

# This Week's Developments

April 16 - 22, 2023

- NATO Chief Starts Unannounced Visit to Ukraine
- Russia Downbeat On Black Sea Grain Deal
- Why Sudan's Conflict Matters
- What Must Israel Get Done In The Next 75 Years?
  
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*Map 1*

*Map 2*

# NATO Chief Starts Unannounced Visit to Ukraine

Reuters, April 20, 2023



## EVENT

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told visiting NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg on Thursday it was time for the military alliance to offer his country membership and that Kyiv needed more weapons to fight Russia. The NATO secretary-general's visit was likely to irk the Kremlin, which said earlier on Thursday that one of the main goals of its "special military operation" in Ukraine was to prevent it joining what Moscow regards as a hostile bloc. NATO has supported Ukraine throughout the war, with member states supplying it with weapons, but Zelenskyy said more were needed. All delays in receiving more weapons caused deaths in Ukraine, he said. Stoltenberg said Ukraine's rightful place was in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and that membership and security guarantees for Ukraine would be high on the agenda of the alliance's July summit. Stoltenberg's visit to Kyiv comes at a vital juncture in Russia's almost 14-month-old invasion which has killed thousands, uprooted millions, destroyed cities and devastated the Ukrainian economy. After weathering a Russian winter and spring offensive that has made only small advances in the east, Ukraine now hopes to retake land in its south and east in a counteroffensive in the coming weeks or months.

## COMMENT

This is an interesting event coming barely a month after Finland's accession to the bloc. Things can move at what might seem a ponderous rate or can happen overnight – it all depends on the progress of the Divine plan. Viewing this from the Biblical perspective, what do we see? The world thinks of NATO as a western nation organization. But NATO contains the "Magog" & "Gomer" of Ezek 38. The K of S is not part of that, so we look for it to drop out of NATO at some point. It came close during the Trump admin. We recall that the Ros river is in the Ukraine. The Bible names countries in prophecy often by the names of rivers that flow through the country. Typically we look to Russia as the "Ros" named in the Ezekiel 38 prophecy, but it is all very possible it is the Ukraine perhaps together with "Russia" (as untenable as that may currently seem) all coming together along with the NATO bloc – i.e., Magog & Gomer – eastern & western Europe. What eventually brings that about remains to be seen, but these are all steps along the way and it is our duty to watch and strengthen the things that remain and be ready...

## BIBLE QUOTE

Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the [land of Magog \[Eastern Europe\]](#), the prince of [Rosh \[Ukraine\]](#), [Meshech \[Moscow\]](#) and Tubal, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you,... I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords; [Gomer \[France – western Europe\]](#) with all its troops....."  
Ezek 38:3-6 (NASB)

# Russia Downbeat On Black Sea Grain Deal as Kyiv Tries to Unblock Exports

Reuters, April 21, 2023



## EVENT

Ukraine's prospects of unblocking grain shipments to eastern Europe improved on Friday as Romania opted against a unilateral ban on food imports, but there was no progress on extending a deal on Black Sea exports. Russia's foreign minister made clear Moscow considered its conditions had not been met for extending a U.N.-brokered agreement guaranteeing safe exports via the Black Sea during the war in Ukraine. Russia has said extending last July's agreement beyond a May 18 deadline depends on the West lifting restrictions it says hinder Moscow's agricultural exports. The European Commission has announced plans to offer farmers in eastern and central Europe compensation for some products if the unilateral import bans are lifted, but the countries affected want the list of products widened. [Poland's] Prime Minister Morawiecki said the support measures offered by the Commission were too little, too late, after the government approved 10 billion zlotys (\$2.38 billion) of aid for Polish agriculture. Black Sea grain exports are more significant for Kyiv than exports to eastern Europe, and talks are under way on the status of the Black Sea Grain Initiative deal agreed last July to create a safe shipping channel. Worried about its ability to ship grain from its Black Sea ports, Ukraine has stepped up exports via ports on the Danube River that flows through central and southeastern Europe.

## COMMENT

The world is not yet rid of the food concerns created by this war. The push/pull of Russia and East European countries shows signs of once again developing into a humanitarian crisis with continued food shortages in Africa and Middle Eastern countries such as Lebanon, Syria & Egypt. It is also affecting farm revenue of eastern Europe which is creating management issues for the European Commission. The Bible speaks of famines and pestilences afflicting the world prior to Christ's return. This is a man-made famine.

## BIBLE QUOTE

Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.  
Luk 21:10-11

# Why Sudan's Conflict Matters

*The Associated Press, April 20, 2023*



## EVENT

Gen Burhan, head of the armed forces, and Gen Dagalo, leader of the Rapid Support Forces are each seeking to seize control of Sudan two years after they jointly carried out a military coup after protesters in 2019 helped force the ouster of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir. Both sides have tens of thousands of fighters, foreign backers, mineral riches and other resources that could insulate them from sanctions. In recent months, negotiations were underway for a return to the democratic transition. Sudan is Africa's third-largest country by area and straddles the Nile River. It uneasily shares its waters with regional heavyweights Egypt and Ethiopia. Egypt relies on the Nile to support its population of over 100 million, and Ethiopia is working on a massive upstream dam that has alarmed both Cairo and Khartoum. Egypt has close ties to Sudan's military, which it sees as an ally against Ethiopia. The UAE has close ties to the Rapid Support Forces, which sent thousands of fighters to aid the UAE and Saudi Arabia in their war against Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen. Russia, meanwhile, has long harbored plans to build a naval base capable of hosting up to 300 troops and four ships in Port Sudan, on a crucial Red Sea trading route for energy shipments to Europe. The Wagner Group, a Russian mercenary outfit with close ties to the Kremlin, has made inroads across Africa in recent years and has been operating in Sudan since 2017.

## COMMENT

So what is significant about Sudan relative to Bible prophecy? Sudan is the "Cush" of Bible times. Cush was the son of Ham, brother of Mizraim (Egypt), Phut & Canaan; he was the father of Nimrod which connects to Babel & Babylon. Ezek 38 aligns Cush/Ethiopia with the K of N coalition coming against the land of Israel. That is why in 2021 we raised our eyebrows when Israel signed the Abraham accord with the Sudan. Further to that, Israel & Sudan were about to sign a comprehensive peace accord later this year, assuming a new democratic gov't in Sudan. All that is currently on hold now and the outcome will depend on who gains the upper hand in this power contest. Russia has plans to establish a naval base on the Red Sea, so Russian interests are weighing into the conflict. The Most High rules in the kingdoms of men.

## BIBLE QUOTE

Thus saith the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal: and I will turn thee about, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army... all of them clothed in full armour, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them handling swords: Persia, **Cush**, and Phut with them. Ezek 38:3-6 (RV)

# What Must Israel Get Done In The Next 75 Years?

Jerusalem Post, APRIL 22, 2023



## EVENT

[In 1948] David Ben-Gurion was preparing to deliver the Declaration of Independence when he summoned the IDF's chief of operation and asked him squarely: "What are our chances of surviving the Arab armies' invasion?" "Our chances are even," came the scathing reply. Ben-Gurion still made the declaration, despite news of the massacre of 120 of Etzion Bloc's defenders, & US Sec of State George Marshall's warning, "They will destroy you." But it was not destroyed, and in fact defeated its invaders and went on to 75 years of achievements that its founders... would find difficult to believe... e.g., militarily, the state...today... is now the sixth most powerful in the world. Israel's population swelled from 600,000 to nearly 10 million. This demographic growth reflects two facts: 1) Israel's birth rate is the highest in the developed world at an average of 2.9 compared to the dev world average of 1.6; 2) the absorption of huge numbers of new arrivals by a relatively small veteran population – i.e., in the 1990s. 1 m immigrants absorbed by 4.5 m Israelis – no equivalent elsewhere. Underpinning this are economic achievements that to the state's founders would have sounded like science fiction. Its annual per-capita product, at \$55,535, is the 12th-highest in the world – higher than Canada, Sweden, Germany and Japan. What challenges await Israel? [Most] daunting will be the effort to produce a constitution. [After] 75 years on, the lack of a constitution has brought the country to the brink of civil war.

## COMMENT

It is interesting to look back on Berean Magazine Current Events of 100 years ago and read the excited comments about minor events pointing to Jews returning to their land and compare that to the state of Israel today. The writers then were trying to look thru a prophetic window to the future; we can now look back and witness the remarkable prophetic fulfillment. This article reminds us that there is still a prophetic window to the future; God is far from finished with his people. They brag of their accomplishments. They call it "chutzpah" – i.e., "they said it couldn't be done, but we did it anyway". However, they may be facing their greatest challenge yet because this is a nation without a constitution, flirting with civil war. Is this a problem awaiting a divine solution after being purged, humbled and refined to a point of accepting that they can't do it by themselves.

## BIBLE QUOTE

And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name.. Zech 13:8-9 I will make a covenant [constitution?] of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant [constitution?] with them. And I will place them and multiply them and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people." Eze 37:21-27

## ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

**DebkaFile Review** (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence)      **TV-7 Israel News**      **Watchman Newscast**

2023-04-22 [What must Israel get done in the next 75 years-](#) - Israel News - The Jerusalem Post

2023-04-22 [Plumes of smoke in Sudan as truce is shattered; first evacuation vessel arrives in Jeddah](#) - WION - 6.49 min - YouTube

2023-04-21 [The Fighting in Sudan Threatens Peace Efforts with Israel](#) - The Washington Institute

2023-04-21 [Russia downbeat on Black Sea grain deal as Kyiv tries to unblock exports](#) - Reuters

2023-04-21 [Israel Prepares for MULTI-FRONT War; Says Iran Pouring BILLIONS Into Terror](#) - Watchman - 10.42 min - YouTube

2023-04-20 [Why Sudan's conflict matters to the rest of the world](#) - AP News

2023-04-20 [Ukraine appeals to NATO chief for membership and more arms](#) - Reuters

2023-04-19 [Russia watches as US arms Ukraine with Patriot defence system; French armoured vehicles in use](#) - 2.26 min - YouTube

2023-04-16 Thawing of Saudi-Iranian relations helps Israel long term - editorial - The Jerusalem Post

2023-04-15 Africa needs more help with climate change, debt and food crises – Reuters - 11.00 min - YouTube

2023-04-14 California's recent weather crises brought dead lake back to life - 3.46 min - CNN Video

2023-04-14 After earthquake, Istanbul gripped by fear that bigger disaster awaits - Reuters

2023-04-13 Southeast Florida swamped by more than two feet of rain - Reuters

2023-04-13 France heading towards worse summer drought than 2022, geological service says - Reuters

2023-04-12 Inside Details of Russia, Iran and China's Secret Deal - Vantage with Palki Sharma - 4.20 min - YouTube

2023-04-11 Russia welcomes Finland's NATO membership with nuclear Iskander missiles - World at War - 5.04 min - YouTube

2023-04-10 Hezbollah & Hamas Leaders Hold TERROR SUMMIT; Iran Ring of Fire - Watchman Newscast - 10.58 min - YouTube

2023-04-06 Graphic shows all the changes in global temperature since 1850 3.28 min - CNN Video

2023-04-02 How does the IDF protect Israel from Hezbollah - 10.35 min - YouTube

Animated Map - Indo-European migrations - File-Indo-European migrations.gif - Wikipedia

# NATO PRESENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE



SOURCE: NATO

- Frankish Territory in 481
- Conquests of Clovis 481-511
- Conquests 531-614
- Conquests 714-768
- Conquests of Charlemagne 768-814
- Dependent territories
- Peoples tributary to Charlemagne
- Kingdom of Siagrius in 486
- Visigothic kingdom of Toulouse in 507
- Boundaries of the empire in 814



- Carolingian Empire 481-814



1. LITHUANIA
2. LUXEMBOURG
3. LIECHTENSTEIN
4. CZECH REPUBLIC
5. BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
6. YUGOSLAVIA

# 2) Gog (Russia) advances on Turkey, Egypt \*

