

# This Week's Developments

December 13 - 19, 2020

- US scrambling to understand fallout of Russia hack
- US sanctions Turkey over Russian missile system
- Cut food prices in a week or else, demands Putin
- With eye on Iran, Israel tests missile defence system
- UK and Israel sign military cooperation agreement
- Heavenly sight to appear for first time since 1623
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

# US scrambling to understand fallout of suspected Russia hack

The Guardian, December 18, 2020



## EVENT

The US government is still in the dark over how deeply Russian hackers penetrated its networks during the worst ever cyber attack on federal agencies, members of Congress warned on Friday. At least six government departments were breached in a likely Russian intelligence operation thought to have begun in March. Although there is no evidence that classified networks were compromised, it is not known what the hackers may have stolen or how long it will take to purge them. Members of Congress said the government is still scrambling to understand the fallout as details emerge. “This hack was so big in scope that even our cybersecurity experts don’t have a real sense yet in the terms of the breadth of the intrusion itself,” commented Stephen Lynch, head of the House of Representatives’ oversight committee, after attending a classified briefing.

## COMMENT

A massive cyber attack attributed by most experts to Russia has been uncovered this week in America. It started in March (when the US troubles began) and has continued until now. It is the worst attack the US has ever experienced and the damage done has not yet fully been assessed. President Trump has so far said nothing about it. President elect Joe Biden said it was a “matter of great concern” and promised to retaliate. One senior Democratic senator called the attack “virtually a declaration of war”. As one report said this “is an epic national security crisis.” Trump, who rarely criticises Russia and Putin, is being pressured to react. Biden has already said he would act. The Bible is clear that at the time of the end the king of the south (US/UK/Saudi) are opponents / adversaries to the king of the north (Russia). We expect the US president to be more of an opponent to Russia than an ally – perhaps why Joe Biden is likely to take the reins.

## 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.

(Daniel 11:40)

# US sanctions Turkey over Russian S-400 missile defence system

The Times, December 16, 2020



## EVENT

President Trump has imposed sanctions on Turkey over its purchase of the Russian S-400 missile defence system, further souring relations between Washington and Ankara as Joe Biden prepares to take office. The sanctions fall under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act of 2017, which was drawn up to stymie the military expansionism of Iran, Russia and North Korea. They ban all US exports to the Defence Industries Directorate, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Turkish presidency and is responsible for procuring military equipment for the armed forces. They also place an asset freeze and visa restrictions on four of the directorate's personnel. Mr Trump was obliged to impose sanctions following the passing of the US's 2020 Defence Authorisation Act this month, which made embargos over the S-400 purchase compulsory.

## COMMENT

As tensions escalate dramatically with Russia over the hacking revelations this week, we also see the relationship with the US and Turkey deteriorate as well. Turkey (a NATO country) has bought highly sophisticated Russian defence missiles capable of shooting down allied planes. For a supposed ally to buy this type of weapon from an enemy nation is against all normal protocols. Hence the US reaction. Again Trump has been forced to make this move – whereas Mr Biden's presidency is likely to usher in a more hawkish era in relation to Turkey, and it is possible that he could impose further sanctions. The Bible is very clear that Turkey (Togarmah) is onside with Russia when they both invade Israel. We see the nations aligning exactly as prophesied...

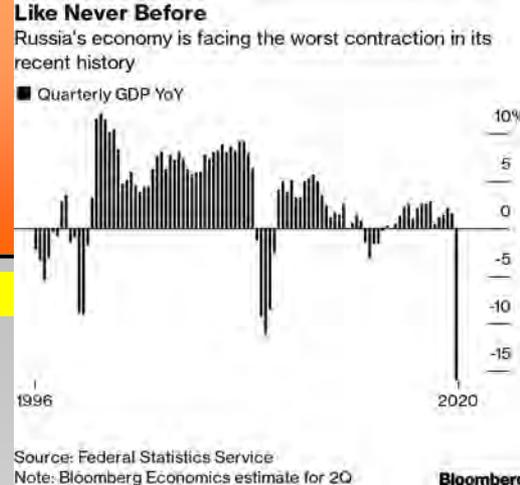
## BIBLE QUOTE

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)

# Cut food prices in a week or else, demands Putin

The Times, December 13, 2020



## EVENT

President Putin has ordered his government to cut the surging cost of basic foodstuffs within the next seven days amid discontent over falling incomes and rising unemployment. Putin said that the price of sugar had gone up by 71 per cent, cooking oil by 23 per cent, grain by 19 per cent and flour by 13 per cent, although he did not specify over what time frame. He was particularly infuriated by an "unacceptable" 10 per cent rise in the price of pasta after a better-than-usual wheat harvest. "Resolve this within a week!" he told Maxim Reshetnikov, the economy minister, in comments aired on state television. "Real disposable incomes fell by what? Three? 4.3 per cent? People limit themselves because they have no money for basic food. What are you doing? This is the question! This is no joke." Real incomes plummeted by 8 per cent from April to June, the biggest decline for 20 years.

## COMMENT

Russia is in financial trouble. COVID has wreaked havoc on its already struggling economy. Oil and gas prices are still way below the levels they need to be for Russia to balance its books. COVID has only added to their difficulties. Incomes are falling, prices are rising. This is interesting because in his book *Elpis Israel*, John Thomas wrote these words (in 1849!) "Let the Russian treasury be as empty as it is said to be, and its expenditure exceed its revenue by double the alleged deficit, it will only operate as a pressure from within, causing her autocrat to "enter into the countries, and to overflow and pass over," and to enrich himself with the spoil of those he is destined to subdue." He foresaw (with Bible in hand) Russia's financial trouble at the time of the end.

## BIBLE QUOTE

And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations,  
(Ezekiel 38:11-12)

# With eye on Iran, Israel tests missile defence system

Associated Press, December 15, 2020



## EVENT

Israel's Defence Ministry said Tuesday it conducted a series of successful live fire drills with its multi-range missile-defence system, providing protection against threats posed by arch-enemy Iran and its proxies along Israel's northern and southern borders. Defence officials said it was the first time they have conducted an integrated test bringing together the various components of the country's "multilayer" missile defence. They are the "Arrow," which intercepts long-range missiles; "David's Sling," meant to shoot down medium-range missiles; and the "Iron Dome," which has been used for years to defend against incoming rocket fire from the Gaza Strip. Moshe Patel, head of Israel's Middle Defence Organization, said the drill "demonstrated a multi-layered approach to dealing with threats" that incorporates all three systems. "Using this approach, a variety of threats may be identified and intercepted via full coordination and interoperability between the systems," he said.

## COMMENT

Not only do we have tensions increasing with America, Russia and Turkey but we also have them increasing between Israel and Iran. A few weeks ago Iran's top nuclear scientist was assassinated and Iran's leaders have promised to retaliate. There is a possibility they will do this before Biden is sworn in on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021. In the meantime Israel is preparing for conflict. This week for the first time Israel has tested its 3 main defence systems together. They cover long, medium and short range attacks. It shows that Israel believes that when conflict does come it could come from many sources and from many different areas. We know that soon Israel will be the centre of worldwide conflict. Jerusalem will be the epicentre of Armageddon...

## BIBLE QUOTE

For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

(Zechariah 14:2)

# UK and Israel sign military cooperation agreement

UK Defence Journal, December 7, 2020



## EVENT

Israeli Chief of General Staff Aviv Kohavi virtually met with Chief of the Defence Staff General Sir Nick Carter and signed a joint agreement to “formalise and enhance” military co-operation between the UK and Israel. Most of the agreement is highly classified but the cooperation will include defence medical training, organisational design concepts and defence education. In October it was reported that the British had been given access to Israel’s Rhino mobile headquarters, designed by Elbit Systems. The British Army said the system helps to “reduce the size of the headquarters, makes it less vulnerable and able to make and communicate decisions faster”. UK-Israel think tank BICOM said here: “Military cooperation has been growing over the last decade with the relationship viewed as mutually beneficial.” It is understood that post coronavirus, both militaries hope to be able to return to a schedule of regular visits and meetings.

## COMMENT

We do expect Israel and the UK to be on the same side at the time of the end. This is because Tarshish (UK) is mentioned in Ezekiel 38 as being the opposing force to Russia who heads up the invasion of Israel in the latter days. However we are also told that Russia succeeds in swooping down and taking a spoil from Israel. This must mean that despite being opponents of Russia, the UK (and US) are NOT able to defend Israel. They are either overwhelmed by Russia’s forces or are weakened so they don’t have the capability of stopping Russia – or both. We are watching the weakening of America and Britain at this time – with the economic impact hitting both nations very hard AND Brexit coming in a few weeks time which will also hit the UK economy. It won’t be a military agreement that saves Israel – it will be the return of Christ...

## BIBLE QUOTE

And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son,  
(Zechariah 12:9-10)

# Jupiter and Saturn: Heavenly sight to appear for first time since 1623

The Times, December 19, 2020



## EVENT

The two largest planets in our solar system are to provide the first glimpse in centuries of a celestial phenomenon that the Vatican has said may explain the Star of Bethlehem. Jupiter and Saturn will appear closer in the night sky on Monday than at any time since the 17th century, coming together in an event known as a great conjunction. To find them, look south-west low into the sky as soon as the sun sets. Conjunctions like this are unusual, with Jupiter and Saturn last appearing so close in 1623, the year in which Shakespeare's collected works were first published and 14 years after Galileo made his first telescope. On that occasion, the two planets were close to the sun and difficult to see and they do not appear to have been observed. The last time they were both this close and so easy to spot was in 1226.

## COMMENT

We know that the motion of the sun, moon and stars are given for signs. Genesis 1:14. We are told there will be signs in the sun, moon and stars when Jesus returns. Interesting then that we have an unusual coming together of Jupiter and Saturn. It happens very rarely. One such time was in 7BC (a few years before the birth of Jesus). Some believe it was this alignment that was the sign the wise men in the east saw and they interpreted as the coming of the Messiah. We don't know the answer to what the star was that appeared around the time Jesus was born. But we do know that there was some sign in the heavens that could be discerned for those who were watching. We should also be looking up into the heavens for our redemption draws night. We should also be discerning the events happening that tell us Jesus is coming.

## BIBLE QUOTE

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

(Luke 21:25-26)



# Like Never Before

Russia's economy is facing the worst contraction in its recent history

■ Quarterly GDP YoY

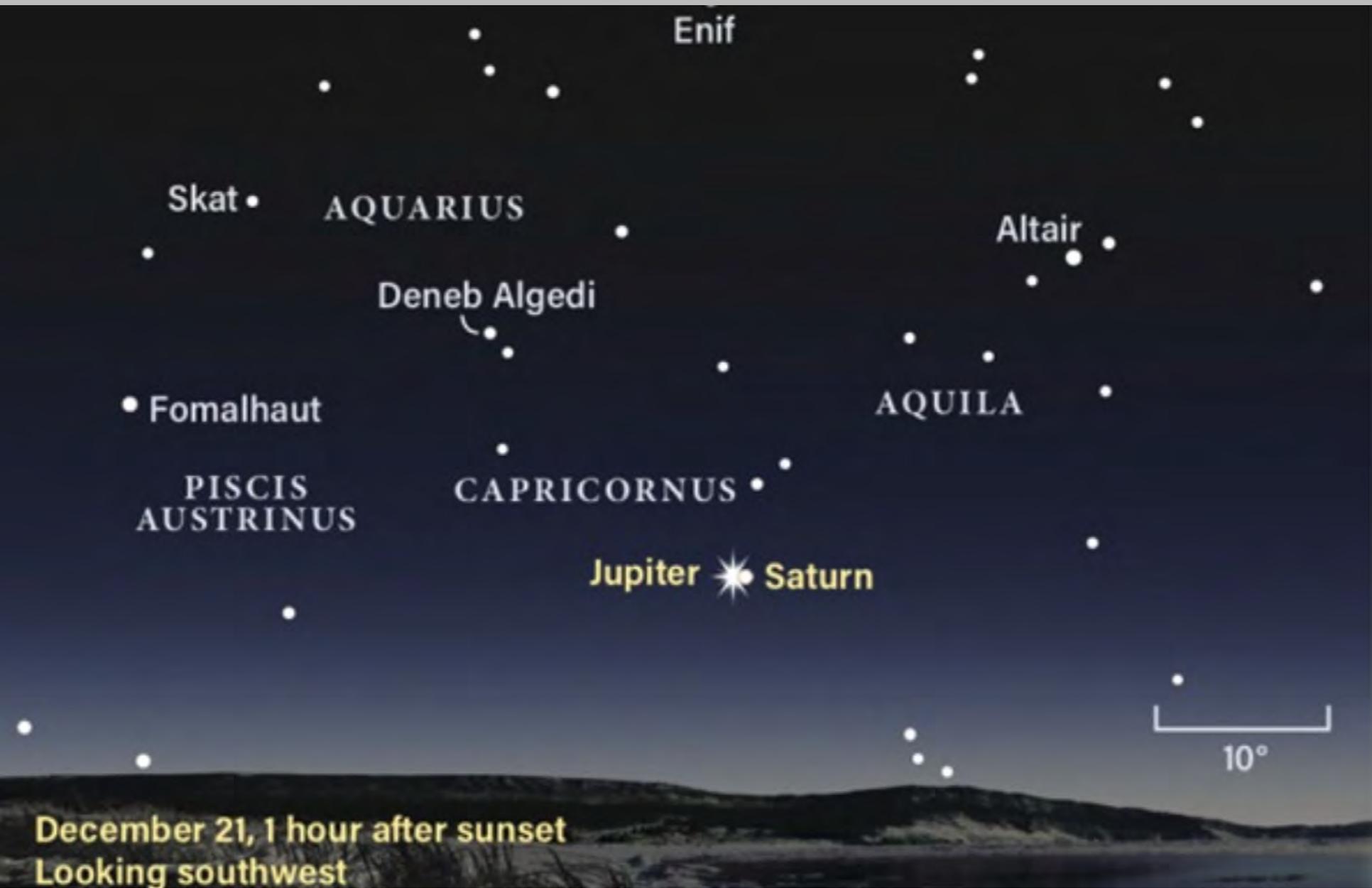


Source: Federal Statistics Service

Note: Bloomberg Economics estimate for 2Q

**Bloomberg**





Enif

Skat

AQUARIUS

Altair

Deneb Algedi

Fomalhaut

AQUILA

PISCIS  
AUSTRINUS

CAPRICORNUS

Jupiter Saturn

10°

December 21, 1 hour after sunset  
Looking southwest

## **ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES**

This Week's **DebkaFile Review** (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence)

Why Russian Military Expenditure Is Much Higher Than Commonly Understood

Weapons of the weak- Russia and AI-driven asymmetric warfare

How artificial intelligence is transforming the world

The 'Great Reset,' world leaders' radical plan to transform the economy – The Hill

The 'Great Reset' – What Is It & What Does It Mean ?

U.S. Calls for 'Moratorium' on Nord Stream 2 Pipeline

Is Putin Really Considering a Military Alliance with China?