

This Week's Developments

June 27 – July 10, 2021

- Russian warplanes monitor UK HMS Queen Elizabeth
- The U.S. and Iran near a breaking point
- Putin's mercenaries take his war with West to Africa
- Missile attack on ship spotlights Iran, Israel tensions
- Biden vows US action over Russian cyber-attacks
- Methodists to allow same-sex weddings in church
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Russian warplanes monitor Britain's HMS Queen Elizabeth

The Times, June 27, 2021



EVENT

Russian warplanes carrying missiles dubbed “aircraft carrier killers” have arrived in Syria just as Britain’s new flagship, HMS Queen Elizabeth, is on patrol off the country’s coast. The arrival of the planes comes with tensions high after a confrontation between a Royal Navy destroyer, HMS Defender, and Russian ships and aircraft in the waters off Crimea on Wednesday. On Friday the Russian Ministry of Defence revealed the arrival at its airbase in Syria of three supersonic Tu-22M3 Backfire bombers with giant Kh-22 anti-ship missiles loaded under their wings. The Kh-22 was developed to take out US Navy nuclear-powered aircraft carriers with its 2,000lb warhead, which strikes the target at four times the speed of sound. Two MiG-31K fighters armed with Kinzhal (“dagger”) anti-ship missiles also landed. They can strike targets at 12 times the speed of sound, giving defences little time to react. Moscow’s defence ministry said that one of the goals of the aircraft would be to “monitor” the British carrier and its escorts.

COMMENT

Tensions between Britain and Russia has risen massively since a UK warship entered Crimea’s waters two weeks ago. Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 but the UK and the West do not recognise this. Senior government sources said the UK would conduct more “freedom of navigation patrols” similar to the one near Crimea, despite threats by Russia to bomb foreign vessels violating what it regards as its territorial waters. The navy said that HMS Defender was in an international sea lane that belongs to Ukraine, and the exercise would be repeated. The Bible says that the king of the south (Britain / US) will militarily provoke Gog (Russian leader) causing him to react and come down. Interesting then that Putin’s reaction to this is to send missiles south into Syria.

BIBLE QUOTE

And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push [military provocation] at him [Gog – Russian leader]: and the king of the north [Russian forces] shall come against him [king of the south] like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. (Daniel 11:40)



The U.S. and Iran near a breaking point

Washington Post, June 29, 2021

EVENT The brinkmanship between Tehran and Washington is getting all the more tense. Even as indirect negotiations proceed over bringing both countries back into compliance with the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal, American and Iranian officials fired angry broadsides at each other, blaming the opposite side for a lack of progress. And then there's the actual shooting war. On Sunday night, the Biden administration announced that U.S. airstrikes had targeted facilities on either side of the Iraq-Syria border linked to militias that have Iranian ties. U.S. officials said that the strikes were reprisals for an uptick in drone attacks targeting U.S. personnel in the region. Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada, one of the Iranian-backed factions hit by the United States, confirmed four of its fighters had been killed in the strike.

COMMENT There have been 6 rounds of negotiations between the Biden administration and Iran since Biden came to power. But time is running out to revive the nuclear deal. The stalemate has worsened since Iran elected Ebrahim Raisi a new hardline president. The US wants to limit Iran's overall missile program as well as curtailing Iran's nuclear program. The US says it will lift all sanctions if Iran agrees to this. But Raisi has said he will not entertain this. As the talks stall the shooting has begun with both sides launching attacks – Iran through its proxy armies in and around Iraq and the US launching missiles in response at Iranian backed militias. This is the second time that President Biden has ordered strikes on Iranian backed militia since he took office. The Bible says that Iran has a key part to play at the time of the end. Isaiah 13 speaks of Iran being stirred up and launching missiles - it says they are not interested in money. We see this now...

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 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. Notice how the Iranians are NOT motivated by financial rewards....

(Isaiah 13:17-18)

Putin's mercenaries take his war with the West to Africa

The Times, July 3, 2021



EVENT

The UN's 184-page report cast light on what experts describe as **Russia's growing involvement in Africa** as it attempts to project global power through the deployment of **mercenaries**, many from the so-called Wagner Group, a secretive military contractor firm allegedly run by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a former convict turned billionaire businessmen and ally of President Putin. **Prigozhin**, known as "Putin's chef" on account of the lucrative catering contracts he won across Russia, **has been indicted in the US on charges of financing "information warfare" and disrupting the 2016 presidential election** — an example of Putin's penchant for "outsourcing" some of his most delicate projects to the private sector. Wagner mercenaries have been deployed all over the world from Venezuela to Syria, where several dozen were killed in a battle with US troops. **Now they have moved into war-torn African nations, making them the latest flashpoint in Moscow's relations with the West.**

COMMENT

It may seem unlikely for Russia to look for interests and influence in Africa – but God knew this would be the case when he revealed it through His prophecy to Ezekiel 2500 years ago. **We read that allied to Russia (Magog, Meshech, Tubal) would be Ethiopia and Libya – both are of course nations in northern Africa.** The UN report this week highlighted Russia's involvement in Africa. Putin sees openings where the West has failed. Libya has been in turmoil since Colonel Ghaddafi was killed. Putin has sent his undercover armed mercenaries to take over and control this country. **Russia wants to be taken seriously as a geopolitical power again. Africa & the Middle East are in its sights.**

BIBLE QUOTE

And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, **Ethiopia, and Libya with them**; all of them with shield and helmet:

(Ezekiel 38:4-5)

Suspected Missile Attack on Ship Puts Spotlight on Iran, Israel Tensions

Newsweek, July 4, 2021



EVENT

Israeli security officials said Iran is likely behind an alleged attack on a cargo ship in the northern Indian Ocean, Arabic TV stations reported Sunday, with the vessel having been hit by an "unknown weapon" which started a fire. The Al-Mayadeen Lebanese television channel reported early Sunday that the Liberian-flagged cargo ship, the Tyndall, was damaged this weekend in the wake of a series of sabotage incidents between Israeli and Iranian ships in the region. Although some outlets initially reported that the cargo ship was owned by Israeli businessman Eyal Ofer, sources later confirmed that it had been recently sold and the crew was not from Israel. The ship currently flies the Liberian flag, and defence officials from several countries in the region are still investigating the Sunday incident. The Ofer family reportedly sold the container ship two months ago and the vessel currently has no affiliation with any Israeli company, the Jerusalem Post noted Sunday.

COMMENT

In the last 6 months especially there have been a number of tit for tat attacks on both Iranian and Israeli ships around the gulf region. This latest attack may be linked to a sabotage operation by Israel reportedly carried out in June against Iran's Atomic Energy Organization. Israel has also focused on sabotaging any shipments of potential weapons to Hezbollah in Syria. Iran is the major power behind Israel's immediate enemies that want to see Israel destroyed. In fact in Iran there are huge clocks counting down the days to Israel's demise which they say will happen in 2040... Interestingly these clocks have failed this week due to power shortages across Iran! The Bible says Iran is behind a confederacy to destroy Israel – but it totally fails...

BIBLE QUOTE

Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur [Iran?] also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah. Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: Sisera was killed with a tent peg through his head! (Psalm 83:7-9)

Biden vows US action over Russian cyber-attacks

BBC, July 9, 2021



EVENT

President Joe Biden has told President Vladimir Putin the US will take "any necessary action" to stop cyber-attacks from Russia, the White House says. A reporter asked Mr Biden after the hour-long phone call if Russia would face consequences, and he said: "Yes." But Moscow denied US claims they had contacted the Russians repeatedly about the cyber-attacks in the past month. Friday's call between Mr Putin and Mr Biden follows their meeting last month in Geneva. It also comes amid an increase in attacks, including one that disabled 1,500 companies this month. "I made it very clear to him that the United States expects when a ransomware operation is coming from his soil, even though it's not sponsored by the state, we expect them to act if we give them enough information to act on who that is," Mr Biden told media after the phone call. When a journalist asked whether the US could attack the servers used by the hackers, the Democratic president said: "Yes."

COMMENT

Ransomware attacks are where criminal syndicates hijack companies' data and demand payment for its return. Just this week hackers behind a mass ransomware attack that has affected hundreds of companies worldwide have demanded \$70m to restore the data. According to the US, many of the worst attackers come from Russia, and often operate with tacit knowledge, and even approval, from Russian security services. Joe Biden warned Vladimir Putin this week that Russia would face consequences if it failed to act against hackers. When asked if Russia would face consequences for not dealing with ransomware hackers, Biden replied: "Yes." On top of this tension, Russian military said Thursday that Russia's air force has conducted drills involving its nuclear-capable strategic bombers. We see nations preparing for war..

BIBLE QUOTE

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: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

(Joel 3:9-10)

Methodists to allow same-sex weddings in church

The Times, June 30, 2021



EVENT

The Methodist Church has become the largest religious denomination in Britain to back same-sex marriage after a historic vote to allow gay couples to marry in church. Methodists will now be free to define marriage as a union between “two people” rather than only as between “one man and one woman” after a debate in Birmingham this morning. The Bishop of Liverpool said after the vote that he hopes the Church of England will follow suit and allow Anglican priests in England to conduct same-sex weddings in church if they wish. Fears were expressed by conservative members of the Methodist Conference, the church’s governing body, that a “significant minority” of traditionalists would leave if the vote passed. Others said that many gay worshippers had already left or that some had even taken their own lives because they had been made to feel unwelcome or sinful.

COMMENT

For 2000 years every Christian church in the world has only accepted marriage between a man and woman. And now in these last days we have “Christian” churches saying a man can marry a man and a woman can marry a woman. Clearly the political changes in law which allow this to happen in many countries have influenced Christian groups. It is easy for people to say that the kind and loving thing to do is to accept this. And without Bible in hand and without God’s views on the subject in our minds it could be simple to go along with this. But the Bible is clear – homosexuality is an abomination to God. It was this behaviour that caused God to intervene in the days of Sodom. God will soon intervene again in these godless last days by sending His Son back to the earth...

BIBLE QUOTE

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
(Acts 17:30-31)



ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

DebkaFile Review (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence)

2021-05-28 Israel's operation against Hamas was the world's first AI war - The Jerusalem Post PDF version

2021-05-26 Hamas Has Made Its Goal Clear- DESTROY Israel. Is the Media Listening? - YouTube

2021-05-27 Hezbollah Leader Threatens Israel - with Regional War - Over Jerusalem - YouTube

2021-05-28 UN Hypocrisy EXPOSED as it Singles Out Israel for Gaza Casualties - YouTube

2021-05-21 Israel's Gaza war is like no other military operation in history – Opinion - The Jerusalem Post

2021-06-05 Will Iran Test a New Israeli Government? (Approx 11 minutes)

2021-06-18 Hamas Targets Israel with MORE Arson Balloon Attacks and IDF Responds - YouTube

2021-07-02 Future of War- Cyber is the new nuclear - YouTube 9.39 min

2021-07-07 Iran Accuses Israel of Nuclear Plant Attack; US Thwarts Drone at Baghdad Embassy - YouTube 10.36 min

2021-07-08 U.S. Forces in Iraq TARGETED with Rocket Barrage & Explosive Drones - YouTube 11.04 min

2021-07-09 Israeli Archaeologists Uncover ANCIENT Building Near Jerusalem's Western Wall - YouTube 8.36 min

2021-07-09 U.S. Soldiers Wounded in Rocket Attack as Iran INTENSIFIES Proxy War - YouTube 12.24 min