

# This Week's Developments

August 8 - 15, 2021

- At least 304 killed after major earthquake hits Haiti
- Afghanistan: India mulls options as US evacuates staff
- Russia: successful test of hypersonic missile
- Russia unveils Checkmate stealth jet – jibe at Britain
- Hezbollah admits missile attack on Israel
- Methodists to allow same-sex weddings in church
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

# At least 304 killed after major earthquake hits Haiti

CBC, August 14, 2021



## EVENT

At least 304 people have died and hundreds are injured or missing after a major earthquake struck southwestern Haiti on Saturday, authorities said, reducing churches, hotels and homes to rubble in the latest tragedy to hit the impoverished Caribbean nation.

The 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck eight kilometres from the town of Petit-Trou-de-Nippes, about 150 kilometres west of the capital Port-au-Prince, at a depth of 10 kilometres, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said.

That made the tremor, which was felt as far away as Cuba and Jamaica, potentially bigger and shallower than the magnitude-7 earthquake that struck Haiti 11 years ago, killing an estimated 250,000 people in the poorest nation in the Americas.

This one — which occurred at about 8:30 a.m. local time — hit farther away from the capital, however. In Port-au-Prince, it was strongly felt but did not appear to have caused major damage, according to Reuters witnesses, meaning there will likely be fewer fatalities than the devastating 2010 disaster.

## COMMENT

Earthquakes are as much a part of the signs of the times as any of the elemental things prophesied to come upon the earth signalling the return of the Savior. There are two kinds of earthquakes – natural and political – political such as the great French Revolution earthquake that resulted in the development of the frog spirit social democratic influences. We typically focus on the political type because it is so much in evidence. But occasionally we are reminded that there is also the natural earthquake – a sign of such as will shake the entire earth and crumble all the pride of mankind – religious & secular. Natural earthquakes are also very much a part of our world; there are many of them and we are reminded of the prophecy whenever they hit on a populated area.

## BIBLE QUOTE

When you hear about wars and riots, don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that isn't the end. Nations will go to war against one another, and kingdoms will attack each other. There will be great earthquakes, and in many places people will starve to death and suffer terrible diseases...

(Luke 21:9-11) CEV

# Afghanistan crisis Updates: India mulls its options as US, others evacuate staff

The Times of India, August 15, 2021



## EVENT

15:49 Afghan president in urgent talks as Taliban take key town near Kabul  
15:52 Some foreign embassies burning sensitive material ahead of evacuating  
15:55 Apart from Kabul, government forces hold only Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif  
16:12 Taliban have captured Sharana, capital of Paktika province bordering Pakistan  
17:17 Pres Ashraf Ghani said mobilisation of country's armed forces a 'top priority,'  
19:07 Czech Republic evacuates embassy in Kabul  
19:08 Pakistan reopens Chaman-Spin Boldak border crossing after talks with Taliban  
19:10 60 Taliban terrorists killed in Afghan air force airstrikes  
20:04 As Taliban tighten their grip, Kabul airport only way out  
20:09 Taliban, Qatar officials meet for Afghan peace talks in Doha  
20:22 More US troops in Kabul; "they might have to stay longer if threatened by Taliban"  
21:08 German military to aid Kabul embassy evacuation  
21:45 Russia interested in involving India, Iran to bring peace in Afghanistan: Lavrov  
23:02 Key northern city Mazar-i-Sharif falls to Taliban

## COMMENT

Events are moving at such a rapid pace that it seems like “old news” that Biden ordered troops back into Afghanistan for purposes of “evacuation of embassy staff”. Since then the order has gone out to raise that number to 5000 troops with more waiting in the wings at Kuwait if it proves necessary.

Why is Afghanistan of interest to us as a “current event” relating to Bible prophecy?

Bro Thomas refers to the area of Afghanistan in his explanation of Isa 18:1 – identifying the “wings” with the Tarshish power (i.e., Britain - K of S) and “beyond the rivers of Kush” as inclusive of Afghanistan. (“Khush” can refer to area of upper Nile as well as the area of Mesopotamia). In light of the above, it will be interesting to follow events in that region and see what further developments take place.

## BIBLE QUOTE

Woe to the land shadowing with wings, which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia (Kush): That sendeth ambassadors by the sea, even in vessels of bulrushes upon the waters, saying, Go, ye swift messengers, to a nation scattered and peeled, to a people terrible from their beginning hitherto; a nation meted out and trodden down, whose land the rivers have spoiled!  
(Isaiah 18:1-2)

# Russia says it successfully tested hypersonic missile praised by Putin

The Times, July 19, 2021



## EVENT

Russia said on Monday it had successfully tested a Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile, a weapon President Vladimir Putin has touted as part of a new generation of missile systems without equal in the world. The defence ministry said in a statement that the missile had been fired from the Admiral Gorshkov, a warship located in the White Sea, and travelled at around seven times the speed of sound before hitting a ground target on the coastline of the Barents Sea more than 350 km (217 miles) away. "The tactical and technical characteristics of the Tsirkon missile were confirmed during the tests," the ministry said. Some Western experts have questioned how advanced Russia's new generation of weapons is, while recognising that the combination of speed, manoeuvrability and altitude of hypersonic missiles makes them difficult to track and intercept.

## COMMENT

Back in 2018, Putin announced an array of new hypersonic weapons in one of his most aggressive speeches in years, saying they could hit almost any point in the world and evade a U.S.-built missile shield. The following year, he threatened to deploy hypersonic missiles on ships and submarines that could lurk outside U.S. territorial waters if the United States moved to deploy intermediate-range nuclear weapons in Europe. Putin is clearly preparing for conflict. A British think tank recently said that Russia's military might is at its greatest since the Cold War with its nuclear weaponry and air forces gaining particular strength. Ezekiel 38 says that Russia under its leader Gog (Putin) will prepare to invade Israel. It is a preparation that might be close to completion.

## BIBLE QUOTE

"Get ready; be prepared! Keep all the armies around you mobilized, and take command of them. A long time from now you will be called into action. In the distant future you will swoop down on the land of Israel, which will be enjoying peace after recovering from war

(Ezekiel 38;7-8 NLT)

# Russia unveils Checkmate stealth jet with jibe at Britain

The Times, July 20, 2021



## EVENT

President Putin has inspected the prototype of a new stealth fighter jet called Checkmate during a flurry of weapons testing by Moscow. The fifth-generation Sukhoi warplane can fly at up to twice the speed of sound and has a range of 1,900 miles, according to Rostec, the state arms maker. It is said to have artificial intelligence capability and can be converted to an unpowered version. Checkmate uses so-called V-tail technology to enhance its evasion of enemy radars. It is due to make its maiden flight in 2023 with a first batch to be produced in 2026. It would become the first single-engine warplane to enter service with the Russian air force since the Soviet era. The warplane was promoted with a series of English-language advertisements, one of which depicted the Royal Navy's HMS Defender warship in the jet's sights and the caption: "See You". The Royal Navy vessel was involved in a confrontation with Russia's military as it sailed past Crimea last month.

## COMMENT

The modernisation of Russia's armed forces has been one of Putin's priorities in recent years amid tensions with the west over Syria and Ukraine. Western analysts believe that the Russian military is better equipped and more ready for combat than at any time since the 1990s. Putin's visit on Monday to the air show came after a Russian hypersonic cruise missile travelling at almost seven times the speed of sound destroyed a target at a range of 220 miles during tests this week in the Arctic. The Bible speaks of Gog in Daniel 11:36-39. It is the description of the latter day Antiochus Epiphanes the original king of the north. In these verses we read that the king will "honour the god of forces" or "munitions". Putin does worship military might....

## BIBLE QUOTE

And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.... But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces:  
(Daniel 11:36+38)

# Hezbollah admits missile attack on Israel

The Times, August 6, 2021



## EVENT

Hezbollah fired rockets into disputed territory controlled by Israel today as the United Nations warned of a “very dangerous situation”. The Iranian-backed Shia militia was responding to the first air attacks by Israel on southern Lebanon since 2014 on Thursday night, which were launched in retaliation for missiles fired into Israel the day before by unknown militants. It was the first time that Hezbollah had admitted to firing rockets at Israel since 2019. The militia said it had bombed “open fields in the vicinity of the occupation sites”, in response to Israeli air raids on open land in southern Lebanon. The IDF says that in the case of a full-scale war with Hezbollah it would target Lebanon as a whole, which could be devastating not only to the country but also to the reputation of the group itself, which now holds a share in the government. The Shebaa Farms area was annexed by Israel in 1981 as part of the Golan Heights, the Syrian territory that it seized in 1967. However, the area is also claimed by Lebanon.

## COMMENT

On the first full day in power of Iran’s new hardline president, Hezbollah launch rockets into Israel. There is no doubt at all that Iran would have authorised this attack. Hezbollah is controlled by Iran – Iran is its master both in terms of money and strategy. Rarely does Hezbollah acknowledge its attacks on Israel. But in yesterday’s rocket attack they said it was in reprisal for Israel’s air raids on Lebanon two days before. This statement hikes up the tension with Israel to a new level. The United Nations made a statement saying that escalating Lebanon-Israel aggressions are provoking a ‘very dangerous situation’. Israel’s prime minister was meeting on Friday with his defence officials to consider the next response. Everything is building up to the time when Israel’s immediate neighbours launch a war. But they will be defeated like Sisera!

## 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: ..... Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison:

(Psalm 83:4,5,9)

# 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)

2021-08-13 Israeli Archaeologists Find Evidence of Ancient Biblical Earthquake in Jerusalem – YouTube 8:20 min

2021-08-07 Israel's Iron Dome BLOCKS Hezbollah's Rocket "Response" to Israeli Airstrikes – YouTube 11:46 min

2021-08-06 Israel Ready to STRIKE Iran, Defense Minister Confirms; Raisi Takes Presidency - YouTube 12:18 min

2021-08-05 Rockets Launched at Israel as Tensions with Iran Reach Boiling Point - YouTube 13:41 min

2021-08-04 Israel WARNS Iran Over Attacks and Slams EU Appeasement - YouTube 11:15 min

2021-08-03 Israel Vows Response to Iran Drone Attack as U.S. & UK Pledge Support - YouTube 10:32 min

2021-07-31 Israeli Airstrikes in Syria Escalate Tension w- Russia; Prophetic Implications- - Watchman Newscast

2021-07-25 Iran 2.11 Water crisis spurs violence in Khuzestan, anti-govt protests rage - Oneindia News - YouTube

2021-07-25 Iran 3.24 Violence escalates in water-shortage protests in Iran's Khuzestan - Drought - YouTube

2021-07-25 Iraq 3.53 Why Iraq's great rivers are dying - Climate Change - West Asia water crisis - YouTube

2021-07-25 Iraq 9.56 Vox - Why Iraq's great rivers are dying - YouTube

2021-07-25 Russia, exasperated, moving to curtail Israeli strikes in Syria - The Times of Israel \*Pdf version \*DebkaFile

2021-07-25 The REAL Meaning Behind Israel's Recent Archaeological Revelations - Watchman Newscast LIVE - YouTube



MODERN MAP  
- LOCATION OF  
AFGHANISTAN



MAP OF  
ACHAEMENID  
(PERSIAN)  
EMPIRE



“Cush” probably refers to the territory of **southeast Mesopotamia**, although the northern Upper Nile region is not impossible. Most often the term Cush seems to refer to the **Upper Nile** regions (Est\_1:1; Job\_28:19; Psa\_68:31 [32]), north of **Ethiopia**. Tirhakah, a Cushite king of Egypt, reigned in the time of Hezekiah (2Ki\_19:9).

– Strong’s WordStudy

Settled life [in the region of present day **Afghanistan**] evol[ed] gradually into the Indus civilization, the Oxus civilization, and the Helmand civilization of the 3rd millennium BCE. Indo-Aryans migrated through Bactria-Margiana area to Gandhara, followed by the rise of the Iron Age Yaz I culture (ca. 1500–1100 BCE), which has been closely associated with the culture depicted in the Avesta, the ancient religious texts of **Zoroastrianism**. The region, then known as "Ariana", fell to **Achaemenid Persians [Cyrus]** in the 6th century BCE, who conquered the areas to their east as far as the Indus River. **Alexander the Great** invaded the region in the 4th century BCE.

– Wikipedia

