

This Week's Developments

January 22 - 28, 2023 [edited presentation]

- Archeology Proves Bible: "Prayer of Nabonidus"
- Russia slams tank decision as escalation of conflict
- MS invests in ChatGPT/adept at creating disinformation
- Iran: We can threaten strategic waterways of region
- U.S., Israel launch week of major military exercises
- World is 10 seconds closer to doomsday
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Map 1

Map 2

Archeology Proves Bible: "Prayer of Nabonidus"

COJC (Center for Online Judaic Studies)



EVENT

Fragments of a document called The Prayer of Nabonidus were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls. The fragments tell the story of King Nabonidus, the last king of Babylon, who was afflicted with a disease for seven years while in Teima, Arabia, and prayed to God for salvation. He was then told by a "diviner" that he must proclaim and give honor to God- "Words of the prayer, said by Nabonidus, king of Babylonia, [the great] king, [when afflicted] on command of the most high God in Tayma: ["I, Nabonidus,] was afflicted for seven years, and far from [men] I [was driven, until I prayed to the most high God.] And an [exorcist] pardoned my sins. He was a Jew from [among the children of the exile of Judah, and said:] "Recount this in writing to glorify and exalt the name of [the most high God."Then I wrote this:] "When I was afflicted for seven years [by the most high God] with an evil during my stay at Tayma, I prayed [to] the gods of silver and gold....

COMMENT

Last week during our study of Daniel, a question was asked about the authorship of the book of Daniel. I did some research on the question and nothing came up to change my opinion that it was Daniel, which is verified by none other than Jesus himself in the NT reference to "that which was spoken by Daniel the prophet". But in the process of this search I came across this archeological find among the Dead Sea Scrolls called the "Prayer of Nabonidus". There is convincing evidence that Nabonidus was the name that Nebuchadnezzar assumed after his 7 year affliction. Prior to this I knew of no 3rd party proof of Nebuchadnezzars affliction, but once again an archeological discovery substantiates the Biblical record and also gives further credence to the probability that Nebuchadnezzar and Nabonidus are one and the same person.

BIBLE QUOTE

While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'

Dan 4:31-32 (NASB)

Russia slams German tank decision as escalation of conflict

Reuters, January 25, 2023



EVENT

Russia reacted with fury on Wednesday to Germany's decision to approve the delivery of Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, saying Berlin was abandoning its "historical responsibility to Russia" arising from Nazi crimes in World War Two. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a Telegram post that the move was confirmation of Germany's involvement in "a war planned in advance" against Russia. The Russian embassy in Berlin said the decision - which paves the way for other NATO members also to send German-made tanks - would escalate the 11-month conflict in Ukraine, which Moscow casts increasingly as a perilous face-off between Russia and the U.S.-led alliance. "This extremely dangerous decision takes the conflict to a new level of confrontation," Ambassador Sergei Nechayev said. He added it would cause "irreparable damage to the already deplorable state of Russian-German relations".

COMMENT

More than 80 years after Germany invaded Soviet Russia and Ukraine in World War Two, some Germans recoil at the idea of sending tanks into a new conflagration there, out of a sense of historic guilt. This is what the Russian embassy statement directly taps into and why the Russian ambassador says this causes "irreparable damage to Russian – German relations." Putin hasn't directly commented (as yet) on these events but one can only imagine he is as furious as the Russian statements coming out from the Kremlin. Last week Russia warned that if they were defeated in Ukraine they would use nuclear weapons. Putin has to walk away with something and he may well resort to extreme force to bring some kind of negotiated settlement. The Bible says he succeeds by using astounding devastation. Russia is destined to take the last piece of Magog....

BIBLE QUOTE

when rebels have become completely wicked, a fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. **He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does.** He will destroy those who are mighty, the holy people. **Putin will probably succeed in annexing eastern Ukraine (part of Magog) into Russia** (Daniel 8:23-24 NIV)

Microsoft invests billions in ChatGPT AI tools adept at creating disinformation

AP, January 23 & 24, 2023



EVENT

1. Microsoft says it is making a “multiyear, multibillion dollar investment” in the artificial intelligence startup OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT and other tools that can write readable text and generate new images. OpenAI’s free writing tool ChatGPT launched on Nov. 30 and has brought public attention to the possibilities of new advances in AI. It’s part of a new generation of machine-learning systems that can converse, generate readable text on demand and produce novel images and video based on what they’ve learned from a vast database of digital books, online writings and other media.

2. Artificial intelligence is writing fiction, making images inspired by Van Gogh and fighting wildfires. Now it’s competing in another endeavor once limited to humans — creating propaganda and disinformation. When researchers asked the online AI chatbot ChatGPT to compose a blog post, news story or essay making the case for a widely debunked claim — that COVID-19 vaccines are unsafe, for example — the site often complied, - e.g., “Pharmaceutical companies will stop at nothing to push their products, even if it means putting children’s health at risk...etc”

COMMENT

We need to be careful using Artificial Intelligence because it has the potential to cause significant harm if not used responsibly. Artificial Intelligence systems can perpetuate bias and discrimination if they are trained on biased data. Artificial Intelligence can also be used to spread misinformation and propaganda, and can be used to target individuals with personalized ads or messages. Additionally, Artificial Intelligence can also be used to automate decision making, which can lead to errors or unfairness if the systems are not designed to be transparent or explainable. Furthermore, there is a risk of Artificial Intelligence being used for malicious purposes such as cyber attacks and surveillance. As Artificial Intelligence becomes more advanced, it is important to consider the ethical implications and ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect individuals and society as a whole. **This is also a sign that we are living in the end times.**

BIBLE QUOTE

God made men upright, but they have **sought out many devices**. Ecc 7:29 (NASB) Thus were they defiled with their own works, and **went a whoring with their own inventions**. Psa_106:39 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**. Dan_12:4

Iran: We can threaten Suez, Hormuz, the strategic waterways of region

Jerusalem Post, January 18, 2023



EVENT

The third article in several days by Iranian pro-IRGC media boasts about drone and missile threats to Israel and support for Hezbollah and Palestinian armed groups. Iran's pro-regime media on Wednesday said that the country's missiles and drones now have the "strategic straits" of the region in their crosshairs. The article in Iran's Tasnim, which reflects the IRGC's way of thinking about the region, says that Iran can now threaten Bab el-Mandeb off Yemen, **the Straits of Hormuz between Iran and the Gulf** and even the Suez Canal. The threat to the Mandeb and Hormuz area was well known in the past, but Iran now appears to have added Suez to its list of strategic choke-points for world trade that it says it could threaten. Iran, in this new article spelling out the triple threat to the region's waterways, is also upping its rhetoric about drones from Lebanon.

COMMENT

Iran is threatening key choke points in the region. They are waterways that see huge quantities of oil and goods pass through them. The article openly notes that a large volume of the world's trade passes via these waterways and blocking them can affect world energy supplies. This is highly significant with Bible in hand. In Isaiah 21 (part of a series of chapters dealing with national burdens that cause problems for the entire world) we read about the burden of Iran. We read that there is a treacherous deal done by Elam and Media (both areas of Iran). In fact we are told that they "besiege" the "desert of the sea." The sea next to Elam is the Persian Gulf. The Strait of Hormuz is the narrow part of the Persian Gulf where 20% of the world's oil passes through. Iran this week has threatened to besiege it with their drones. Isaiah 21 will be fulfilled...

BIBLE QUOTE

The burden of the desert of the sea. 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: besiege, O Media;** all the sighing thereof have I made to cease. (Isaiah 21:1-2)

U.S., Israel launch week of major military exercises

Reuters, January 23, 2023



EVENT

The United States and Israel on Monday launched what one U.S. official described as the allies' most significant joint military exercise to date, involving thousands of forces, a dozen ships and 142 aircraft, including nuclear-capable bombers. The "Juniper Oak" drills, which will run through Friday, are meant to demonstrate and deepen integration between the U.S. and Israeli militaries, the senior U.S. defense official said, and come at a time of growing tension over Iran's nuclear program. Although the drills will likely draw interest from Tehran, the U.S. official said there would be no mockups of Iranian targets and that the exercises weren't oriented around any particular adversary. "I do think that the scale of the exercise is relevant to a whole range of scenarios, and Iran may draw certain inferences from that," the official acknowledged. The exercises will include live-fire exercises and involve 6,400 U.S. forces, many of which will be aboard the U.S. aircraft carrier George H.W. Bush strike group.

COMMENT

With Iran being stirred up and the nuclear deal in tatters, America and Israel are preparing for conflict. With Bible in hand we expect the US to be onside with Israel as they are one of the young lions of Tarshish (Britain) that oppose Gog (Russian ruler and his host). It is interesting that these military exercises are called "Juniper Oak". Very often Israeli wargames have links to the Bible. The juniper tree can survive in harsh climates growing out of rocks, and surviving in areas with very little water. In the Bible Elijah fled alone into the wilderness, and sat under a juniper tree. He was tired, and discouraged but an angel appeared and encouraged him. Elijah would survive against all the odds. Perhaps this is the message Israel wants to give to its enemies?

BIBLE QUOTE

But he [Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a **juniper tree**; and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. And as he lay and slept under a **juniper tree**, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. (Daniel 12:1)

World is 10 seconds closer to doomsday

The Times, January 25, 2023



EVENT

Humanity is closer to Armageddon than ever, according to a team of scientists, who said global conflict had helped to push the world towards calamity. The Doomsday Clock, a symbolic measure of the threats facing the world, has been set at 90 seconds to midnight, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists said. The organisation has been adjusting the clock since it was created in 1947, set at seven minutes to midnight. **Since 2020 the clock had been set at 100 seconds to midnight but yesterday the hands were moved as scientists weighed the danger of the war in Ukraine, climate change and Covid.** Rachel Bronson, chief executive of the organisation, said: “We are living in a time of unprecedented danger, and the Doomsday Clock time reflects that reality. **Ninety seconds to midnight is the closest the clock has ever been set to midnight, and it’s a decision our experts do not take lightly.**

COMMENT

The Doomsday Clock is a symbol that represents the likelihood of a human-made global catastrophe, in the opinion of the members of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Interestingly the symbolic clock was created in 1947 shortly before Israel as a nation was recreated. Also interestingly they often talk about Armageddon in relation to this clock but they appear to have little understanding of what that is in reality. Armageddon is all about the final judgement of God on this world centred on a conflict over Jerusalem - the capital of Israel. These scientists are looking at anything that could bring this world to an end. We know the world will NOT be destroyed. Armageddon is coming – but so is the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will intervene and save this world and establish peace...

BIBLE QUOTE

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because **he hath appointed a day**, in the which **he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained**; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. **Don't forget – at midnight comes the cry! Matthew 25:6** (Acts 17:30-31)

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

2023-01-27 **Israel ON EDGE as Jerusalem Synagogue Targeted in DEADLY Terror Attack** - Watchman Newscast - 9.01 min - YouTube

2023-01-26 **Turkey's Erdogan THREATENS Greece & BLOCKS Sweden; Will NATO Expel Turkey-** - Watchman - 11.57 min - YouTube

2023-01-25 **Netanyahu SURPRISE Visit to Jordan, Talks Temple Mount with King Abdullah** - Watchman Newscast - 9.55 min - YouTube

2023-01-24 **Israel & U.S. Launch MASSIVE Joint Military Drill; WARNING to Iran & China-** - Watchman - 10.15 min - YouTube

2023-01-21 It's official, NATO is split on Ukraine - Gravitas - 7.58 min - YouTube

2023-01-20 US hopes to convince Turkey to lift objections for NATO expansion - English News - WION - 10.28 min - YouTube

2023-01-20 Russia-Ukraine War- US, Germany tries to resolve differences over tanks for Ukraine - WION - 5.56 min - YouTube

2023-01-19 Israel formally requests 25 F-15 EX from the US - Breaking Defense

2023-01-18 Top Israeli Official to Visit Ukraine; Russia Threatens NUCLEAR WAR if Defeated - Watchman - 12.10 min - YouTube

2023-01-16 Russia to deliver Su-35 fighter jets to Iran in three months

2023-01-16 Big surprise to Russian army- Chechen elite battalions suddenly appeared in Ukraine! - 8.56 min - YouTube

2023-01-13 Thousands of Israelis rally against Netanyahu government - AP News

2023-01-13 Iranian Navy Sending Ships to Panama Canal, Says Commander - USNI News

2023-01-12 Why is Russia replacing its top military commander in Ukraine again- - International News - 5.38 min - YouTube

2023-01-12 Iran Navy to Station WARSHIPS In Panama Canal; Direct Threat to U.S.- - Watchman Newscast - YouTube

2023-01-12 2022 was fifth or sixth warmest on record as Earth heats up - AP News

2023-01-11 Ukraine War- Fighting intensifies in Soledar - 3.15 min - YouTube

2023-01-11 Is AI going to replace your brain -Gravitas- 7.20 min - YouTube

The Holy Roman Empire- Every State, Every Year - 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)

"YOUNG LIONS"
(USA, CANADA, ETC)

"LION"
TARSHISH
UK

GERMANY
(LAND OF
MAGOG)

GOMER
European Economic Community

Gibraltar

TURKEY
(Togarmah)

IRAQ/IRAN
(Persia)

INDIA

LIBYA

DEDAN
SHEBA

ETHIOPIA

AUSTRALIA

Legend HandOut

Fragment of ancient Hebrew text, likely from a scroll, showing several lines of characters in a cursive script.

Fragment of ancient Hebrew text, likely from a scroll, showing several lines of characters in a cursive script. The fragment is larger and more damaged than the one on the left, with significant portions missing and the remaining text appearing as dark, irregular shapes on a lighter background.

In 100 words tell me why Nebuchadnezzar and Nabonidus might be the same person.

Nebuchadnezzar and Nabonidus are believed by some scholars to be the same person because of the similarities in their reigns and the historical accounts of their lives. Both were powerful Babylonian kings who ruled during the 6th century BCE. Both were known for their military conquests and building projects, including the reconstruction of the city of Babylon and the construction of the famous Hanging Gardens. Additionally, Nabonidus was known to have appointed his son Belshazzar as co-regent, which aligns with historical accounts of Nebuchadnezzar's son ruling as king in his absence. Furthermore, some scholars propose that Nabonidus was a title or a throne name of Nebuchadnezzar. However, there are also some differences in accounts of their reigns and it's still a matter of debate among scholars.

Give me a 120 word paragraph explaining how the Bible teaches that knowledge brings responsibility.

The Bible teaches that knowledge brings responsibility. In the book of Proverbs, it states that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7) and that "knowledge is easy to him who understands" (Proverbs 14:6). This implies that knowledge is not only important, but that it requires a certain level of understanding and humility. Additionally, the Bible also teaches that with knowledge comes responsibility, as in the book of James, it states that "not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness" (James 3:1). This implies that those who have knowledge have a greater responsibility to use it wisely and to teach it correctly. The Bible also teaches that knowledge brings accountability and that we are to give an account of our actions and the knowledge we possess. In this way, the Bible acknowledges the power of knowledge and the responsibility that comes with it.

What is the most accurate version of English Bibles?

The most accurate version of English Bibles is a matter of debate among scholars and theologians. Some argue that "literal" translations, such as the New American Standard Bible (NASB) and the English Standard Version (ESV), are the most accurate because they adhere closely to the wording and structure of the original Hebrew and Greek texts. Others argue that "dynamic" or "thought-for-thought" translations, such as the New International Version (NIV) and the New Living Translation (NLT), are the most accurate because they convey the meaning of the texts more clearly and accurately for modern readers.

It's worth noting that the most accurate version of a Bible translation is the one that is translated by scholars of the biblical languages, who are experts in the original texts, and that uses the best available manuscripts and critical methods. Furthermore, different translations have their own strengths and nuances, and it can be useful to consult multiple translations to get a more complete understanding of the text.

It's important to note that no translation can be 100% accurate as it's a process of interpretation and understanding, but the most widely accepted translations, such as the NASB, ESV, NIV and NLT are considered to be very accurate and have been translated by scholars and experts in the field.

This Week's Developments

January 22 - 28, 2023 [original slides]

- US joins Germany in sending battle tanks to Ukraine
- Jerusalem's gravest terrorist attack in 12 years

• *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Map 1

Map 2

US joins Germany in sending battle tanks to Ukraine

BBC, January 26, 2023



US joins Germany in sending tanks to Ukraine

EVENT

The US will send 31 powerful battle tanks to Ukraine, joining Germany in sending the vehicles to support the fight against Russia's invasion. The decision to deliver the M1 Abrams tanks was announced just hours after Germany said it would send 14 of its Leopard 2 tanks to the battlefield. Berlin also cleared the way for other European countries to send German-made tanks from their own stocks. Ukraine has lobbied Western allies to send the military equipment for months. It hailed the twin announcements as a turning point that would allow its military to regain momentum and take back occupied territory almost a year after Moscow invaded. It also said the tanks could help deter a potential Russian offensive in the spring. "An important step on the path to victory," Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said. "Today the free world is united as never before for a common goal - liberation of Ukraine."

COMMENT

The war in Ukraine has taken yet another step towards greater conflict in Europe. Germany was extremely hesitant about sending tanks to Ukraine but under immense pressure has now decided to do so. Around 200 tanks will be sent to Ukraine over the coming months to push back against the Russian invasion. But will they be enough to defeat Russia? Ben Barry, senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS), told the BBC that the pledges made so far are unlikely to prove decisive. However they are highly provocative and could cause an even greater response from Russia. The UK has led the way in pushing for greater military action against Russia. Even though EU nations are behind this, Russia sees this mainly as a UK/US led war against itself. It is the military provocation by the king of the south foretold in Daniel 2500 years ago...

BIBLE QUOTE

And at the time of the end shall the king of the south [US/UK] **push** at him [Gog]; and the king of the north [Russia] shall come against him [king of the south] 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)

Jerusalem's gravest terrorist attack in 12 years leaves 7 Israelis dead

The Times, January 27, 2023



EVENT

A gunman shot and killed seven people as they left a synagogue in a settlement north of Jerusalem last night in the deadliest attack on Israeli citizens in the region since 2008. At least nine other people were wounded in an attack that has followed a wave of violence and will represent an early challenge to Binyamin Netanyahu's new hard-line coalition. Israeli intelligence believe he was seeking to avenge a clash on Thursday in which ten Palestinians were killed by Israeli soldiers in an operation against Islamic militants. He was not known to have had any prior ties to militant organisations and may have been acting as a "lone wolf". Hamas, the Islamist movement controlling Gaza, published its "congratulations" after the attack. James Cleverly, Britain's foreign secretary, condemned the shooting. "To attack worshippers at a synagogue on Holocaust Memorial Day and during Shabbat is horrific," he wrote on Twitter. "We stand with our Israeli friends."

COMMENT

Russia has urged 'maximum restraint' after the Jerusalem attacks this week. "We perceive this development of events with deep concern. We call on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and prevent further escalation of tension," the ministry said in a statement. Tensions have escalated in the region since Netanyahu's new government was sworn in. Netanyahu's coalition of religious and far-right parties has vowed stricter policies towards the Palestinians, including loosening the rules of engagement for soldiers and police, and the acceleration of Jewish settlement building in the West Bank. We could be heading towards the initial inner ring war that comes before Russia descends into Israel. We know Jerusalem will be the epicentre of the war.

BIBLE QUOTE

And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

(Zechariah 12:3)