

# This Week's Developments

May 21 - 27, 2023

- Putin's grip on power still strong despite setbacks
- Russia sends tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus
- 'Vindictive and dangerous' Russia poses threat to UK
- Hezbollah's parade sends familiar message to Israel
- US, British and French navies transit Strait of Hormuz
- Turkey: Erdogan set to secure 5 more years of power
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

*Map 1*

*Map 2*

# Putin's grip on power still strong despite setbacks

Business Insider, May 23, 2023



## EVENT

The war in Ukraine has often seen Russia's military humiliated on the battlefield, dealing a major blow to its prestige in the eyes of the world. The conflict has also left Moscow increasingly isolated on the international stage, cementing **Russian President Vladimir Putin's status as a global pariah. But Putin still maintains a strong grip on power in Russia in spite of the Kremlin's handling of the war** and its myriad consequences for Russian society, according to Bruno Kahl, the head of the German Intelligence Agency (BND). "We see no cracks in the Putin system," Kahl said on Monday at the Federal Academy for Security Policy, the German news outlet Deutsche Welle reported. The Kremlin has gone to extraordinary lengths to stifle opposition to the war in Ukraine. Putin signed a law that effectively outlawed criticism of Russia's unprovoked invasion, and high-profile critics of the war have been thrown behind bars while independent media outlets have been forced to shut down or move their operations abroad.

## COMMENT

Putin has made it exceptionally difficult to oppose him and his ambitions. He has removed almost all opposition many of whom have died in suspicious circumstances or have been jailed for spurious reasons. Putin has ruled over Russia for more than two decades and signed a law in 2019 that would allow him to stay in power until 2036. Russia was expected to easily defeat Ukraine and its failure to do so (so far) have opened the question as to whether Putin's firm grip on power might slip. The German intelligence agency said this week it sees no signs of this. Putin maintains his stranglehold over leadership in Russia so far. The Bible says Gog will succeed in all he does using shocking destruction. Putin maybe down slightly but he is not out yet.....

## BIBLE QUOTE

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**. He will be a master of deception and will become arrogant; he will **destroy many without warning**.  
(Daniel 8:23-25 NLT)

# Russia sends tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus after 'Nato aggression'

The Times, May 25, 2023



## EVENT

Russia has started moving nuclear weapons into Belarusian territory, President Lukashenko has said after the countries struck a deal today. “The transfer of nuclear munitions has begun,” the Belarusian leader said in a video shared online, adding that it was “possible” the weapons had already arrived. Moscow announced that it was sending tactical nuclear weapons to its neighbour in response to what it called a “sharp escalation” on its western border. An aide to President Zelensky of Ukraine said a counter-offensive against Russian forces had already begun. Sergei Shoigu, the Russian defence minister, and his Belarusian counterpart Viktor Khrenin, sealed the long-awaited weapons agreement in Minsk. Shoigu said it was the result of “extremely aggressive” Nato military activity. “Today, together, we are confronting the collective West, which is actually waging an undeclared war against our countries,” Shoigu said.

## COMMENT

There is growing fear in the West that Russia could resort to using tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine. Tactical nukes are much smaller than strategic nukes. A strategic nuke could destroy a city. A tactical nuke could destroy a stadium. Having smaller nuclear weapons can actually increase the likelihood of them being used as the response it likely to be more muted. On Friday, Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, warned that under certain circumstances “a pre-emptive nuclear strike will have to be carried out.” Also this week Ukraine has warned that Russia was planning to simulate an accident at Ukraine’s largest nuclear plant. We know Russia will invade Israel and so the conflict in Ukraine must at some point come to some standoff. It is possible some major event in Ukraine could bring this about...

## BIBLE QUOTE

And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land,  
(Ezekiel 38:15-16)

# 'Vindictive and dangerous' Russia poses threat to UK if Ukraine wins war - even without Putin

LBC, May 27, 2023



**EVENT** A "dangerous and vindictive" Russia may target the UK if it loses the war in Ukraine, the outgoing chief of the Royal Air Force (RAF) has warned. Russia's army will remain a threat to Britain and NATO, which is something the UK "must focus our minds on", Air Chief Marshal Sir Mike Wigston has said. Sir Mike warned that the threat from Russia could even get worse - regardless of whether Russian President Vladimir Putin remains in charge. "When the Ukraine conflict is over and Ukraine has restored its borders, as it must, we will have a damaged, vindictive, and brutal Russia, whose means of harming us is through air attack, missile attack and subsurface attack," he told The Telegraph. Sir Mike added: "But it also demonstrates that this is more than about just one person. There is a whole structure and a hierarchy behind Putin. **So even if Putin was to disappear off the stage, there are countless others that could replace him that could be as equally as brutal and vicious to their own people and to neighbouring states.**"

**COMMENT** After four years at the top of the RAF, Sir Mike Wigston is set to step down next month. He leaves with a sombre warning about Russia. Addressing the conflict, Sir Mike said: *"When the Ukraine conflict is over and Ukraine has restored its borders, as it must, we will have a damaged, vindictive, and brutal Russia, whose means of harming us is through air attack, missile attack and subsurface attack."* In other words if Russia is defeated in Ukraine it will spell far worse to come. This happened with the original king of the north (Antiochus Epiphanes) who was humiliated by the might of the Rome. In a rage he turned on Israel, killing many thousands of Jews and banning worship of God.

**BIBLE QUOTE** Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. **"Casting down" of the sanctuary is NOT AD70 - it means cast aside not destroyed. The casting aside of the sanctuary was by Antiochus Epiphanes the king of the north. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch a video on this.** (Daniel 8:10-11)

# Hezbollah's military parade sends familiar message to Israel

The Times, May 23, 2023



## EVENT

Who knew Hezbollah had a marching band? I certainly didn't, but that may have been my ignorance: **the Lebanese Shia militia and would-be vanquisher of Israel has kept western journalists at a distance for the past 15 years or so. That ended yesterday, at least for the time being, with a bang. Lots of bangs, in fact,** as masked fighters paraded weaponry, stormed hilltops and practiced martial arts routines before an admiring crowd and a more sceptical one of Lebanese and foreign reporters. The "military operation" had been planned for weeks and advertised to journalists a short time beforehand. What was not clear before we set off in convoy from Beirut was what this special "operation" was. Neither was it entirely clear afterwards. It was certainly the biggest show of strength Hezbollah had put on in public for years, if not since its inception in Lebanon's civil war. Journalists are occasionally invited to witness Shia parades in Dahiyeh, the group's south Beirut stronghold, or to see mementoes of battles with the "Zionist occupier" at Mleeta, the Hezbollah museum in the mountains near the Israeli border. This was on a different scale.

## COMMENT

On Thursday Hizbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said "Any miscalculation by Israel would lead to an explosion in the entire region. An all-out war will include all the fronts," and he admitted: "Iran is helping Palestinian groups in their 'fight for freedom.'" Two days earlier, Israel cautioned Nasrallah that he was getting close to a mistake that would cause a regional conflict, after Hizballah staged an exercise depicting its conquest of an Israeli village. We know an inner ring war is coming involving Israel's immediate neighbours... Hezbollah will be part of that – the inhabitants of Tyre!

## 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: ...Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines **with the inhabitants of Tyre;** **Hezbollah have main base in the region of Tyre.** (Psalm 83:4-7)

# US, British and French navies transit Strait of Hormuz

Israel National News, May 20, 2023



## EVENT

The Mideast-based commanders of the US, British and French navies transited the Strait of Hormuz on Friday aboard an American warship, The Associated Press reported. The move follows Iran's recent seizure of two foreign vessels in the Persian Gulf and indications by US officials that the US military will work to bolster the defensive posture in the Gulf region in response. In the past two years, Iran has harassed, attacked or interfered with the navigational rights of 15 internationally flagged commercial vessels, officials said. Most recently, Iran seized the Marshall Islands-flagged Advantage Sweet on April 27 as it traveled in the Gulf of Oman. Six days later, it seized a second ship, the Niovi, a Panama-flagged tanker as it left a dry dock in Dubai. Friday's incredibly rare, joint trip by the three navy chiefs aboard the USS Paul Hamilton, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, saw three fast boats of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard approach the vessel at one point.

## COMMENT

U.S. Navy warships stationed in the Persian Gulf region have increased their patrols through the Strait of Hormuz. This is in response to recent moves by Iran to seize two oil tankers, the latest sign of rising tensions between Iran and the United States. The Strait of Hormuz, which is bordered by the United Arab Emirates and Oman on one side and Iran on the other, is as narrow as 21 miles. 20 percent of the world's oil sails through this pinch point in oil tankers making it one of the most critical arteries on earth. Iran has threatened to besiege this narrow shipping lane. Amazingly the Bible talks about the Persian Gulf and a besieging of it. At that time we are told the world will be like a woman in travail. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch a non religious excellent video on the Strait of Hormuz.

## BIBLE QUOTE

A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. Go up, O Elam: besiege, O Media; all the sighing thereof have I made to cease. Therefore are my loins filled with pain: pangs have taken hold upon me, as the pangs of a woman that travaileth: [Elam & Media are Iran](#)

(Isaiah 21:2-3)

# Erdogan set to secure five more years of power in Turkey

The Jewish Chronicle, May 4, 2023



## EVENT

Turkey is voting in the second round of the country's tightly contested presidential election as incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan looks to extend his two-decade-long grip on power. Polls opened on Sunday morning in Turkey's first-ever presidential run-off after Mr Erdogan failed to clear the 50 per cent bar two weeks earlier, leading four per cent ahead of his main rival, Kemal Kilicdaroglu. Pelin Buyukmarat, who also observed the first-round vote, said the turnout this time is likely to be much lower as only half of the previous round's voters had cast their ballots at 10 a.m. Both camps have portrayed the elections as a pivotal moment in the country's history that could either cement Mr Erdogan's conservative and authoritarian tilt or give Turkey a chance towards rebuilding a democratic society.

## COMMENT

The results are still being counted in Turkey's run off election vote that will decide who runs Turkey for the next 5 years. The stakes are high as Turkey's secular, Western-leaning part of society fears Mr Erdogan, who has already ruled Turkey longer than its founding father Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, will tighten the screws even further on freedom of expression and women's rights. With unofficial results giving Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a lead in the runoff vote, the Palestinian terror group Hamas released a statement congratulating the longtime Turkish leader, with whom it has long had close ties. Turkey we know is allied to Russia at the time of the end and so whoever wins this election will be anti Israel and pro Israel's enemies. We wait to see final results knowing that the God is in control of the kingdoms of men and puts who he wants in power....

## BIBLE QUOTE

This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

(Daniel 4:17)

## ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

2023-06-03 [Ukraine's cross-border tactics are aimed at destabilizing Russia. Judging by the response, they're working](#) - CNN

2023-06-03 [Transfer of holy icon shows Russian Orthodoxy's new sway under Putin](#) - Reuters

2023-06-03 [Russian forces tried to blow up my men, says mercenary boss Prigozhin](#) - Reuters

2023-06-02 [Attacks inside Russia raise questions about next phase of Ukraine war](#) - PBS - 7.42 min - YouTube

2023-06-01 [Experts warn AI could lead to human 'extinction'](#) - MSNBC - 5.52 min - YouTube

2023-06-01 [Blinken - Putin's war against Ukraine has been a strategic failure](#) - 5.45 min - YouTube

2023-05-31 [Ukraine war comes to Moscow as drones strike both capitals](#) - Reuters

2023-05-31 [Experts are warning AI could lead to human extinction. Are we taking it seriously enough-](#) - CNN Business

2023-05-31 [Drones strike heart of Moscow - Is the war getting more dangerous-](#) Gravitas - 6.15 min - YouTube

2023-05-31 [Artificial intelligence could lead to extinction, experts warn](#) - BBC News

2023-05-27 [Israel 'Modifying' F-15EX Fighters To 'EXterminate' Iran's Nuclear Facilities Using Bunker-Busting GBU-57 Bombs](#)

2023-05-27 [Ukraine says Russia eases attacks on Bakhmut to regroup](#) - Russia-Ukraine war News - Al Jazeera

2023-05-26 [Russia on the Edge- Prigozhin's Warning of Revolution Amid Ukraine War](#) - Vantage on Firstpost - YouTube

2023-05-26 [Russia acknowledges Vatican peace initiative, says no steps yet for a mission to Moscow](#) - AP News

2023-05-26 [Super Typhoon Mawar strengthens into most powerful storm in 2 years](#) - The Washington Post

2023-05-25 [Israel notes preparedness to strike Iran; Tehran boasts on evading US sanctions](#) TV7Israel News 24.05 - YouTube

2023-05-24 [Mercenary Prigozhin warns Russia could face revolution unless elite gets serious about war](#) - Reuters

2023-05-20 [The Great Reset- Global Government & Digital Currency by 2030](#) - Watchman Newscast - 8.20 min - YouTube

2023-05-20 [Is a Digital Dollar Coming- Instrument of Government Control](#) - 5.49 min - YouTube

[Animated Map - Indo-European migrations](#) - File-Indo-European migrations.gif - Wikipedia



# NATO PRESENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE



SOURCE: NATO

- 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



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

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



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

○ TOBOLSK (Tubal)

○ MOSCOW (Meshech)

"LION"  
TARSHISH  
UK

"YOUNG LIONS"  
(USA, CANADA, ETC)

GERMANY  
(LAND OF  
MAGOG)

GOMER  
European Economic Community

Gibraltar

TURKEY  
(Togarmah)

IRAQ/IRAN  
(Persia)

INDIA

LIBYA

DEDAN  
SHEBA

ETHIOPIA

AUSTRALIA

*Legend HandOut*

# This Week's Developments

May 27 – June 4, 2023

- Pro-Ukraine Russians bring war to Putin's doorstep
- A.I. Poses 'Risk of Extinction,' Industry Leaders Warn
- Israel 'Modifying' F-15EX Fighters To 'EXterminate' Iran's Nuclear Facilities
- Transfer of icon - Orthodoxy's new sway under Putin
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

*Map 1*

*Map 2*

# Pro-Ukraine Russian soldiers bring taste of war to Putin's doorstep

Politico June 1, 2023



## EVENT

Two groups who claim to be Russians fighting on Kyiv's side in the war in Ukraine said Thursday they were battling Moscow's troops in Russia's Belgorod region, and had destroyed military equipment. It is the second time the two pro-Ukraine paramilitary groups — the Russian Volunteer Corps and the Legion of Free Russia — have claimed to have made an incursion onto Russian territory in the past two weeks. "Our advance units are already fighting on the outskirts of Shebekino," the Russian Volunteer Corps said on Telegram, referring to a Russian town less than 10 kilometers from the Ukrainian border. The Legion of Free Russia claimed to have destroyed a Russian armored vehicle and a military mortar system. Vyacheslav Gladkov, the governor of the Belgorod region, said several apartment buildings had been shelled, wounding one person. According to spokesperson for the Russian defense ministry Igor Konashenkov, quoted by state news agency TASS, Russian troops killed over 30 members of the two paramilitary groups. Last week, the Russian Volunteer Corps and the Legion of Free Russia, whose members say they are Russians fighting to free the country from President Vladimir Putin's iron grip, overran several villages in the Belgorod region. Russia claims Kyiv is behind these attacks, which the Ukrainian authorities have denied.

## COMMENT

The continuing incursions by what appears to be armed Russian dissidents is causing a potential problem for Putin in that he is being forced to withdraw some of his military to other fronts and protect Russian towns and villages within range. Prigozhin is rubbing the salt in the wound by announcing that he will be protecting some of these territories, doing what the Russian military can't. Putin went on Russian TV this past week to reassure the Russian population that he would whatever it took to provide security, no matter what. The other problem Putin faces is exactly what Prigozhin pointed out last week, which is the developing divide between the elite and the commoners - i.e., sons of the commoners out fighting Putins (failing?) war and dying by the thousands, while sons of the elite are basking in the resorts on the Black Sea. The problem is that Putin knows only one style of negotiation - by force of might and intimidation; while the Gog of scripture has that characteristic plus that of tact and dialogue which will be necessary to get Europe onside.

## BIBLE QUOTE

Thus saith YHWH; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from YHWH. Jer 17:5

# A.I. Poses 'Risk of Extinction,' Industry Leaders Warn

*New York Times, May 30, 2023*



## EVENT

A group of industry leaders warned on Tuesday that the artificial intelligence technology they were building might one day pose an existential threat to humanity and should be considered a societal risk on a par with pandemics and nuclear wars. “Mitigating the risk of extinction from A.I. should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks, such as pandemics and nuclear war,” reads a statement by the Center for AI Safety, a nonprofit organization... signed by more than 350 executives, researchers and engineers working in A.I. These fears are shared by numerous industry leaders, putting them in the unusual position of arguing that a technology they are building — and, in many cases, are furiously racing to build faster than their competitors — poses grave risks and should be regulated more tightly. This month, Mr. Altman (chief executive of OpenAI), Mr. Hassabis (chief executive of Google DeepMind), and Mr. Amodei (chief executive of Anthropic) met with President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris to talk about A.I. regulation. In a Senate testimony after the meeting, Mr. Altman warned that the risks of advanced A.I. systems were serious. “I think if this technology goes wrong, it can go quite wrong. We want to work with the government to prevent that...”

## COMMENT

A few weeks ago we had a slide about A.I., looking at some of the things it was capable of accomplishing. However, as this article shows, the technology is growing by leaps and bounds, and has reached a juncture where it is causing alarm among its developers. There is a typical human element here - that of conflict of interest. There are huge \$\$\$ signs with regards to A.I. development and deployment; and while the developers entertain the danger signs and expound on them, they do not want to cease development because of the obvious monetary element; in fact, they are scrambling to get ahead of the competition! The longer Christ remains away, the more the world get itself into a mess

## BIBLE QUOTE

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. ...Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.  
Dan 12:4 Luk\_21:26

# Israel 'Modifying' F-15EX Fighters To 'EXterminate' Iran's Nuclear Facilities with GBU-57 Bombs

Eurasian News May 27, 2023



## EVENT

On May 23, Israeli Defense Forces Lt Gen Herzi Halevi said, "Israel may take action against Iranian Nuclear Facilities due to possible negative developments on the horizon. Israel has the ability." In January 2023 the IAEA detected Uranium particles enriched to 83.7% purity. Uranium enriched to 90% purity is considered weapon-grade Uranium. Israel made a definite statement in 2021 that if Iran crosses the 60% purity mark, Israel will consider military action. Iran achieved 60% purity in April 2021 breaching the nuclear threshold. However, a successful strike on Iran's nuclear facilities will not be as simple as it was previously in the case of Iraq and Syria due for two reasons: 1) Iranian nuclear facilities are in dispersed locations safely embedded into hills. 2) Israel has no weapon to penetrate such facilities embedded in hills. The 30,000 lb GBU-57 is beyond the payload capacity of any current IDF fighter jets. However, a new avatar of the F-15 called F-15EX is already under production with advanced avionics, ECM/ECCM suite, and powerful AESA radar. But the most astonishing change in F-15EX is its enhanced weapon-carrying capability. As per Boeing, the F-15EX will be capable of carrying a whopping 29,500 pounds of weapons. This will be the highest weapon load carried by any fighter anywhere in the world. The strategic significance of the modified F-15 variant will be enormous.

## COMMENT

The important significance of this story is that acquisition of the F-15EX fighter plane will allow Israel to consider and plan a third strike on a nuclear reactor, the first being Osirak in Baghdad, Iraq (Operation Babylon - June 7, 1981), and the second in the Syrian Al Kibar facility (Operation Outside the Box - March 21, 2018). There is a warhead capable of taking out the Iranian facilities - the largest non-nuclear bomb ever - US GBU-57 weighing almost 30,000 lbs., but up to now there was no fighter aircraft capable of the type of mission the IDF would need to carry out - flying at night over the desert under radar carrying this huge bomb. So now Israel is purchasing this modified version of the F-15 called the F-15EX, capable of carrying the bomb. What comes next will be interesting to watch, but whatever the outcome, we know that Israel back in their homeland is a part of the Divine plan with which man cannot interfere with impunity

## BIBLE QUOTE

I will make Jerusalem like an intoxicating drink that makes the nearby nations stagger when they send their armies to besiege Jerusalem and Judah. I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock. All the nations will gather against it to try to move it, but they will only hurt themselves. Zec 12:2,3

# Transfer of holy icon shows Russian Orthodoxy's new sway under Putin

Reuters June 3, 2023



## EVENT

Putin last month ordered Andrei Rublev's famous "Trinity" icon be transferred to the Russian Orthodox Church from Moscow's Tretyakov Gallery, which highlights his growing reliance on the Church as the Ukraine war drags on. The transfer of Russia's most famous icon, which depicts the Oak of Mamre where the 3 angels visited Abraham, underscores the extent to which politics & religion have become intertwined during the war. "Putin has an interest in keeping the Church on his side in this war, to show he respects the Church," said Regina Elsner, a theologian & researcher of the Russian Orthodox Church. "Putin needs to show that the war is not his personal military activity, but that there is a higher, metaphysical mission in Russia that he is trying to fulfil." Russia's propagandists have used Christian symbolism about fighting the devil & the anti-Christ to try to rally support for a war that has gone on much longer than the Kremlin or the West expected. Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, the head of the Church, said believers could only have dreamed that the icon would be returned. Kirill, a close ally of Putin's, casts the war a "metaphysical" battle for Russia's survival against evil and a decadent West seeking to destroy Russia. For some, though, there is unease at the sway of the Church. Ksenia Korobeynikova, a Russian art historian, told Reuters the icon's importance to Russia was on a par with Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" for Europeans. "Perhaps there is something similar here, the Church now has a completely new level of authority. If the Church asks for something, then most likely they (Russia's leaders) cannot refuse it."

## COMMENT

Every so often a news story like this creeps into the usual media dialog pro and con about the Russian/Ukraine war. It serves to illustrate that underlying Putins usual narrative about the war being a simple "military operation" is a mission statement shared between Putin and Patriarch Kirill that the war has a ring of morality to it; that it is about right and wrong, good and evil. This also puts the Russian Orthodox Church in collision with the patriarchy of Constantinople/Istanbul which is affiliated with the Ukrainian Orthodox church. What would happen at some point in the future if Kirill were to mention to Russian leaders that St Sophia should be cleansed of all non orthodox persons? Or that the Orthodox church in Jerusalem needs to be part of the Russian Patriarchate? On the other hand what has happened to the fierce resistance to icons by the orthodox church - one of the causes for the original 10th cent split from Roman Catholicism?

## BIBLE QUOTE

"The king will do as he pleases... he will worship the god of fortresses—a god his ancestors never knew—and lavish on him gold, silver, precious stones, and expensive gifts." "[they]...repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship ... idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk... Dan 11:36-38; Rev 9:20