

# This Week's Developments

July 18 - 24, 2021

- Syria tells Israel it will defend itself 'by all means'
- Russia: US tensions close to 'dangerous' confrontation
- Russia says it successfully tested hypersonic missile
- Russia unveils Checkmate stealth jet with jibe at UK
- Iran fast running out of water, says exiled expert
- Date palm: Extinct tree resurrected from ancient seeds
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

# Syria Tells Israel It Will Defend Itself 'By All Means' After Back-to-Back Strikes

Newsweek, July 22, 2021



## EVENT

Syria has warned Israel that it would defend its territory by any means granted to Damascus through international law, **after blaming its foe for two back-to-back airstrikes that struck the country this week.** The Syrian Foreign Ministry released a statement Thursday railing against the latest "cowardly Israeli aggression" after **an air raid Wednesday in the Al-Qusayr region of Homs province.** The statement alluded to an earlier attack also blamed on Israel against the Al-Safira region in Aleppo. In both cases, the Syrian Défense Ministry said that anti-air batteries had shot down most of the incoming missiles. No update for Monday's attack was released after the Syrian military said the "results of the aggression are being assessed," while the damage from Wednesday's strike was said to be limited to "material" losses. **The IDF has conducted hundreds of such strikes throughout neighbouring Syria's decade-long civil war, mostly targeting sites allegedly linked to Iran-aligned militias.**

## COMMENT

Israel has been **hitting Iranian and Hezbollah positions in Syria** for several years now. This week has seen **two major strikes** by Israel. Syria normally responds with condemnation of these strikes but the language used this week against Israel was harsher than normal. The reason to this might be found in the Israeli intelligence website called Debkafile. It reports that Moscow has taken a radically different course on Israeli airstrikes this week. **For the first time Russia's military revealed details of the raid and claimed that Russian made missiles had downed "seven of the eight guided missiles."** Russia is protecting Israel's enemies, Syria, Iran and Hezbollah and is willing to shoot down Israeli missiles to do so. Russia's true colours are being show here...

## BIBLE QUOTE

Be ready and keep ready, you and all the hosts that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them. After many days you will be mustered; in the latter years **you will go against the land that is restored from war,** the land where people were gathered from many nations **upon the mountains of Israel,**

(Ezekiel 38:7-8 RSV)

# Russia Says Tensions with US Getting Close to 'Dangerous' Confrontation

Newsweek, July 21, 2021



**EVENT** Russia's top diplomat has warned that **relations with the United States have deteriorated to the point of a potentially disastrous standoff between Washington and Moscow.** The Russian Foreign Ministry held a board meeting Wednesday led by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who discussed along with his colleagues the current state of the U.S.-Russia relationship. Following the talks, the ministry released a statement characterizing the participants' views of the tortured ties between the two powers. **"It was noted during the discussion that bilateral relations had approached a dangerous confrontational threshold through the fault of Washington,"** the ministry said, **"who have provoked an unprecedented escalation between our states over the recent years."** The ministry warned **Moscow was already engaged in a de facto conflict with Washington,** which would only face stiffer resistance.

**COMMENT** US – Russian rivalry goes a long way back – to the days of the Cold War. The Cold War began at the end of the second world war and officially ended in 1991 with the break up of the USSR. So **when did things return to this Cold War** stand-off? In **2011 the West intervened in Libya** ousting Colonel Ghaddafi and then in Syria. Russia perceived this as undue interference and began to worry about the West interfering in its own sphere's of influence. The **2014 uprising in Ukraine** also proved a pivotal point as a leader resisting Western overtures was overthrown and Russia stepped in directly to secure its interests in the **Crimean Peninsula by annexing it.** The West (headed by America) condemned this. And so the **scene was set for Cold War 2.** A return to Russia being a great enemy again. The Bible says this is the king of the north v king of the south....

**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)

# 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)

# Iran fast running out of water, says exiled expert after deadly protests

The Times, July 24, 2021



## EVENT

Iran is “water bankrupt” after years of mismanagement under the regime, leading to shortages that have triggered deadly protests across the country and discontent in the wider Middle East, an exiled expert has said. All sources of the nation’s water — rivers, reservoirs and groundwater — are starting to run dry, Kaveh Madani, a scientist and former deputy environment minister now living in the United States, told The Times. Iran’s energy minister has admitted that the country is facing an unprecedented crisis. At least eight people have died in recent protests, which started in Khuzestan, the southern province which has suffered some of the worst effects. The water shortage in Iran is being replicated across the region, with the marshes of southern Iraq starting to dry out again despite restoration efforts, and eastern Syria suffering a significant drought. Farther west, nearly three quarters of Lebanon’s population, including a million Syrian and other refugees, could lose access to safe water in the next four to six weeks.

## COMMENT

There is a crisis that has been brewing in the Middle East for years. There have been a number of repeated warning of “water wars”. The problem has been exacerbated by global warming, with average temperatures rising inexorably. Five countries recorded temperatures above 50C on the same day last month — the UAE, Iran, Oman, Kuwait and Pakistan. Experts say in Iran it is also to do with mismanagement. 600 dams have been built since 1979 and the reservoirs actually lose more water to evaporation! God uses drought to bring about His plan and purpose. Think of the drought at the time of Joseph or Elijah. Jesus says when he returns there will be famine in the earth – famines are caused by drought. Even in the coming kingdom if nations don’t go up to worship in Jerusalem they will get no rain. But ultimately Jesus’ return will be like rain!

## BIBLE QUOTE

When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. See Psalm 72:6 – Jesus like rain... (2 Chronicles 7:13-13)

# The Judean Date Palm: Extinct Tree Resurrected from Ancient Seeds

SciNews, May 6, 2021



## EVENT

An international team of scientists from Israel, the United States, France, and the United Arab Emirates has successfully sequenced and analysed the genomes of seven Judean date palms that were germinated from 2,000-year-old seeds recovered from archaeological sites in the Southern Levant. For thousands of years, the date palm was a staple crop. In the Kingdom of Judea it was a source of food, shelter, medicine, and shade. But the plant went extinct due to waves of conquest and intentional destruction. But now, after 2,000 years, the Judean date palm is back and the sweet ancient fruit has been harvested once again. So valued was the tree that it became recognized as a symbol of good fortune in Judea. However, its value was also the source of its demise and eventual extinction. Once the Roman Empire took control of the kingdom in 70 AD, the date palms were destroyed in an attempt to cripple the Jewish economy.

## COMMENT

It is incredible that date palm seeds 2000 years old have been resurrected to life again! The ancient date palm tree was extinct but now lives again in the land of Israel. The Date Palms are a unique tree in that they are either a male tree or a female tree. The male trees produce pollen, and the female trees produce flowers. The first “resurrected” tree from these ancient seeds was a male tree which the team called “Methuselah” after the longest recorded living man in the Bible. In Psalm 92:12 we read that the righteous shall flourish like the palm tree (referring to the date palm). The righteous will truly flourish when Christ returns and resurrects them from the dead. Is it not incredible that 2000 years later (close to his return) the ancient date palm is indeed flourishing again!

## BIBLE QUOTE

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; Astounding that the date palm is the only tree that has a male and female tree! Male and female (bond and free) will be saved! (Psalm 92:12-13)

## ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

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

2021-07-25 Israel Launches Airstrike on Iranian Arsenal; Lebanon Rockets Fired at Galilee - Watchman Newscast - YouTube

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

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

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

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

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