT

Russia is suffering losses in Ukraine predominantly down to US and UK pouring military hardware into the country. Billions of dollars worth of military assistance has been given so far by the US with the promise of billions more. The UK on a smaller (though still significant) scale has helped as well. Both countries are well out in front in military support for Ukraine. As well as this military “push” by the US/UK we have also seen a personal “push” against Putin himself. The UK foreign secretary said “We are exposing and targeting the shady network propping up Putin’s luxury lifestyle and tightening the vice on his inner circle.” His ex wife and mistress were sanctioned by the UK this week.

BIBLE QUOTE

and he [Gog / Putin] shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain. And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push [Hebrew word “gore”] at him: The push is some type of military provocation and it is a personal provocation of HIM ie Gog the king of verses 36-39. The provocation is undertaken by the king of the south US/UK (Daniel 11:40)

Sanctions could cost Russian economy a decade of growth

The Times, May 13, 2022

OMINOUS SIGNS FOR RUSSIAN ECONOMY



EVENT

There are signs of impending economic collapse in Russia despite reassuring rhetoric from President Putin. The country is in the grip of one of the heaviest sanction regimes ever imposed, which will soon be intensified as Brussels discusses a ban on its oil. Yet the economy appears resilient. In Moscow and St Petersburg, bars, cafés and restaurants throng with customers. The rouble, which lost a quarter of its value after the invasion, has rebounded. Putin said yesterday that the economy was “confidently managing in the face of external challenges” and boasted that the rouble was “probably showing the best dynamics among all international currencies”. Experts say this is little more than a bluff, however. According to a leaked document published this week, the Russian finance ministry is expecting a 12 per cent collapse in GDP this year, wiping out nearly a decade’s growth. It would be the biggest implosion since 1994, when Russia was in the midst of a transition to a market economy.

COMMENT

Russia has built up more than \$600 billion in foreign currency reserves since the 2014 invasion of Crimea as part of a strategy known as “fortress Russia”. The bank has spent over \$50 billion of reserves since the war started. Putin built up this huge war chest to help him have a financial buffer if / when war began. His plan is to reverse what he calls the “greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the twentieth century” - the collapse of the USSR. But however strong Putin’s finances they cannot take the toll of war forever. Putin thought the Ukraine war would be quick – over in days. Analysts say by the end of the year Russia will start defaulting on its debt repayments. All of this will add to the pressure for him to descend into Israel to take a spoil eg gas fields in Israel.

BIBLE QUOTE

And thou [Gog] shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; [Israel] ... To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.
(Ezekiel 38:11-12)

Turkey not supportive of Finland, Sweden joining NATO

Reuters, May 13, 2022



EVENT

President Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday it was not possible for NATO-member Turkey to support plans by Sweden and Finland to join the pact given that the Nordic countries were "home to many terrorist organisations". Though Turkey has officially supported NATO enlargement since it joined the U.S.-led alliance 70 years ago, its opposition could pose a problem for Sweden and Finland given new members need unanimous agreement. Turkey has repeatedly slammed Sweden and other Western European countries for its handling of organisations deemed terrorist by Ankara. Finland's plan to apply for NATO membership, announced Thursday, and the expectation that Sweden will follow, would bring about the expansion of the Western military alliance that Russian President Vladimir Putin aimed to prevent by launching the invasion of Ukraine.

COMMENT

Finland and Sweden could apply for membership of the 30-nation Nato alliance within days. Finland shares an 800 mile border with Russia. Both nations considered that joining the alliance would represent an unnecessary provocation of Moscow. They have wanted to avoid antagonising a major regional power. But Russia's invasion of Ukraine has "changed Europe's whole security landscape" and dramatically changed mindsets. Russia has said it will be forced to take "retaliatory steps" over its neighbour Finland's move to join Nato. Turkey has said it is not possible for Finland and Sweden to join. Turkey is a Nato member and Nato is not a democracy. It works on consensus – so all Nato countries have to agree. Turkey is part of Russia alliance when it invades Israel. We expect Turkey therefore to be either out of Nato and/or allied to Russia at the end....

BIBLE QUOTE

Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah [Turkey] of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee. Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.

(Ezekiel 38:6-7)

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

- DebkaFile Review** (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence) **TV-7 Israel News** **Watchman Newscast**
- 2022-05-13 **Did Israel's Mossad FOIL Iran Plot to Kill U.S. General & Israeli Diplomat** - Watchman Newscast - 8.59 - YouTube
- 2022-05-12 **Will Russia invade Finland next** - Gravitas - 6.38 - YouTube
- 2022-05-12 **Leaked paper hints at Russia's economic collapse** - Gravitas - 5.14 - YouTube
- 2022-05-10 **Israel Holds LARGEST Military Drill in Decades As Hezbollah & Hamas Threats Grow** - Watchman - 12.16 - YouTube
- 2022-05-09 **Russia HANDOVER of Syria Bases to Iran; Israel to ELIMINATE Hamas Leaders** - Watchman - 11.41 - YouTube
- 2022-05-06 Israel WARNS Hamas After Another Deadly Terror Attack; NEW Gaza Operation Soon - Watchman - 10.10 min - YouTube
- 2022-05-05 Russian Navy's Biggest Losses In Ukraine War & What It Means For Putin's Ambitions - 7.13 min - YouTube
- 2022-05-05 Analysis - Slow progress for Russian forces in capturing Donbas - 11.09 min - YouTube
- 2022-05-04 Tensions escalate between Russia and Israel over Lavrov's claim that Hitler was part Jewish - WION - 7.36 min - YouTube
- 2022-05-04 Russian State TV issues a chilling warning – Gravitas - 3.08 min - YouTube
- 2022-05-03 Russia ACCUSES Israel of “Supporting Neo-Nazis; Israel to ARM Ukraine - Watchman Newscast - 10.15 min - YouTube
- 2022-05-02 Israel SLAMS Russia Over “Unforgivable” Anti-Semitism Accusations - Watchman Newscast - 11.21 min - YouTube
- 2022-04-27 Russia's war on Ukraine- 'Vladimir Putin is desperate' • FRANCE 24 English - 8.06 min - YouTube
- 2022-04-26 Tanks for Ukraine- How Germany's position has changed since the beginning of the war - DW News - 10.00 min - YouTube
- 2022-04-26 Inside Israel & UAE's United Front Against Iran's Regime; Reporting from UAE - Watchman News - 11.00 min - YouTube
- 2022-04-25 Iran's Nuclear Threat UNITING Israel & Arabia; Reporting from Bahrain - Watchman Newscast - 10.26 min - YouTube
- 2022-04-25 Germany agrees to send heavy weapons to Ukraine after major policy U-turn - CNN
- Animated Map - Indo-European migrations - File:Indo-European migrations.gif - Wikipedia



N Europe

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



