

This Week's Developments

2026-08-22; 2026-08-29; 2026-09-05; **2026-09-12**

- **Anthropic: AI could cause human extinction by 2030**
- UK announces sanctions on West Bank settlements*
- Israel lashes out over UK claims of war crimes*
- Hamas praises Miliband over Israel sanctions
- Muted US response to UK's West Bank sanctions*
- Iran war won't end until after November elections
- What the lightning Houthi advance means for the world*
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Additional Videos

Map 1

Map 2

Map 3

Anthropic researchers say AI could cause human extinction by 2030

The Guardian, September 10, 2026

ANTHROPIC

EVENT

Artificial intelligence could kill off humanity within the decade, according to three researchers with the industry giant Anthropic, one of whom has quit his job in protest. "Neither company is acting responsibly. They are racing straight to self-improving superintelligence and gambling with our lives," wrote Jacob Coxon. "The people building AI earnestly believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade." Evan Hubinger said his former colleague was "correct", adding: "We really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humans! I personally think it is >10% within the next decade." Samuel Marks wrote: "AI developers believe their technology could cause human extinction (or similarly bad outcomes). This could happen in the next few years. In general, the more senior the employee, the more concerned they are." Anthropic said it continues to build models with "some of the strongest safeguards in the industry" and urged the industry to adopt a lawful, verifiable way to pace the release of powerful models.

COMMENT

Are there any predictions in the Bible about AI? Is it history repeating itself at a technological level? Is it man's ultimate idol? Gen 11 shows us human pride attempting to build a system that reaches the heavens, solves all their problems and achieves total self-sufficiency apart from God. Isa describes it: "He makes a god, and worships it; he makes it a graven image, and falls down thereto... and prays unto it, and says, Deliver me; for you are my god" Humanity has taken silicon, electricity, algorithms, accumulated data of human history, & is bowing down to the output. Man is looking to these models for "deliverance" - hoping AI will cure diseases, solve climate change, answer the deepest questions of existence. He has created a product of his own hands & is now needing it to save him.

BIBLE QUOTE

But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush **here and there**, and **knowledge** will **increase**."

(Daniel 12:4)

UK announces sanctions on West Bank settlements

BBC, September 8, 2026



EVENT

The UK has announced sanctions on illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, accusing Israel's government of turning a blind eye to the "ethnic cleansing" of Palestinians by settlers. Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband said the move marked the "beginning of a new approach" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which "not only calls out injustice and suffering but acts". Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar responded by accusing him of spreading an "outrageous lie" and announced counter-measures including shutting the UK's consulate in East Jerusalem. The UK sanctions will ban settlement goods but also act against companies and individuals providing services for settlement expansion. Miliband said the official view of the government was that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank was unlawful because of the "entrenchment of its control, its intention to extend permanent sovereignty, and its expansionist agenda via illegal settlements". Later on Tuesday, Prime Minister Andy Burnham said the targeted measures were "aimed not at the Israeli people, but in support of the two-state solution".

COMMENT

This is significant from a Bible prophecy perspective because Joel 3 specifically condemns the nations for dividing God's land. God says that He will gather the nations to judgment because they have parted my land. Britain once played a major part in establishing the circumstances in which a Jewish homeland could emerge. Now Britain is applying direct economic pressure upon Israel over territory at the heart of the Biblical land and openly promoting its division between Israel and a future Palestinian state. Zechariah 12 says Jerusalem will ultimately become a burdensome stone for all people. The West Bank is part of "the land" that God gave to Israel NOT to other people....

BIBLE QUOTE

I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, **and parted my land**. And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.

(Joel 3;2-3)

Israel lashes out over UK claims of war crimes and ethnic cleansing

The Times, September 8, 2026



EVENT

Israel has accused a “hostile” Labour government of “outrageous lies” and closed Britain’s consulate in Jerusalem after Ed Miliband said Jewish “settler terrorists” were guilty of ethnic cleansing. The announcement triggered a furious response from the Israeli government and anger among some Jewish groups in the UK who warned that it could fuel antisemitic attacks. Gideon Saar, the Israeli foreign minister, said the Labour government was guilty of “blatant interference in the affairs of a sovereign state” and announced a range of retaliatory measures. Israel is to force the closure of Britain’s consulate in Jerusalem, which acts as a link to the Palestinian authority, although the main embassy in Tel Aviv will remain open. Israel will also expel British officials from the US-led co-ordination centre for postwar Gaza and 11 left-wing British MPs — including Jeremy Corbyn and Diane Abbott — will be banned from entering the country.

COMMENT There may be an intriguing Biblical pattern here. Ancient Tyre was originally a great friend of Israel. Hiram supported David and Solomon, supplying materials for the Temple. But that relationship eventually changed. Amos condemns Tyre because “they remembered not the brotherly covenant.” Significantly, Isaiah 23 closely links Tyre with Tarshish — which we understand to have its latter-day fulfilment in Britain. Could Britain therefore be following a similar pattern? A maritime trading power once closely associated with Israel, but increasingly turning against her? Britain still appears as Tarshish in Ezekiel 38 when Gog finally invades Israel, but only as a protesting voice. The extraordinary deterioration in Britain–Israel relations is therefore something Bible students should continue to watch. A new talk is coming out on this subject SOON...

BIBLE QUOTE

Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Tyre and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, **and remembered not the brotherly covenant:**

(Amos 1:9)

Hamas praises Miliband over Israel sanctions

The Telegraph, September 10, 2026



EVENT

Hamas has praised Ed Miliband's sanctions on Israel. The terrorist group said the Foreign Secretary's use of the term "ethnic cleansing" to describe the actions of settlers in the West Bank was a "step in the right direction". It called for the prosecution of Israel's leadership for war crimes. Hamas, proscribed as a terrorist group by Britain, carried out the October 7 2023 attacks on Israel, in which 1,195 Israelis and foreign nationals died. Basem Naim, a senior member of Hamas's political bureau, said: "The imposition of sanctions by Britain and other European countries and Canada on goods imported from the settlements of the occupied West Bank, and the London foreign minister's use of the term 'ethnic cleansing' to describe the crimes of the settlers, are important steps in the right direction – but they are not enough. "What is needed to achieve stability and peace in Palestine and beyond is the immediate implementation of the relevant international resolutions and the prosecution of war criminals in Israel in a manner similar to the Nazi trials at Nuremberg in Germany."

COMMENT

It is remarkable that Hamas has publicly praised Britain's action against Israel, describing the sanctions and the Foreign Secretary's language as a "step in the right direction." The organisation responsible for the October 7 attacks is now encouraging Britain to go further in its pressure upon Israel. There is an interesting echo in Joel 3. God addresses "Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine" and asks the striking question: "Yea, and what have ye to do with me?" The ancient Philistines occupied the coastal territory that included Gaza. The prophecy then describes these surrounding peoples acting against God's people and God's land — before God ultimately brings their actions back upon their own heads. Israel's enemies will all ultimately be destroyed

BIBLE QUOTE

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

(Joel 3:4)

Muted US response to UK's West Bank sanctions may reflect simmering frustration

BBC, September 9, 2026



EVENT

As the UK unveiled sanctions against Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, Israel responded with fury, declaring it would shutter Britain's diplomatic mission to the Palestinians, kick out UK military staff from an international coordination base near Gaza and ban nearly a dozen left-wing British members of parliament from entering Israel. The standoff, which by the afternoon extended to a further 11 mostly European countries set to join the settlement trade ban, raised a crucial question: When Israel becomes isolated, the US as its superpower backer often steps in to provide a diplomatic shield. Was the US, too, going to condemn Britain's policy? But as Tuesday wore on, Washington's response was notably muted. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, asked about the UK move by reporters on the way to Colombia, said: "Obviously, we're not going to do what the UK did. We saw their announcement today but I don't have any comment on it right now."

COMMENT

The Bible presents Israel at the time of the end as becoming increasingly isolated among the nations. Zechariah says Jerusalem ultimately becomes a burdensome stone "for all people". And when Gog eventually invades Israel in Ezekiel 38, the Western powers do not come decisively to Israel's defence. Tarshish and the young lions merely ask: "Art thou come to take a spoil?" Could we therefore be seeing the beginnings of an important change? The US remains Israel's greatest ally, but prophecy appears to require a situation in which Israel ultimately stands alone, while even its traditional friends are unwilling or unable to prevent the invasion. This muted US response is very interesting!

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)

Iran war won't end until after crucial November elections, says Trump

BBC, September 10, 2026



EVENT

US President Donald Trump has said he does not think the Iran war will end until after November's midterm elections, adding that oil prices will not come down until then. "I think the war's going to end immediately after the election because they can't hold out any longer," Trump said of Iran's leaders on Wednesday. He made the comments as he headed to Texas for the Republican Party's first midterm election convention – and repeated them there, arguing that short-term economic pain was worth it to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Trump is facing falling polling numbers and pressure from within his party to end the war, which began when the US and Israel attacked Iran in February. The conflict rapidly spread across the Middle East, as Iran retaliated by launching missiles and drones at Israel and Arab states hosting US military facilities. The price of Brent crude oil, the global benchmark, has risen above the \$100 (£74) mark three times over the past six months, with Iranian attacks forcing production stoppages in Gulf states and disrupting exports through the vital Strait of Hormuz waterway.

COMMENT

This is fascinating alongside Isaiah 21. The chapter begins with a “grievous vision” involving Elam and Media — the ancient territory of modern Iran — before turning to the burden upon Arabia. The Arabian powers are pictured in distress and their military strength failing: “all the glory of Kedar shall fail.” We are now watching a war centred upon Iran spreading across the Arabian Gulf, disrupting its oil exports and threatening the security of the Arab states. Trump’s admission that the conflict could continue for months suggests the pressure upon this region may yet intensify. Isaiah 21 remarkably brings Iran, Arabia, war and distress together in the same prophecy – happening now!

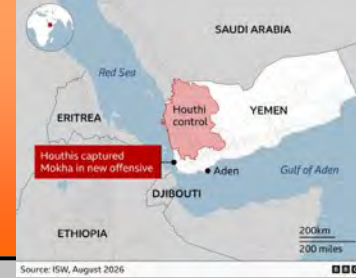
BIBLE QUOTE

For they fled from the swords, from the drawn sword, and from the bent bow, and from the grievousness of war. For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Within a year, according to the years of an hireling, and all the glory of Kedar shall fail:

(Isaiah 21:15-16)

What the lightning Houthi advance means for the world

The Times, September 12, 2026



EVENT

The seizure of the Bab al-Mandeb Strait by Houthi rebels in Yemen has triggered a deep crisis. At a time of stalemate in the US-Iran war, it could hardly be more serious for the White House, Saudi Arabia and the global economy. For the Saudis, who have long backed government forces against the Houthis in Yemen, the capture of that waterway has combined with other crises to produce a nightmare scenario. Last week the Houthis launched attacks at Saudi energy facilities and civilian infrastructure, injuring dozens of people. On Friday the kingdom's energy ministry announced that the east-west oil pipeline critical for bypassing the Strait of Hormuz had been closed after being attacked by drones. And Saudi allies, from the US to Pakistan, Egypt and Turkey, have declined for now to support them militarily. This reversal of fortunes is all the more astonishing because, up until the middle of last week, Yemeni government forces had seemingly been making progress, advancing in the west of the country. It also followed a month in which oil exports via the Strait of Hormuz had started to show a significant increase.

COMMENT

The arteries through which the Gulf's energy flows are progressively seizing up. First Iran largely closed the Strait of Hormuz. Now the Houthis have advanced into the Bab al-Mandeb, threatening the other great maritime gateway from the region. The consequences could be profound. Gulf Arab states are already urgently developing alternative pipelines, ports and trade corridors to escape these vulnerable chokepoints. Remarkably, one of the routes being discussed would carry Gulf oil and gas through Israel towards the Mediterranean, bypassing both Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb. This could ultimately draw Sheba and Dedan economically closer to Israel, as Ezekiel says.

BIBLE QUOTE

Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, **Art thou come to take a spoil?** hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

(Ezekiel 38:13)

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- Iran and US trade strikes for first time in a month
- Putin pledges Iran support, rallies a challenge to U.S.*
- America's CIA boss secret trip to Moscow
- Israel plan to expel Palestinians from Gaza
- Water crisis in Israel raises fears of Gaza sewage
- Germany: Russia's public enemy number 1 in Europe*
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Additional Videos

Map 1

Map 2

Map 3

Iran and US trade strikes for first time in a month

The Times, August 31, 2026

US-IRAN

First strikes

in a month

EVENT

The United States and Iran have exchanged air strikes, reigniting hostilities after a month without attacks. American forces struck Iran first, attacking Larak Island after the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) was observed preparing to launch rockets with sea mines into the Strait of Hormuz, according to a US official. Tehran said it retaliated by launching ballistic missiles at two US bases in Jordan, the King Hussein and al-Azraq bases. The IRGC said it targeted “technical infrastructure, maintenance facilities and enemy fighter jet positions”. In a post on Truth Social on Monday morning, Trump said that Iran is “officially a Failed Nation” and should be tried for war crimes against humanity. While the extent of the damage caused to the bases was not immediately clear, Jordan’s armed forces intercepted eight missiles, according to state media. On Monday, Iran said it targeted US military personnel at an air base in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which has largely been spared of Iranian attacks in recent weeks.

COMMENT

After a month without direct attacks, the war between America and Iran has erupted again. This time Iran's retaliation is particularly significant. Ballistic missiles were fired at American bases in Jordan and the UAE was also targeted. The conflict centred on Iran and the Strait of Hormuz is involving more nations surrounding Israel. The fact that Jordan is now being directly drawn into the Iranian conflict is therefore worth watching. Jordan lies immediately east of Israel and has until now largely avoided the fighting. We cannot know how the present war will develop, but the circle of conflict around Israel continues to widen. The inner ring war around Israel eventually does involve Jordan. Edom and Moab are mentioned in Psalm 83 and both are areas in modern Jordan.

BIBLE QUOTE

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 tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab,** and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; (Psalm 83:4-7)

Putin pledges support to Iran, rallies leaders to challenge U.S.

Washington Post, September 1, 2026



EVENT

In a joint appearance at a regional security meeting, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday thanked Russian President Vladimir Putin for his support in wartime and urged that their nations work together to oppose U.S. sanctions. Putin, in turn, said that his country was trying to help Tehran in its war with the United States. “During this difficult period, we are striving to provide you with the necessary assistance — as we have discussed — and are supplying you with essential goods,” Putin said, according to the Kremlin account. Putin made his pledge of ongoing support just days after Treasury Scott Bessent announced a new economic pressure campaign against Iran called Operation Economic Outcast that he said would result in “unprecedented economic isolation” of Iran. The meeting in Bishkek highlighted the increasingly close military and political alliance between Moscow and Tehran.

COMMENT The developing alliance between Russia and Iran is one of the clearest geopolitical trends to watch in relation to Ezekiel 38. This week President Pezeshkian publicly thanked Putin for Russia’s support during Iran’s war with America, while Putin pledged that Russia would continue providing Tehran with the assistance it needs. At the same time, both countries are increasingly united by their opposition to the United States. This is striking when we compare it with Ezekiel 38. Persia - modern Iran - is specifically named as part of the confederacy that comes with Gog against Israel. God tells Gog to prepare himself for the nations gathered with him and says, be thou a guard unto them. Russia is increasingly becoming exactly that. A guard in the context of Ezekiel 38 is a protector as King Charles has guards that protect him. Russia is acting like this for Iran.

BIBLE QUOTE

Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah 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)

What we should make of CIA boss's secret trip to Moscow

BBC, August 27, 2026



EVENT

President Trump said John Ratcliffe's trip to Russia was a "semi-routine" visit but there is nothing routine about the CIA chief making a secret, 10,000-mile return dash to Moscow. Ratcliffe met Russian intelligence officials on Tuesday - notably his opposite number in Russia's overseas spy agency, Sergei Naryshkin - after arriving unannounced on a US military plane, the Kremlin confirmed. It's been nearly five years since his predecessor William Burns made this trip and that was at a similarly tense time, just as Russia was drawing up plans to invade Ukraine. So, this is probably serious. In the absence of any official US comment on the reason for the mission, it is being widely reported Ratcliffe's trip was to warn Moscow not to escalate in relation to the stalemate in Ukraine - possibly by taking action against Nato members. One US official said that the "meeting was primarily to warn Russia against any escalatory action against the Baltic states".

COMMENT

Something extremely unusual happened this week. The head of the CIA made a secretive dash to Moscow for face-to-face talks with Russia's intelligence chiefs. Reports suggest John Ratcliffe carried a stark warning from Washington — do not escalate the war by attacking the Baltic states. The last CIA director to make such a journey to Moscow was William Burns in November 2021, when he warned Russia against invading Ukraine. Three months later the invasion began. Bible says that Russia's final great move comes suddenly. Daniel describes the king of the north responding to the push of the king of the south by coming like a whirlwind. Russia may be willing to take greater risks, while America's ability to police several simultaneous conflicts is being stretched. The US is clearly worried about what Russia might do next.

BIBLE QUOTE

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

(Daniel 11:40)

Israel 'seeking Trump's support for plan to expel Palestinians from Gaza'

The Guardian, September 2, 2026



EVENT

Israel's defence minister has said his country is seeking Donald Trump's support to approve plans to expel Palestinians from the Gaza Strip in what has widely been condemned as a potential war crime. Israel Katz said there was "no real solution for Gaza in the end without this migration" during a conference hosted by the Israeli news site Ynet and the newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth. He said the Israeli government was "organised and prepared to get them out by sea, by air, by every way possible". Trump discussed a US takeover of the Gaza Strip in early 2025 that would have involved removing Palestinians from the territory, but has since pulled back from the idea. A 20-point peace plan the White House drew up last year did not call for Palestinians' deportation, an act that would be widely seen as ethnic cleansing. Katz, however, said on Wednesday that he believed US support could tip regional opinion in favour of the forced resettlement of Palestinians from Gaza.

COMMENT

Israel's defence minister has now said openly that he sees no lasting solution for Gaza without the migration of its Palestinian population, and that Israel is prepared to facilitate their departure by sea, air and other means. Whatever happens with this proposal, the language is striking when placed alongside the prophets. Joel 3 describes judgment upon Tyre, Zidon and the coasts of Palestine and specifically speaks about the inhabitants of the land being removed to the land of the Sabeans. The Sabeans were associated with Sheba in Arabia. Joel therefore presents the remarkable picture of people from the Palestinian region being exiled to a distant Arabian people....

BIBLE QUOTE

And I will sell your sons and your daughters [O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine] into the hand of the children of Judah, and **they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off:** for the LORD hath spoken it. Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: (Joel 3:8-9)

Water crisis in Israel raises fears over impact of Gaza sewage

Washington Post,, September 4, 2026



EVENT

Israel is facing a water crisis after five of its six desalination plants, accounting for a large share of its water consumption, were knocked offline this week by microscopic algae clogging intake pipes in the Mediterranean Sea. The algae originated from the Nile River delta in Egypt, according to Israeli environmental experts — who warn that untreated sewage from Gaza, where Israel’s military campaign has damaged or destroyed all six wastewater-treatment plants, could only be making matters worse. As algae drifts north from the Nile delta, untreated sewage discharged into the sea from Gaza provides “nutrients that feed microalgal blooms,” probably intensifying their growth, said Noga Armi, chief executive of Zalul, an Israeli environmental group. “The scientific link is well established,” Armi said. “Untreated sewage discharged into the sea from Gaza was one of the factors that contributed to the incident.”

COMMENT

Ezekiel describes Israel’s hostile neighbours as a “pricking brier” and a “grieving thorn” — something continually causing pain and trouble to Israel. But the prophecy says a time will come when there will be “no more” such briars among those round about them. God will execute judgments upon Israel’s surrounding enemies and Israel will then dwell safely. Gaza has certainly proved to be a persistent pricking brier to Israel — militarily, politically and now even environmentally. Could we be approaching a time when Israel seeks to deal decisively with Gaza and the other threats immediately surrounding it? This would help explain how Israel eventually reaches the remarkable condition described just a few chapters later in Ezekiel 38 — dwelling safely and without walls, bars or gates — before Gog and his outer-ring confederacy descend.

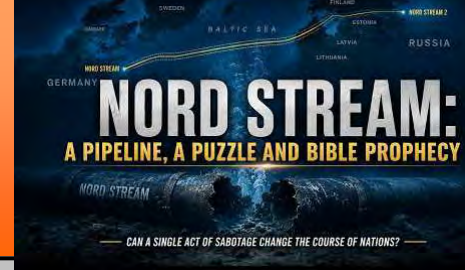
BIBLE QUOTE

For I will send into her pestilence, and blood into her streets; and the wounded shall be judged in the midst of her by the sword upon her on every side; and they shall know that I am the LORD. 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.

(Ezekiel 28:23-24)

Germany once cosied up to Putin. Now they are Russia's public enemy number one in Europe

The Independent, September 3, 2026



EVENT

Successive German governments under Schröder and Angela Merkel have sought deep economic integration with Moscow. This strategy, rooted in the post-Cold War doctrine of Ostpolitik, was built on the belief that mutual commercial dependence would guarantee stability and deter Putin from threatening Europe. Central to the relationship was a reliance on Russian gas, which saw an enormous amount of fuel sold to Germany at cheap prices. The economic partnership between both states led to the construction of the Nord Stream gas pipelines in 2011, which delivered Russian fuel across the Baltic Sea to Germany. The energy partnership unravelled in February 2022 after Russia invaded Ukraine, as the construction for Nord Stream 2 collapsed, dismantling decades of trade policy and forcing Germany to seek alternative energy supplies. A fundamental turning point has occurred in German foreign and security policy named – ***Zeitenwende***.

COMMENT

Zeitenwende. Literally it means a “turning of the times” or “turning point” — an historic change from one era to another. Germany is abandoning its former policy of engagement with Russia to one of rearming, strengthening NATO and regarding Russia its principal security threat. This is fascinating when considered alongside Daniel 2. Some Bible students have expected Russia eventually to dominate or control Europe. But Daniel describes the latter-day feet as divided. Iron and clay exist alongside one another, but “they shall not cleave one to another.” The destruction of Nord Stream may therefore have been far more significant than simply the loss of a gas pipeline. It helped sever one of the strongest bonds connecting Russia with Western Europe. Germany’s “Zeitenwende” is now completing that extraordinary reversal.

BIBLE QUOTE

And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. [CLICK HERE to watch a Bible talk on these significant events – calledNord Stream: A Pipeline, a Puzzle and Bible Prophecy](#) (Daniel 2:41)

This Week's Developments

2026-08-22; **2026-08-29**; 2026-09-05; 2026-09-12

- After 6 months of war, Iran regime remains entrenched
- Tensions rise as Israel strikes Syria for second time*
- Ukraine hands UK intelligence 'goldmine' to foil Putin*
- Nord Stream: The attack on Putin's \$20 billion pipeline*
- UK to warn citizens to stock up on food amid threats*
- Trump: secured a U.S. stake in Venezuelan oil industry
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Additional Videos

Map 1

Map 2

Map 3

After 6 months of war, Iran's battered regime remains entrenched

NPR, August 28, 2026



EVENT

It has been six months since the U.S. and Israel went to war with Iran. One of their main goals was to bring down the regime in Tehran, but Iran's leaders have managed to hold onto power. Instead of collapsing, the regime has dug in its heels and taken an even harder line. Despite its reduced military capabilities, Iran has been able to largely keep the Strait of Hormuz shut down and has enough missiles and drones to remain a dangerous threat to the Arab countries in the Gulf as well as Middle Eastern states further away, including Israel. U.S. military forces remain in place throughout the region — on land and at sea — and could resume military action if ordered to do so. But the intensive bombing campaign at the start of the war has reduced U.S. munitions stockpiles. Military analysts say the U.S. still has considerable firepower, but this issue has raised questions about how long the U.S. might be willing or able to maintain a high-tempo air campaign.

COMMENT

Six months into the Iran war, one thing is increasingly clear: Iran has not disappeared from the prophetic picture. Despite sustained American and Israeli attacks, the regime remains in power, the Strait of Hormuz is largely closed, and Iran retains sufficient missiles and drones to threaten Israel and the Gulf states. This is significant because Bible prophecy places Persia — modern Iran — at the centre of the latter-day conflict. Ezekiel 38:5 specifically names Persia as the first nation joining Gog in the invasion of Israel. Isaiah 21 also speaks of Elam, the ancient territory of Iran, rising up & besieging the Persian Gulf, while Isaiah 13:17 describes the Medes being stirred up for war. Iran therefore has to remain military strong as events move towards the final conflict.

BIBLE QUOTE

Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.

(Isaiah 13:17-18)

Tensions rise as Israel strikes Syria for second time in a week

The Times, August 23, 2026



EVENT

Israel said that its strike on Saturday targeted a “terrorist who advanced attacks in their final stages of preparation” in southern Syria, where Israeli troops are stationed. According to reports, the attack took place near the town of Beit Jinn in the countryside west of Damascus. Syria said Israel struck a “civilian vehicle”, resulting in several injuries. Saturday’s attack marks Israel’s second strike on Syria in a week. On Tuesday, it struck the defunct Abu al-Duhur airbase in Idlib province, close to the Turkish border. Over the weekend Israel claimed it had intelligence that Turkey was seeking to establish a military presence there. Israel Katz, the Israeli defence minister, said Israel had warned Syria and the US in advance of the bombing, citing “clear intelligence” of activities that would “endanger the security of the state of Israel”. Israel is wary of any perceived attempt by Turkey to expand its influence in the region. On Friday, Turkey requested that Interpol arrest Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister.

COMMENT Two Israeli strikes in a single week, including one close to Damascus, show how unstable Israel's northern frontier remains. But there is an important new dimension: Turkey. Israel is increasingly concerned that Turkey is seeking to establish a military presence in Syria, while relations between Israel and Turkey themselves are deteriorating. Turkey is significant. In Ezekiel 38, Togarmah of the north quarters joins Gog's great confederacy against Israel. We therefore watch the developing hostility between Israel and Turkey closely. We also know that Damascus will be destroyed as a city forever at some point. Turkey’s growing involvement in Syria could be the spark that ignites this war. The arena described by the prophets continues to take shape.

BIBLE QUOTE

Gomer, and all his bands; **the house of Togarmah 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)

Ukraine hands UK intelligence ‘goldmine’ to foil Putin’s saboteurs

The Telegraph, August 24, 2026



EVENT

Ukraine has handed over a “goldmine” of secret battlefield intelligence to help protect the UK from Russian spies and saboteurs. Britain is the first country to be given access to Kyiv’s vast “Avenger” labs repository, containing millions of images of Russian tanks, air defences, troops, drones and artillery systems from the war. The data will be used to train technology at UK bases to help them detect saboteurs and spies trying to gain access to Britain’s secrets or military sites. The agreement comes amid growing concern over Russian activity in Britain. Putin was accused last month of launching drones from Russia’s shadow fleet to spy on nuclear weapons in the UK, while in April the Royal Navy disrupted a covert submarine operation carried out by the Kremlin in British waters. The deal was struck as Andy Burnham paid his first visit to Ukraine as Prime Minister on Monday, where he condemned Russia’s “outrageous” threats against Britain.

COMMENT

Britain's confrontation with Russia continues to deepen. The UK has agreed to release classified missile technology to Ukraine, helping Kyiv manufacture long-range weapons capable of striking Russia. Ukraine, in return, has given Britain unprecedented access to its vast database of battlefield intelligence. Moscow has responded furiously. A former Russian deputy foreign minister has even suggested that British factories producing weapons for Ukraine could be attacked, while Russia has withdrawn its ambassador from London and so far appointed no replacement. Russia describes Britain as following a path of confrontation. Daniel 11:40 says that at the time of the end the king of the south shall push at the king of the north. Britain continues to push against Russia militarily— and Russia's threats against Britain are becoming increasingly explicit.

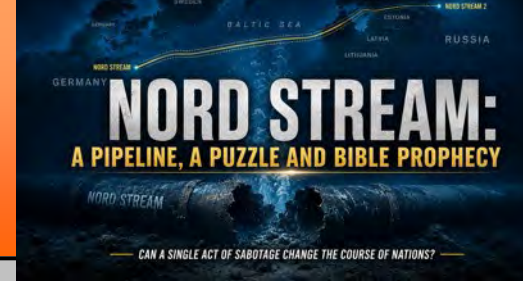
BIBLE QUOTE

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

(Daniel 11:40)

Nord Stream: The attack on Putin's \$20 billion pipeline

Washington Post, August 26, 2026



EVENT

Nord Stream, the world's largest offshore pipeline system and Vladimir Putin's flagship geopolitical project in Europe, took more than two decades to complete and cost nearly \$20 billion. In September 2022, a handful of Ukrainians destroyed it with a rented yacht, commercially available diving equipment and four civilian divers armed with makeshift explosives. The operation that severed the main conduit for Russian natural gas exports to Western Europe cost barely \$250,000. The Nord Stream operation attacked the infrastructure that turned energy into Russian power. Ukraine is now pursuing that objective on a vast scale, using long-range drones to strike oil refineries, depots and other facilities in Russia. Nord Stream crossed a threshold into a new form of conflict in which states — or their proxies — can strike critical infrastructure far beyond the battlefield while denying responsibility and avoiding immediate retaliation. Pipelines, undersea cables, tankers, energy installations and even satellites now occupy a vulnerable gray zone.

COMMENT

The destruction of Nord Stream in September 2022 may prove to have been one of the most significant geopolitical events of recent times. From a Bible prophecy perspective this is significant. Some Bible students have expected Russia to eventually dominate or control Europe. But Daniel 2 presents the latter-day feet as divided — iron and clay that will not cleave together. Nord Stream dramatically accelerated the separation of Russia from Western Europe, rather than bringing them together. I gave a new presentation examining exactly this question: why might the destruction of Nord Stream matter to our understanding of Bible prophecy? [CLICK HERE](#) to watch the Bible talk given this week.

BIBLE QUOTE

And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, **the kingdom shall be divided**; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

(Daniel 2:41)

UK to warn citizens to stock up on food amid threat from climate crisis and hostile states

The Guardian, August 25, 2026

BREAKING

Everyone to be told to stockpile food and water amid possible threat from 'hostile state'

EVENT

UK citizens will be told to stock up on tinned food and take steps to ensure they are prepared for national emergencies as part of a new government campaign to improve the nation's resilience. The new campaign from the Cabinet Office will set out ways people can prepare for extreme weather events and potential attacks from hostile states, including stocking up on bottled water, sources told the Guardian. The aim will be to ensure most households have basic supplies and knowledge about how to cope in a crisis, in order to free up immediate government resources for the most vulnerable. Planning for a number of disasters, from cyber-attacks to extreme heat and flooding, has increased over the past few months after a number of incidents both in the UK and across the world. The plans, first reported by the FT, also include an internal reassessment of government preparations for a military attack by a hostile state affecting Britain.

COMMENT

There was a time when governments rarely spoke openly about preparing ordinary citizens for war. Now Britain is preparing to tell households to stock food and water and be ready for national emergencies, while government planners reassess how the country would cope with an attack by a hostile state. The Bible warns that the closing period of man's rule will be characterised by unprecedented upheaval. Daniel 12:1 says, there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time. Jesus similarly warned of distress of nations, with perplexity, and of men's hearts failing them for fear as they contemplate what is coming upon the earth. But we have hope, because Daniel also says: at that time thy people shall be delivered.

BIBLE QUOTE

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and **there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was** since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

(Daniel 12:1)

Trump says he has secured a vast U.S. stake in Venezuelan oil industry

Washington Post, August 29, 2026



EVENT

President Donald Trump announced Friday night that the United States had secured a long-term stake in a vast share of Venezuela's oil fields, a potentially costly and legally precarious proposal that aims to nudge reluctant energy companies to drill in the risky region. The plan involves the U.S. taking more direct control over Venezuelan reserves as crime and steep logistical challenges discourage private investors. Under it, according to federal officials, the U.S. has gained a controlling stake in nearly a quarter of Venezuela's untapped oil reserves. It makes the U.S. the majority owner of a giant new joint venture oil company that will hold 100-year contracts at the Venezuelan oil fields. Democrats have been unyieldingly critical of the administration's endeavors in Venezuela, including its opaque dealmaking with the country's natural resources industries, since the U.S. ousted former Venezuelan strongman Nicolás Maduro.

COMMENT

Could Trump's deal help establish a dangerous precedent? A great power intervenes in another country, removes its leader and subsequently gains control of enormous strategic resources. Trump has taken a spoil following an invasion. Russia is watching what America does. Ezekiel 38 describes another great power eventually descending upon Israel with an explicitly economic motive — to take a spoil, and to take a prey. Intriguingly, when Russia comes, the Western powers do not immediately attack. Instead they ask: Art thou come to take a spoil? Perhaps this is what helps brings about Gog's "(Russian leaders) evil thought" - if America can intervene to secure its strategic interests and resources, why can't we? The events in Venezuela provide a fascinating modern illustration of how the scenario described in Ezekiel 38 could unfold.

BIBLE QUOTE

Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and **thou shalt think an evil thought**: And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwall'd villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely,

(Ezekiel 38:10-11)

This Week's Developments

2026-08-22; 2026-08-29; 2026-09-05; 2026-09-12

- Iran's secret plan to escalate the war*
- Trump warns of 'economic D-Day' against Iran
- Netanyahu refuses to compromise over Gaza plan
- US condemns Israeli airstrikes on Syrian airbase
- Two countries are keeping Iran armed and dangerous
- UK drone 'deep strikes' in Russia used for first time*
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Additional Videos

Map 1

Map 2

Map 3

Iran's secret plan to escalate the war

The Wall Street Journal, August 16, 2026



EVENT

After President Trump signed a memorandum of understanding with Iran in mid-June, administration officials fanned out to build support for an agreement they hoped would reopen the Strait of Hormuz and start winding down the war. **Iran's hard-line leaders huddled in Tehran and came up with a different plan**, according to Iranian and Arab officials. In their view the pact was likely just an attempt by the U.S. and Israel to take pressure off the global economy and buy time for a bigger attack down the road. Instead of putting faith in talks, **they took the past two months to prepare for a bigger fight**. Arab intelligence officials have picked up evidence—including communications between Iran and militia allies in countries such as Yemen and Iraq—of a strategic shift inside the country's hard-line leadership to get their forces ready to widen the war and raise the costs for the U.S. Their overriding goal is to inflict enough pain to ensure the kind of attacks Iran has endured with the 12-day war last year and the continuing conflict aren't repeated.

COMMENT The US and Israel may have sent many of the country's former leaders to early graves, but have they been replaced by even more formidable foes? The new Iranian leadership is seen as even more hardline than those who preceded it! There are reports that Iran is preparing for more conflict not less. It wants to create enough pain for the US that they won't think of attacking again. 18 American service members have died and 757 have been wounded since the US launched the war against Iran on February 28. There are also reports that Iran might launch some "surprise" attack against the US before the US mid terms in November. The inner ring war around Israel could escalate further – soon.

BIBLE QUOTE

In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and **they shall devour all the people round about [nearby]**, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.

(Zechariah 12:6)

Trump warns of 'economic D-Day' against Iran, but Tehran is well acquainted with sanctions

Associated Press, August 21, 2026



EVENT

Nearing the six-month mark of the Iran war and facing diminishing stockpiles of key weapons, the Trump administration is touting a crushing financial campaign against Tehran, promising an “economic D-Day” against a country that has withstood nearly five decades of punishing American sanctions. With sparse details, President Donald Trump announced this week that the U.S. would be imposing an “unprecedented” level of economic warfare and isolation on Iran, aiming to force its leadership to cave to demands to end its nuclear program and fully reopen the crucial Strait of Hormuz to oil and natural gas tankers. It reflects the dire reality Trump faces with an increasingly unpopular war he can’t seem to end just months before pivotal midterm elections that will decide whether his Republican Party keeps control of Congress. Whether out of desperation or strategy, the president is refocusing America’s might on bringing Iran to its knees through an accelerated sanctions campaign against one of the most economically penalized countries in the world.

COMMENT

There are two big problems for Trump with purely pushing for more sanctions. Though Trump is squeezing Iran economically, its leaders know that he is reluctant to resume major combat operations. This then actually encourages them knowing the US is in a militarily weaker position than it was before. Secondly, (and we learn this with Bible in hand) Iran cares little for money. Iran is ideologically driven. There are no electorate to worry about – no elections that can influence them. Isaiah 13 says that the Medes (Iranian leadership) care nothing for silver or gold. It also says they use their bows to dash young men to pieces. They don’t even care about children. We see Iran stirred up.

BIBLE QUOTE

Behold, I will stir up the Medes [Iranians] against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. Their bows [missiles] also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.

(Isaiah 13:17-18)

Binyamin Netanyahu refuses to compromise over Gaza plan

The Times, August 17, 2026



EVENT

Jared Kushner failed to overturn Israeli objections to a Gaza peace plan as he met Binyamin Netanyahu on Monday, a day after he held talks with Khalil al-Hayya, the Hamas chief, in Egypt. Sir Tony Blair also met the Israeli prime minister in discussions aimed at rescuing the plan, which has stalled as Israel has carried out air strikes and seized more territory in Gaza despite a ceasefire in October, while Hamas has refused to give up its weapons. Netanyahu's office described the talks with Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law and envoy, as "deep and constructive", but the only agreement announced was to "establish two working groups". After the meeting with Netanyahu, Kushner told Fox News: "We could be seeing progress in as little 30 days, hopefully on starting to take some of the weapons out, and hopefully filling in some of the tunnels as well in the next 60 to 90 days."

COMMENT

Kushner (Trump's son in law) arrived in Israel this week amid visible friction between the Trump administration and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the future of Gaza. Netanyahu's position has been blunt: Israel will not withdraw its forces until Hamas is "genuinely" disarmed. Israel has elections on the 23rd October and Netanyahu will not back down regardless of pressure before then as he would be seen as being weak against Israel's enemies. But Trump wants the deal to progress and is also under pressure with US mid term elections early November. The stakes are high on both sides. Kushner did say that Hamas militants would either begin voluntarily disarming "within the next 60 to 90 days," or Israel would receive "much greater support from the United States to finish the job properly. The Hamas pricking brier will 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.

(Ezekiel 28:24)

US condemns 'unnecessary escalation' after Israeli airstrikes on Syrian airbase

BBC, August 19, 2026



EVENT

The United States has issued a rare rebuke of Israel after reports emerged it struck a Syrian military airbase near the Turkish border, calling the attack an "unnecessary escalation". Eight airstrikes hit the Abu Duhur airport runway and storage facility on Tuesday, according to Syrian state TV, although there were no reports of injuries. Israel, while not commenting on the strikes directly, said Syria "was on the verge of breaching" the security status quo, accusing Damascus of allowing Turkish troops to deploy to the airbase. Syria and Turkey blamed the Israeli military for the attacks that they said threaten to escalate tensions in the region. Tom Barrack, the US ambassador in Turkey, who was also appointed as Donald Trump's special envoy for Syria and Iraq, criticised the attacks in a statement posted on social media. "We are deeply concerned that the confirmed Israeli airstrikes on Abu al-Duhur Airbase constitute an unnecessary escalation that does not advance regional stability," Barrack wrote on X.

COMMENT

Israel attacked the Abu al-Duhur military airbase in northwestern Syria on Tuesday to block a perceived deployment of Turkish military forces. The Israeli government stated that Damascus was "on the verge of breaching" a mutual security status quo by permitting Turkey to establish a presence at the base. Also this week several tons of nuclear material have been discovered at a previously undisclosed site in Syria, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog said. The US has condemned Israel's attack on Syria as an escalation. The Bible says there is great destruction coming on Damascus. It will cease to be a city. This has never happened. But before Gog descends it will happen.

BIBLE QUOTE

The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. The cities of Aroer are forsaken: they shall be for flocks, which shall lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

(Isaiah 17:1-2)

Two countries are keeping Iran armed and dangerous

Washington Post,, August 18, 2026



EVENT

Iran's extensive list of demands for opening the Strait of Hormuz has many scratching their heads and wondering how to make sense of a frenetic U.S. approach toward a regime in Tehran that is exercising influence. **A significant reason for Iran's resilience, lethality and leverage is the growing support Tehran is receiving from China and Russia.** These two nations were nowhere to be found when Israel and the United States struck Iranian nuclear and military sites in June 2025, leaving Iran to defend itself. However, when the U.S. and Israel launched military operations against Iran in February, Russia increased its help, providing Iran with valuable drone and intelligence support that strengthened its offensive capabilities. **Russia has aided Iran's campaign of attacks by unmanned aerial vehicles by reportedly sharing valuable drone tactics and technologies tested on the battlefield in Ukraine.**

COMMENT

Russia reportedly provided Iran with satellite imagery and other forms of intelligence to enable Iranian attacks on American military positions in the region, likely improving Tehran's ability to target U.S. forces and high-value assets. Russia is also shipping explosives and other military goods to help Iran replenish arsenals depleted in fighting with the United States and Israel, according to an August 17 report by NBC News. Analysts say that if the US ignores these actions by Russia and China, Tehran's regime will continue to become more resilient and lethal. Russia's support of Iran is explicitly mentioned in Ezekiel 38. We read that Gog (Russian leader) is allied with Persia. Persia (Iran) is first on the list of nations that join forces with Russia in the future outer circle war (Armageddon). We also read Gog acts as a "guard" – protector for Iran.

BIBLE QUOTE

Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah 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 38:5-6)

UK drones used for 'deep strikes' in mainland Russia for first time

The Times, August 15, 2026



EVENT

British drones have been used to strike targets on the Russian mainland for the first time. Drones made by two UK companies have been supplied to Ukraine, whose forces deployed the weapons as part of its deep-strike campaign. Deep strikes — using long-distance drones to hit industrial and military targets in mainland Russia — have caused more than £35 billion in economic damage, sparking fuel shortages and rolling blackouts in some regions of Russia. Targets have included oil refineries, naval bases, logistics hubs and transport networks, including one attack more than 1,000 miles over the border. While Ukraine has previously used limited numbers of western missiles against Russia, including British Storm Shadows, these caused restricted damage and failed to move the dial in the conflict. In contrast, drone-led deep strikes have become the most effective weapon in Ukraine's arsenal as combat on the front line reached a stalemate.

COMMENT

The Russian government has warned that the UK will "pay a price" and faces "inevitable consequences" after it was confirmed that British-made drones are being used by Ukraine to launch deep-range strikes inside Russian territory. The Russian Embassy in London formally accused the British government of acting as a "co-perpetrator" in the attacks. In an official statement, the embassy declared that London is "deliberately opting for an escalation of the Ukraine crisis" and warned that "the deeper its involvement in the conflict... the higher the price it will pay". Daniel 11:40 speaks of the king of the south (which includes the UK) - "pushing" at Gog – Russian leader - the king of the north. The word "push" means a military provocation. It is the Hebrew word for "gore" as in an animal with a horn goring someone and causing pain.

BIBLE QUOTE

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

(Daniel 11:40)

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2025-09-28 THE REAL REASON IRAN WANTS ISRAEL DESTROYED

2026-08-22

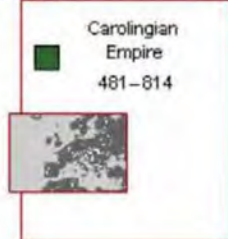
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2026-09-12



- 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



2026-08-22

2026-08-29

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2026-09-12

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



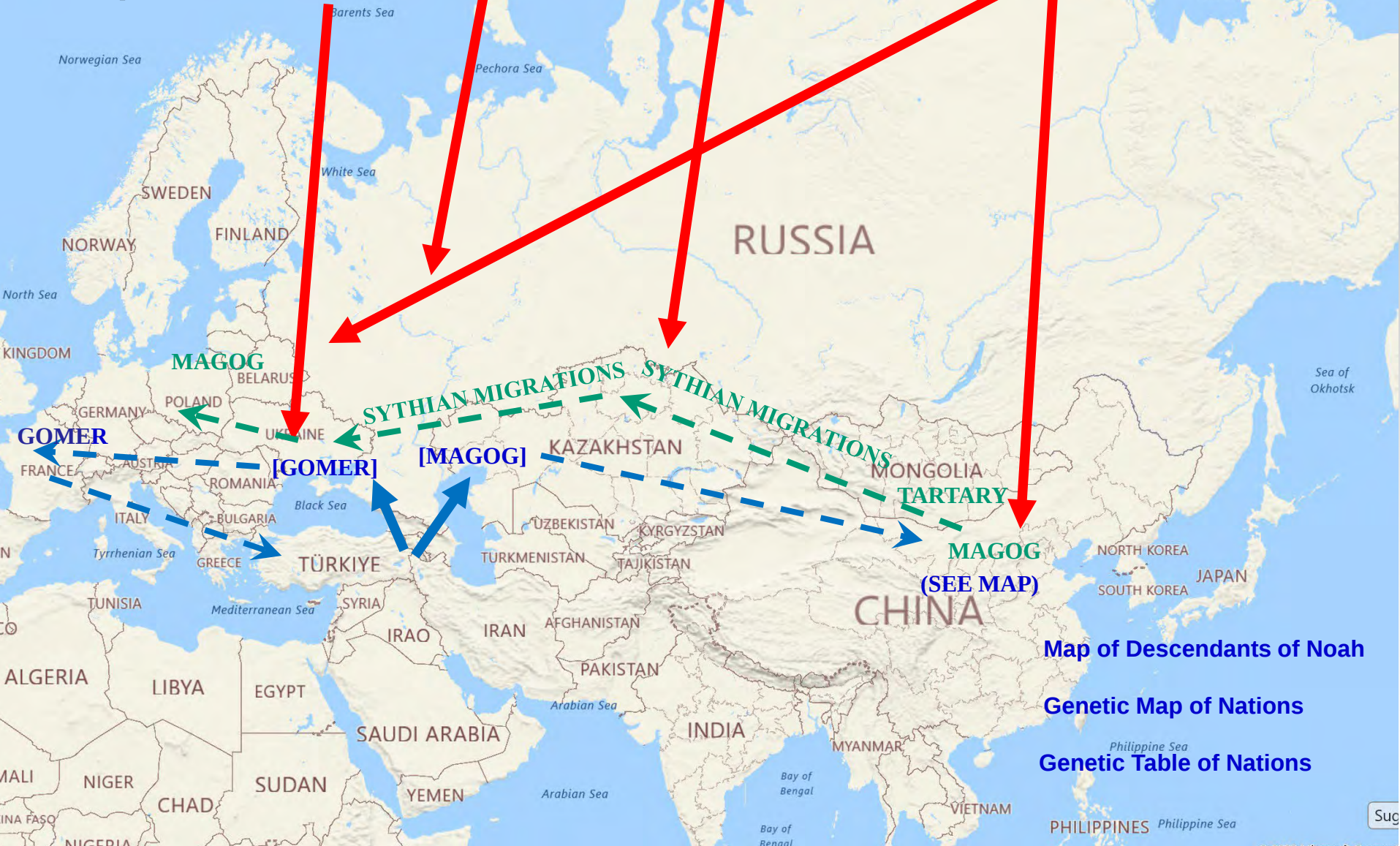
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2026-09-12

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



Map of Descendants of Noah

Genetic Map of Nations

Genetic Table of Nations

Sug

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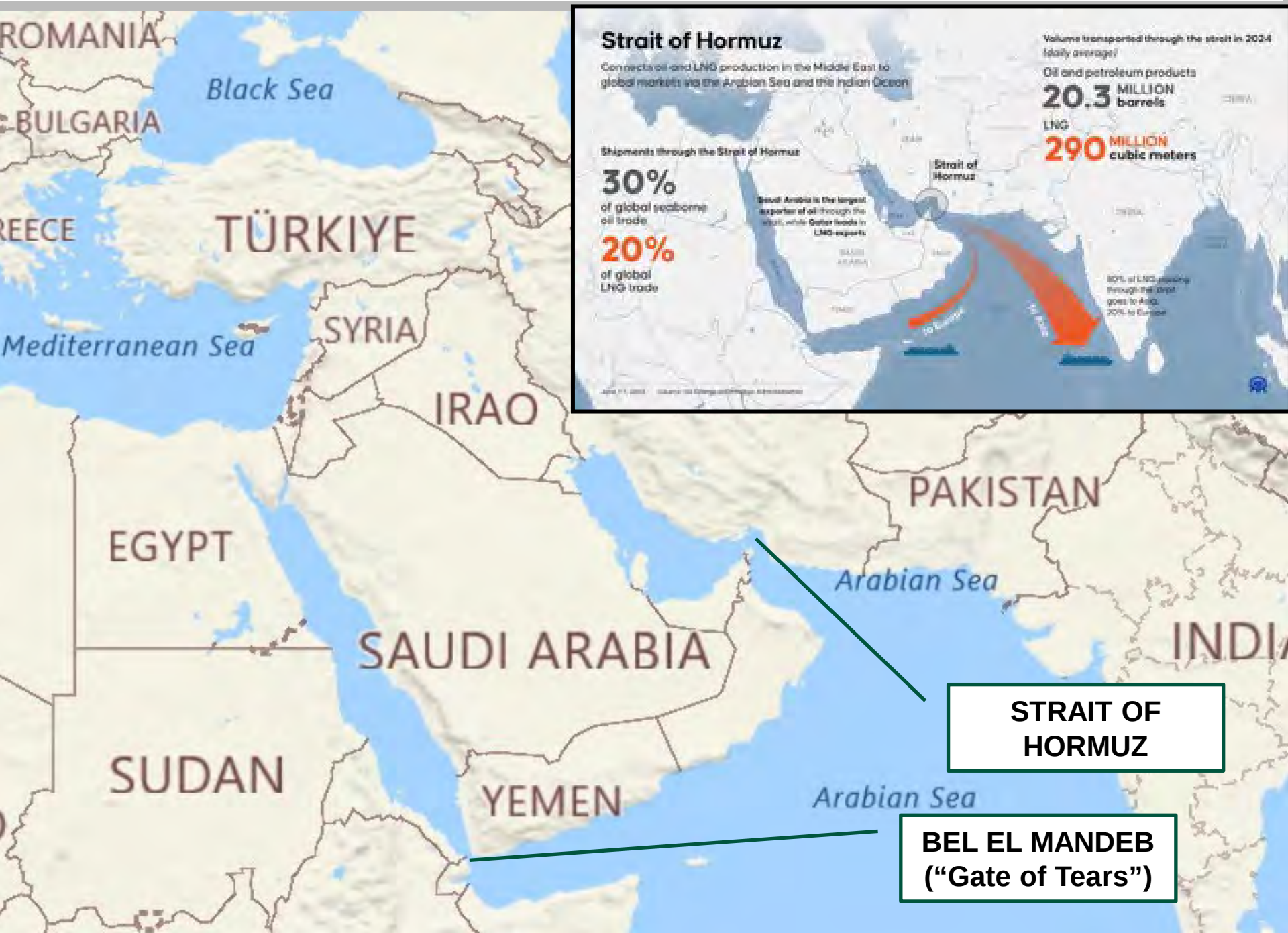
"Son of man, set thy face against Gog (head), of the land of Magog (China?), prince
of Ros (river in Ukraine) Meshech and Tubal (rivers in Russia)"?

2026-08-22

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2026-09-05

2026-09-12



Strait of Hormuz

Connects oil and LNG production in the Middle East to global markets via the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean

Shipments through the Strait of Hormuz

30%

of global seaborne oil trade

20%

of global LNG trade

Saudi Arabia is the largest exporter of oil through the Strait, while Qatar leads in LNG exports

Strait of Hormuz

Volume transported through the strait in 2024 (daily average)

Oil and petroleum products
20.3 MILLION barrels

LNG
290 MILLION cubic meters

80% of LNG passing through the Strait goes to Asia, 20% to Europe

April 11, 2025 | Source: US State Department, International Energy Agency



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2026-08-22

2026-08-29

2026-09-05

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