

This Week's Developments

January 17 - 23, 2021

- Joe Biden sworn in as 46th US president
- Tough tests for Joe Biden in 'new' Middle East
- Biden faces first foreign policy test with Russia
- Erdogan tests US patience with new Russia talks
- Israeli strikes in Syria target pro-Iranian militias
- UK virus variant sweeps world: Biden warns worse to come
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Joe Biden sworn in as 46th US president

Financial Times, January 21, 2021



EVENT

Joe Biden hailed the resilience of US democracy and appealed for unity in a polarised nation as he was sworn in as the 46th president, completing a tumultuous transfer of power that was marred by the deadly attack on the Capitol. In his inaugural address on Wednesday afternoon, Mr Biden did not mention Donald Trump by name, but said the foundations of the country's political system had been tested by his predecessor's refusal to concede defeat. "We have learned again that democracy is precious, democracy is fragile and, at this hour my friends, democracy has prevailed," Mr Biden said. In a 20-minute address delivered in a conversational tone, he called on Americans to come together to tackle the pandemic and economic downturn during what he described as a "winter of peril and significant possibilities".

COMMENT

The new leader of the "free world" is President Joe Biden. He takes over with America divided and tense. Democracy barely survived the final tumultuous days of Trump. At age 78, Biden is the oldest President to have ever taken office. He is only the second Catholic president – the first being JF Kennedy. He often speaks of his religious convictions and quotes the Bible, and he attends Mass regularly. The Pope was one of the first to congratulate Biden back in November. With Catholic influence we can expect Biden to be far less supportive of Israel than Trump was. Biden is adamant on a two state solution and opposes all Israeli settlement building on the West Bank. This ties in with Bible prophecy – Joel 3 says that Israel will be divided. Israel is divided currently but there could be further division. America as a "young lion" of Tarshish (UK) will be on Israel's side but unable (or willing) to defend them when Russia invades.

BIBLE QUOTE

For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, 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. (Joel 3:1-2)

Tough tests for Joe Biden in 'new' Middle East

BBC, January 22, 2021



EVENT

"Folks, **it's a time of testing.**" So said America's new president in Wednesday's inauguration speech before listing the tests the country faces and concluding with "**America's role in the world**". Some of the toughest questions on that exam are in **the Middle East**. Joe Biden's team is dominated by old hands from the Obama administration returning to a region with new orders to revisit old issues. Their biggest challenges involve policies they personally helped to shape - in places in far worse shape now. But some see openings and opportunities in that. **In the top tray of the new administration's foreign files is policy towards Iran.** The landmark 2015 nuclear deal by world powers is now dangling by a thread after Donald Trump discarded it and despatched waves of crushing sanctions. There is also the **devastating war in Yemen**, which Mr Obama initially supported, partly to assuage Saudi anger over the accord with its arch-enemy Iran.

COMMENT

Iran is hoping that **under Biden the crippling sanctions** (that Trump reintroduced when he pulled out the the nuclear agreement) **will be lifted.** But **Biden wants Iran to come into compliance** before this happens. **Iran wants sanctions lifted** before it does so. But Biden recognises there are new realities in the Middle East and stronger alliances between Israel and Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States that completely oppose Iran. For that reason **Biden wants a stronger agreement than last time** – one that covers missile development and Iran's destabilising activities in the region. Biden is Iran's best hope to get another deal but **if that fails Iran could lash out** – as the Bible says it will....

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)

Biden faces first foreign policy test with Russian balancing act

Financial Times, January 22, 2021



EVENT On only its first full day in office, the Biden administration was facing its first big foreign policy test in the same place that hung over its predecessor for four years: Russia. Living up to a campaign commitment, the White House said on Thursday it wanted a straight extension of a nuclear arms control agreement with the Kremlin that faces imminent expiry, an overture former president Donald Trump long resisted. But the invitation from President Joe Biden to extend the so-called New Start agreement for five years was offered even as incoming officials have condemned what analysts view as some of the Kremlin's most aggressive anti-western actions in years. In the days leading up to Mr Biden's inauguration, US security services uncovered a massive cyber-espionage attack on US government computers they have blamed on Russia, and Moscow at the weekend arrested Alexei Navalny, the opposition leader who has accused Russian spies of nearly killing him in August.

COMMENT Not only does Biden have a coronavirus pandemic, a financial crisis and Iran to deal with he also has Russia to contend with. Biden is far more opposed to Russia than Trump. In a recent article Biden described Russia as a kleptocratic, nationalist-populist state that considers Western democracy its existential threat. As a result of Russia's threat, Biden supports a "strong response" with cooperation from America's allies. With Bible in hand we know that the king of the north is Russia (and its allies like Turkey and Iran). The king of the south (opposing force) is Britain, USA, Saudi Arabia etc). We therefore expect to see a very antagonistic situation between Russia and the USA at the time of the end. Biden could well fit this scenario – far more than Trump.

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. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: (Daniel 11:40-41)

Erdogan tests US patience with new Russia talks

The Times, January 19, 2021



EVENT

President Erdogan has said that he will hold talks with Russia this month on **buying a second batch of a missile defence system**, despite the likelihood of further damaging relations with the US and Turkey's other Nato allies. The country's first \$2.5 billion purchase of the Russian hardware was completed in 2019 and has since been delivered and tested. The S-400 surface-to-air missile defence system has not yet been deployed but it was announced last week that **it is ready to be commissioned**. The sale caused a significant rift between Ankara and Washington, which removed Turkey from the F-35 programme that is developing and delivering Nato's next-generation fighter jet. **The US also imposed sanctions on Turkey's defence procurement agency, the first on a Nato ally under the Magnitsky Act, which aims to curb Russia's military expansion.** Mr Erdogan has signalled in recent weeks that he wants to ease Turkey's long-running tensions with both the US and the EU, **but has also said that he is unwilling to end his policy of buying military equipment from Russia.**

COMMENT

The Times article continued to say *"The Biden administration is likely to take a far more hawkish stance against Turkey than did President Trump, who has often shielded Mr Erdogan."* Again we can see this lining up from a prophecy point of view. **Turkey is one of the nations aligned to Russia at the time of the end.** Turkey is Togarmah mentioned in Ezekiel 38 as a nation being north of Israel. **Turkey is in NATO and technically therefore on the side of the West (against Russia).** However in recent years **Turkey has turned to Russia** for a missile defence system that Russia **designed to shoot down US planes!** Biden has been vocal in opposing Turkey and we can expect this to continue - pushing Turkey further into Russia's arms. We wait to see how things develop.

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)

New Israeli strikes in Syria target pro-Iranian militias

Arab Weekly, January 22, 2021



EVENT

Israeli warplanes fired several missiles in central Syria early Friday targeting pro-Iranian militia sites. “Israeli fighter jets flying over Lebanon struck at least five positions of Iranian-backed militias and the Lebanese Hezbollah nearby Hama city and the Syria’s middle sector,” said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR). SOHR added that “shrapnel of missiles fired by regime air-defences in an attempt to intercept the Israeli airstrikes, hit the residential neighbourhood of Kazu in the north-western part of Hama city, which killed a family of four persons.” Syrian state media said Syrian regime air defences confronted “an Israeli aggression” in the region of Hama on Friday that killed four people from the same family. State-news agency SANA quoted an unnamed military official as saying the attack took place shortly before dawn when Israeli warplanes flew over neighbouring Lebanon. Israel has launched hundreds of strikes against Iran-linked military targets in Syria over the years but rarely acknowledges or discusses such operations. **It was Israel’s first strike on Syria since President Joe Biden took office.**

COMMENT

On January 13, Israeli warplanes carried out intense airstrikes in eastern Syria apparently targeting positions and arms depots of Iran-backed forces. At least 57 fighters were killed and dozens were wounded, according to a Syrian opposition war monitoring group. As Joe Biden was sworn in it was business as usual for Israel in relation to Syria – more warplanes were sent to attack Iranian positions in Syria. It is a message to Biden that says Israel will continue to defend what it sees as Iranian entrenchment on its northern frontier. It is a red line. We know an inner ring conflict is going to happen when Israel removes all the “pricking briars” that surround her.

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. Thus saith the Lord GOD; When I shall have gathered the house of Israel from the people among whom they are scattered,

(Ezekiel 28:24-25)

UK virus variant sweeps world as Biden warns worse is to come

The Times of Israel, January 21, 2021



EVENT A coronavirus variant that emerged in England has swept through more than 60 nations including China, officials confirmed on Wednesday, as Joe Biden warned during his inauguration as US president the deadliest phase of the contagion was yet to come. The United States has already suffered more than 400,000 deaths — almost one-fifth of the global toll — since the epidemic took hold early last year. “We’re entering what may be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus. We must set aside politics and finally face this pandemic as one nation,” said Biden, who led a brief silent prayer for the victims during his inauguration ceremony. His renewed pledge to tackle the virus came as the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that more than 60 countries were now grappling with a UK strain and 23 nations had reported a South African variant, both of which are believed to be more infectious.

COMMENT The world is putting its hope in the coronavirus vaccine. But newly emerging, fast-spreading variants of the coronavirus might reduce the protective effects of two leading vaccines – this is according to the magazine, Nature. We don’t know what is coming next but with Bible in hand we know this – the world is in labour pains - as with a woman about to give birth. The Bible says that at the time of the end it will be as if the earth is having contractions – going through serious pain. All this pain and anguish results in the return (symbolic of the birth of a baby) of the Lord Jesus Christ. And then just as in natural birth the pain is forgotten when the baby is born – so the world will eventually forget these horrors when the glorious kingdom of God is established.

BIBLE QUOTE and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.
Jesus is speaking not only of his resurrection but his future return to the earth (John 16:20-21)

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

2021-01-16 - Iran Fires Test Missiles Over Indian Ocean Against Virtual Targets Within 100 Mi Of Nimitz-

Yossi Cohen - The Mossad Spy Chief Who Stole Iran's Secret Nuclear Archive

Meet the Man Netanyahu has Picked to Succeed Yossi Cohen to Lead Israel's Mossad after July 2021

Iran unveils new secret underground missile base filled with anti-ship weapons in Persian gulf - Daily Mail Online

Aleksei Navalny Protests Constitute Biggest Russian Dissent in Years - The New York Times

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