

# This Week's Developments

April 9 - 15, 2023 [[> supplemental slides](#)]

- M/East expert: Iran planning multifront attack on Israel
- Tensions boil between Israel & Jordan over Jerusalem
- The West neglects the Middle East at its peril
- Russia rushes through law to tighten conscription
- Is this Ukraine's last chance to drive back Putin?
- US and Philippines begin largest-ever drills
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*Map 1*

*Map 2*

# Middle East Expert: Iran Planning Multi-Front Attack on Israel

Israel365News, April 10, 2023



## EVENT

Dr. Mordechai Kedar is a senior lecturer at Bar-Ilan University and the vice president of NEWSRAEL. He served for 25 years in the IDF military intelligence. On Sunday, Dr. Kedar published an op-ed in the Hebrew-language describing a shocking security situation developing in the region that represents a dire threat to Israel. Dr. Kedar began with a disclaimer: “A note to my readers,” he wrote. “I hesitated quite a bit, debating whether to publish the things that appear below because of the panic they might cause in Israel. A source I have known for years – an expatriate from the Middle East, a supporter of Israel, who lives in Europe and is in continuous contact with people in Iran and Iraq – conveyed to me his assessment that **Iran is planning to launch a combined attack on Israel in the foreseeable future that will include all the forces at its disposal in the Arab countries.**”

## COMMENT

Dr. Kedar then listed out all the available assets Iran has around Israel. In Lebanon, Hezbollah and Hamas have many thousands of missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles. In Syria – 17 combat units (“militias”) stand armed and ready. Iran transferred a very large number of missiles and UAVs to Syria. Dr. Kedar also said “Under the pretext of the duty of the Muslim world to save Al-Aqsa Mosque from Israeli occupation and oppression, Iran will conduct a staged, comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated attack on Israel. The first phase will be an aerial attack including a massive coordinated barrage of missiles and UAVs from all the aforementioned arenas.” Dr. Kedar is surely giving detail on what we know is too come with Bible in hand. A Psalm 83, Isaiah 17, Zechariah 12 war of Israel’s immediate neighbours – the inner ring war – coming soon.

## BIBLE QUOTE

On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume all **the surrounding peoples** right and left, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place. **Notice – it is surrounding peoples in Zechariah 12 – and they are burned up. Jerusalem remains secure. Zechariah 14 is nations and Jerusalem falls...**

*(Zechariah 12:6)*

# Tensions boil between Israel and Jordan over Jerusalem

Axios, April 12, 2023



## EVENT

Escalating tensions and violence at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound over the last few weeks have exacerbated the already strained relations between Jordan and Israel, two U.S. and two Israeli officials said. Jordan's King Abdullah II is the custodian of the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem. Because of Jordan's huge Palestinian population, any tensions in Jerusalem, and specifically at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, immediately become a domestic political issue. The first two weeks of Ramadan were largely calm, but the situation escalated last week when Israeli police raided the compound to remove Palestinians who had barricaded themselves inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Jordan harshly condemned the raid and blamed Israel for the escalation. Since then, the Jordanian Foreign Ministry has issued at least 11 statements and tweets condemning and criticizing Israel's policy regarding the holy site. Tensions continued to escalate as the Jordanian and Israeli governments blame each other for being responsible for the escalation.

## COMMENT

Jordan is mentioned in some very significant passages relating to the time of the end. In Isaiah 17 we read of the destruction of Damascus (capital of Syria) but in the next verse we read that the cities of Aroer are forsaken or deserted. These cities are in Jordan. Clearly something happens to Jordan to mean its cities are left empty. In Psalm 83 there is a list of peoples who surround Israel who are in an alliance to destroy Israel. The tents of Edom are mentioned. Edom is modern Jordan and in Jordan there is a huge Palestinian refugee camp in tents! Moab and Ammon are also mentioned – both areas inside Jordan. Despite a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan signed in 1994 we know Jordan will side with Israel's enemies – and this article shows this is the case.

## BIBLE QUOTE

They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The **tabernacles of Edom**, and the Ishmaelites; of **Moab**, and the Hagarenes;

(Psalm 83:4-6)

# The West neglects the Middle East at its peril

The Telegraph, April 10, 2023



**EVENT** The world's leaders have their eyes trained on Ukraine and, to some extent, Taiwan. Yet there is cause for concern elsewhere – the Middle East. The coincidence that the holiest days of the three Abrahamic religions should all fall at the same time has stoked tensions in the area from which they all sprang. This holy season has seen the shooting of two British-Israeli sisters on the West Bank and clashes in Jerusalem where Jews and Muslims have their most sacred sites. This region has always been a tinderbox but the recent Chinese-brokered rapprochement of Iran and Saudi Arabia is changing the dynamic once more. The travails of the Israeli government, a coalition of mainstream and ultra-nationalist parties, and protests against Benjamin Netanyahu's judicial reforms, are complicating matters further. Israel fears Iran is close to fulfilling its nuclear weapons programme and is unlikely to let them do so. After the recent volatility of oil and gas prices the last thing the world needs is a war in the Gulf.

**COMMENT** This editorial in the Telegraph said “The world's leaders have their eyes trained mainly on Ukraine and, to some extent, Taiwan. **But the Middle East is ignored at our peril.**” This is surely true. The world is looking at conflicts around the world and yet we know the greatest of all conflicts is brewing and it won't be in Ukraine or Taiwan. It will be centred on Jerusalem the capital of Israel. The region is a tinderbox ready to ignite. Iran is the power behind the throne of the proxy armies around Israel and will soon activate them to attack Israel in a coordinated way. When it comes it won't be a few hundred rockets but thousands of them. It will be the start of conflict that will eventually suck into its vortex all nations of the world. It will culminate in God's kingdom replacing all nations

**BIBLE QUOTE** And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

(Daniel 2:44)

# Russia rushes through law to tighten military conscription

The Guardian, April 12, 2023



## EVENT

Russia has tightened its conscription law before a widely anticipated Ukrainian counteroffensive in the coming weeks, including introducing electronic military draft papers. The lower and upper houses of parliament rushed through legislation that will make it significantly harder for Russians to dodge the draft while automatically banning registered conscripts from leaving the country. The changes were pushed through with little public debate, fuelling speculation that Russia plans to announce a second wave of mobilisation, something the Kremlin has repeatedly denied. In September last year, Russia's first mobilisation since the second world war caused unparalleled chaos and anger across the country. More than 300,000 men were conscripted to fight in Ukraine, while an even larger number are believed to have fled Russia. Under the new legislation, call-up papers will be deemed to be served as soon as they appear on a government portal widely used by Russians to pay bills, and will be considered officially received by a prospective draftee after one week, whether or not it has actually been received.

## COMMENT

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law on Friday a bill on setting up electronic draft call-up procedures aimed at making military mobilisation more efficient and closing loopholes. Before this legislation someone had to physically receive the draft papers to be called up. Now the person will have been deemed to be called up when their call up is posted on the government website. Clearly Putin is planning for a far greater mobilisation than has been seen so far. Far from backing down because of the difficulties Russia has experienced in Ukraine, Putin will up the ante – he will never back down. He has to achieve some form of success. Worse is to come in Ukraine.

## BIBLE QUOTE

In the latter part of their reign, 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** This is speaking of latter day Antiochus Epiphanes – king of the north – now Russian ruler - Putin....  
(Daniel 8:23 NIV)

# Is this Ukraine's last chance to drive back Putin?

The Times, April 9, 2023



## EVENT

Those who know where it will happen and when are not saying. Those who speculate don't know. But from the top of the military apparatus to the men and women on the front lines, everyone says a Ukrainian counteroffensive is coming. President Zelensky wants to capitalise on high morale after his army's successes of late last year and exploit western enthusiasm to send arms. Western military planners believe that the Ukrainian army now has enough ammunition for **one big push this year** — so long as it is used wisely and not according to the old “firewall tactics” of the Soviet era: continuous, intensive bombardment. **If the push does not work**, they say there will be enough to resume the defensive posture the Ukrainian side has taken since last year's two major breakthroughs, when it recaptured southern Kharkiv province in September and Kherson city in November. **But there will not be enough for a second push** and it is an open question whether there will be a further major round of rearmament by Ukraine's western allies.

## COMMENT

We have long looked for the “push” - military provocation – of the king described in Daniel 11:36-39. This king is a real living human being. A ruler of nation. He lives at the time of the end. We know this because we read “at the time of the end the king of the south will push at HIM”. The “him” is a latter day Antiochus Epiphanes - the ancient king of the north (Seleucid – Syrian ruler) who is described in detail up to verse 35. The latter day Antiochus Epiphanes is Gog ruler of Russia. However when Damascus is destroyed and Syria ends Gog will descend and take over that land. At that point (when he fully controls Syria) he puts on the mantle of “the king of the north” and descends into Israel.

## BIBLE QUOTE

And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: 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. **“the king” becomes “the king of the north” when he takes over Syria – the territory of the ancient king of the north...** (Daniel 11:40)

# US and Philippines begin largest-ever drills after China exercises

BBC, April 11, 2023



U.S., PHILIPPINES FLEX  
MILITARY MIGHT

**EVENT** The US and the Philippines are holding their largest-ever joint military drills a day after China concluded large-scale exercises around Taiwan. Over three days, China's military rehearsed blockades of Taiwan in response to the island's leader meeting the US House Speaker last week. Washington criticised China's display of firepower as disproportionate, while Taiwan President Tsai said it was "irresponsible" and she had the right to make visits to the US. The US drills had been earlier planned. Filipino and US officials say the drills show their commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region that is open and free. Washington announced last month that their annual Balikatan exercise with the Philippines would be their largest ever - involving more than 17,000 troops, including 12,000 from the US. The two-week Balikatan operation will also see the militaries execute a drill to blow up a mock target warship in the South China Sea - a move that could incur China's wrath.

**COMMENT** We have spoken of the conflict centred on Israel but it is possible that in fact there are wars occurring simultaneously around the world during the "time of trouble such as never was." Jesus said there would be "wars and rumours of wars" before he returned. He also said that "nation would rise up against nation and kingdom and against kingdom." The world is in a perilous state and much has been destabilised with the Covid pandemic followed closely by the Ukraine war. Governments are more fragile both economically and politically. This has led to many nations having higher military spends and larger military exercises. We long all the more for the King of Peace – Jesus Christ to return.

**BIBLE QUOTE** Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son. He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment. The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness. He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. *(Psalm 72:1-3)*

## ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

2023-04-16 [Thawing of Saudi-Iranian relations helps Israel long term](#) - editorial - The Jerusalem Post

2023-04-15 [Africa needs more help with climate change, debt and food crises](#) – Reuters - 11.00 min - YouTube

2023-04-14 [California's recent weather crises brought dead lake back to life](#) - 3.46 min - CNN Video

2023-04-14 [After earthquake, Istanbul gripped by fear that bigger disaster awaits](#) - Reuters

2023-04-13 [Southeast Florida swamped by more than two feet of rain](#) - Reuters

2023-04-13 [France heading towards worse summer drought than 2022, geological service says](#) - Reuters

2023-04-12 [Inside Details of Russia, Iran and China's Secret Deal](#) - Vantage with Palki Sharma - 4.20 min - YouTube

2023-04-11 [Russia welcomes Finland's NATO membership with nuclear Iskander missiles](#) - World at War - 5.04 min - YouTube

2023-04-10 [Hezbollah & Hamas Leaders Hold TERROR SUMMIT; Iran Ring of Fire](#) - Watchman Newscast - 10.58 min - YouTube

2023-04-06 [Graphic shows all the changes in global temperature since 1850](#) 3.28 min - CNN Video

2023-04-02 [How does the IDF protect Israel from Hezbollah](#) - 10.35 min - YouTube

2023-03-31 Israel Protests- What's next for Netanyahu- - Will Netanyahu's coalition collapse - This World - 19.55 min - YouTube

2023-03-31 Inside Israel's NOTORIOUS Site Known as "The Gates of HELL" During Time of Jesus - Watchman- 11.58 min - YouTube

2023-03-28 Israel-U.S. Relations Heading for CRISIS After Biden Slams Netanyahu- - Watchman Newscast - 12.44 min - YouTube

2023-03-27 WSJ\_NORC Survey Results \_2023-

2023-03-27 America Pulls Back From Values That Once Defined It-

2023-03-26 China's Strategy Toward Russia And The West-

2023-03-19 How 'The Most Catholic Country in the World' Left the Church but is Rediscovering Faith - 4.27 min - YouTube

2023-03-24 Arab nations embracing Syria - The West Asia Post - 6.09 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

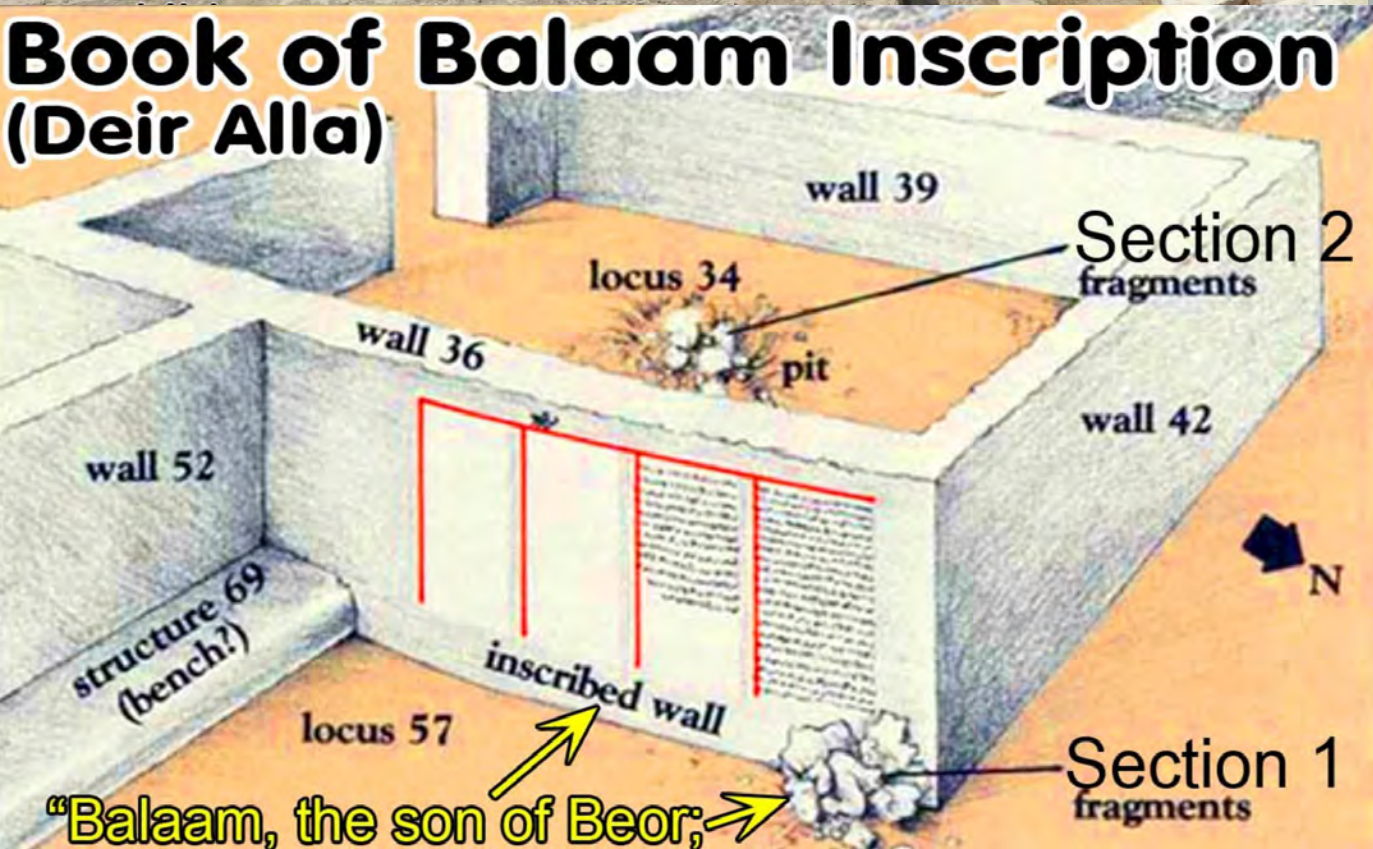


- Carolingian Empire 481-814



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







[2/2] People pray on the first day of Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha outside the Ayasofya-i Kebir Camii or Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey July 9, 2022. REUTERS/Murad Sezer/File Photo



# This Week's Developments

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- Africa Needs Help With Climate Change, Debt & Food
- Istanbul Gripped by Post-Earthquake Fears
- Discovery of the Book of Balaam Inscriptions

- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

*Map 1*

*Map 2*

# Africa Needs Help With Climate Change, Debt & Food Crises

Reuters, April 15, 2023



## EVENT

Africa is struggling with the triple shock of rising debt burdens, an ongoing food crisis and climate change fallout and needs more help from international institutions and wealthy nations to cope, African finance ministers said on Saturday. Developing African economies were only beginning to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic when Russia's invasion of Ukraine provoked capital market turmoil and an inflation acceleration that sent food prices soaring. The continent, meanwhile, was already struggling with extreme weather events, including drought, flooding and cyclones, aggravated by climate change. "African countries are really victims. They really aren't responsible for these devastating effects (of climate change)," Comoros Finance Minister Chanfiou said in a news conference during the World Bank spring meetings in Washington. "Even if the IMF, the World Bank and our regional institutions have put in place emergency funds, these funds don't really seem sufficient to respond to this."

## COMMENT

The earth is winding down and, without Divine intervention, man will be incapable of preventing the inevitable disaster that will envelope the globe. The creator has designed the earth and its natural systems to operate within a delicate balance with a slim margin to tolerate human generated changes. Up until the last century the earth's population was within manageable limits and the "going to and fro" tended to be low in the use of any commodities that upset that delicate divine balance of nature. With the rapid advance of technology and the human desire to be doing "Everything, Everywhere All At Once", the resulting production of polluting emissions & and waste & carbon is on steroids. Climate change is a out of control runaway train, and the train wreck of all man's systems and inventions and imaginations of his heart will be the inevitable outcome. But the Bible doesn't leave us without hope. After Christ's return, the desert will blossom as a rose, etc.

## BIBLE QUOTE

In various places...famines, and pestilences; the sea and the waves roaring...and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth... Luke 21:10,27 the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly...and they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God. : Isa 35:1,2

# After Earthquake, Istanbul Gripped by Fear That Bigger Disaster Awaits

Reuters, April 15, 2023



## EVENT

The deadliest earthquake in Turkey's modern history has reawakened fears on the other side [of Turkey] that Istanbul is an even bigger disaster waiting to happen, sending hundreds of thousands scrambling to find safer homes. Some 5 million of the 16 million residents of Turkey's largest city live in risky homes, official data show, given it lies just north of a faultline crossing the Marmara Sea in the northwest of the country. Since tremors devastated the southeast on Feb. 6, killing more than 50,000, anxiety has gripped the metropolis and revived memories of a 1999 earthquake that killed 17,000 in the region. Tens of thousands of buildings collapsed in the February quake, drawing accusations that lax building standards across Turkey generally had contributed to the disaster and fuelling concerns about the soundness of many ageing buildings in Istanbul. Since the quake, the number of applications in Istanbul to demolish and reconstruct at risk homes - where nearly 500,000 people live - has tripled. The scramble has also exacerbated already sky-high rental housing prices. The preoccupation with safe housing comes ahead of May 14 elections seen as President Erdogan's biggest political challenge in his two decades in power.

## COMMENT

Earthquakes are a frequent mention in Bible prophecy, relating to both literal earthquakes and political earthquakes that are foretold to increase in both frequency and intensity as the day of Christ's return approaches. As is seen here, sometimes the anticipation of the literal can threaten to cause the political to happen. In this case that has come about by reason of gov't being implicated in the disaster by winking at careless structural engineering. Istanbul is formerly Constantinople, the political/military capital of the 4th beast dominion - the Roman Empire. The Bible predicts the Northern Gogian Confederacy to descend & take over this city/territory and together with the Roman State-Church system to cause the Nebuchadnezzars image to stand as a monument of all man's empires that have ever existed since Nimrod and Babel and be smashed & ground to powder by the little stone (the Christ-body) which then fills the earth with Divine gov't. This political earthquake will be attended by literal earthquakes, the Bible tells us.

## BIBLE QUOTE

And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives... will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

Rev 16:18 Zec 14:3,4

# Discovery of the Book of Balaam Inscriptions

Bible.ca.2023



## EVENT

In an unprecedented discovery, an ancient text found at Deir Alla, Jordan, tells about the activities of a prophet named Balaam. Could this be the Balaam of the Old Testament? The text makes it clear that it is. Three times in the first four lines he is referred to as "Balaam son of Beor," exactly as in the Bible. This represents the first Old Testament prophet to be dug up in Bible lands — not his tomb or his skeleton, but a text about him. The text also represents the first prophecy of any scope from the ancient West Semitic world to be found outside the Old Testament, and the first extra-Biblical example of a prophet proclaiming doom to his own people. The remarkable text found at Deir Alla consists of 119 fragments of plaster inscribed with black and red ink. It was among the rubble of a building destroyed in an earthquake. It seems to have been one long column with at least 50 lines, displayed on a plastered wall. According to the excavators' dating, the disaster was most likely the severe earthquake which occurred in the time of King Uzziah (Azariah) and the prophet Amos in about 760 BC (Am 1:1; Zec 14:5). The lower part of the text shows signs of wear, indicating that it had been on the wall for some time prior to the earthquake."

## COMMENT

Not long ago in the Daily Readings class we read about the activities of Balaam who was enlisted by Balak the Midianite king to curse the people of Israel gathered in the plains of Jordan. Of course we absolutely believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, but it is good to have the confirmation of these 3rd party accounts that are discovered from time to time. Deir Alla is the same as Succoth as it is called in the Bible. The name of YHWH occurs as does El Shaddai and other references to the Hebrew names of Divinity. There is a reference to Balaam's mule that was given the ability of speech. But the main thing is the simple 3rd party acknowledgement of the account. There is a difference in the dating of the episode which most likely means that the story was transmitted orally for a few hundred years, then with the advancement of the ability to write, it was committed to parchment or, in this case, to a wall.

## BIBLE QUOTE

Balak the son of Zippor ...sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me  
Numbers 22:5