

# This Week's Developments

May 23 - 29, 2021

- Hezbollah: attacks on Jerusalem mean regional war
- 200,000 people join 'free Palestine' protest in London
- U.S. general: Rivals may fill vacuum in Mideast
- Russia sends nuclear bombers to strengthen Assad
- US tells Russia it will not rejoin Open Skies arms pact
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# Hezbollah chief says attacks on Jerusalem mean regional war

Reuters, May 25, 2021



## EVENT

Lebanon's Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said on Tuesday **any aggression against Jerusalem or its holy sites would mean regional war**. Nasrallah's comments, in a televised speech, were his first since a ceasefire ended the fiercest fighting in years between Israel and Gaza-based Islamist militant group Hamas. The Israel-Hamas hostilities were set off on May 10 in part by Israeli police raids on the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City and clashes with Palestinians during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. "When holy sites face serious threats there are no red lines," Nasrallah said. "All the resistance movements can't sit back and watch if holy sites are in danger." The **Iranian-backed Lebanese group is a staunch opponent of Israel** and Nasrallah's speech marked the commemoration of Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000. Nasrallah also said that the fighting showed Hamas had greatly advanced its rocket capabilities, which he said was **a big military achievement**.

## COMMENT

The Hezbollah chief is describing what will eventually happen in Psalm 83. His own terrorist group is specifically mentioned in this Psalm – and so is his backer – Iran. Hezbollah means "**Party of Allah**". It was founded in **1985 and its whole reason for existence according to its own statements is to destroy Israel**. The whole of **the EU** have **designated Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation**. **Russia has not**. Iran has supported, funded and armed Hezbollah. They now have around 200,000 rockets – many more and far **more accurate and powerful than those Hamas has**. Hezbollah's main stronghold is in Tyre In Lebanon. Psalm 83 talks about peoples that surround Israel that want to destroy them. One of them listed is "the inhabitants of Tyre" ....

## 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: ...; the Philistines with **the inhabitants of Tyre**; Assur [Iran] also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah. (Psalm 83:4-8)

# Almost 200,000 people join 'free Palestine' protest in central London

Metro, May 22, 2021



## EVENT

Around 180,000 people joined a march through central London this afternoon in solidarity with Palestine. Demonstrators assembled hours after a ceasefire was agreed in the wake of 11 days of conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. They congregated at Victoria Embankment before travelling towards Hyde Park. Protestors holding banners, placards and flags let off green and red coloured smoke as they cried chants including 'We are all Palestinians' during the march. Many wore costumes, masks and face paint while others draped themselves in the Palestinian flag. Some clambered onto bus stops and lamp posts while others wrote 'Free Palestine' on the walls. The group called out 'Boris Johnson, shame on you' when they reached Downing Street. Among the organisations involved in the demonstrations are branches of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Stop The War Coalition and National Education Union.

## COMMENT

Pro-Palestine solidarity marches have been held around the world this week. Protestors demanded that their governments impose sanctions and a military embargo to cut the supply of weapons to Israel. Solidarity protests were held in Britain, the United States, Spain, Italy, Iran, Somalia, Australia, France, and Germany, among others. Many people chanted "From the river to the sea Palestine will be free". Many also chanted "We are all Palestinians". Of course there is no nation of Palestine. God promised the land from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan river to his people – the Israelites. In fact in the future kingdom age the land of Israel we are told will stretch from the river in Egypt to river Euphrates in Iraq. God specifically says that the Philistines (modern Palestinians) have nothing to do with Him. We see people around the world turning against Israel...

## BIBLE QUOTE

In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: (Genesis 15:18)  
Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? (Joel 3:4)

# U.S. general: Rivals may fill vacuum in Mideast

Associated Press, May 24, 2021



## EVENT

As the United States scales back its military presence across the Middle East to focus on great power competition with China and Russia, it risks giving those two countries a chance to fill the gap and expand their influence around the Gulf, the top U.S. commander for the region said Sunday. “The Middle East writ broadly is an area of intense competition between the great powers. And I think that as we adjust our posture in the region, Russia and China will be looking very closely to see if a vacuum opens that they can exploit,” McKenzie said. “I think they see the United States shifting posture to look at other parts of the world and they sense there may be an opportunity there.” Joe Biden has ordered the full withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan and begun to review America’s force presence in Iraq, Syria and around the globe.

## COMMENT

Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, who heads U.S. Central Command in the Middle East is very concerned that the US withdrawal from the area will create a vacuum into which Russia will descend. This is precisely what the Bible describes in a number of places. We read that the vacuum is created not only by the US being weakened but also by the total destruction of the nation of Syria and the total destruction of Israel’s nearby enemies eg Hamas, Hezbollah etc. It is when this initial inner ring war has occurred that a great vacuum will be created. Israel will believe it can then live in peace with the pricking briars removed. But suddenly (seizing the opportunity for spoil) Russia will descend with her hordes like a storm. This very event is described in Isaiah 17. The destruction of Damascus followed by a tsunami of nations coming into the void left...

## BIBLE QUOTE

Woe to the multitude of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the seas; and to the rushing of nations, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, The verses at the beginning of the chapter describe the demise of Damascus (Isaiah 17:12-13)

# Russia sends nuclear bombers to strengthen Assad

The Times, May 26, 2021



## EVENT

Russia has extended its airbase in Syria and moved three nuclear-capable long-range bombers there as it increases its hold over President Assad's regime. Moscow's nuclear move into the Mediterranean advances its Cold War-style stand-off with the West in Europe, even as President Biden holds out the possibility of détente by meeting President Putin in Geneva next month. It also strengthens Russia's growing military and diplomatic clout across the Middle East as Washington signals its "withdrawal" from the region in favour of the "pivot to Asia". The three Tupolev Tu-22M3 Backfire strike bombers arrived at the Khmeimim airbase in Latakia province, northwest Syria, on Tuesday, landing on a runway extended to cater for Russia's strategic bomber fleet. This is the first time since the Cold War that Moscow has stationed its heaviest bombers in the region.

## COMMENT

Just as the most senior US general in the Middle East made the comments on the previous slide, Russia made another step in upgrading its military strength in Syria. The Russian military said Tuesday it has deployed three nuclear-capable long-range bombers to its base in Syria. It also said the runway at Hemeimeem had been extended to host the heavy bombers. Russia has also expanded and modified a naval base in the Syrian port of Tartus. President Assad of Syria depended on Russia support to help him overcome the many years of uprising against him. The payback for Russia is that they can have major bases in that country. The ancient king of the north was based in Syria. The time of the end king of the north is based in Russia. However we see the new king of the north embedding itself in the territory of the old...north of Israel.

## BIBLE QUOTE

"Then the king of the South will march out in a rage and fight against the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated. This verse is about the ancient king of the south v ancient king of the north. Events that happened 200BC between the Ptolemies (based in Egypt) and the Seleucids (based in Syria). Daniel 11 is about these warring enemies. (Daniel 11:11)



# U.S. tells Russia it will not rejoin Open Skies arms control pact

Reuters, May 27, 2021



## EVENT

The United States told Russia on Thursday it will not rejoin the Open Skies arms control pact, which allows unarmed surveillance flights over member countries, a U.S. official said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, was confirming a report by the Associated Press. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman conveyed the decision to her Russian counterpart the official said, saying U.S. allies in the NATO Western security alliance and other partners had been informed. The United States left the Open Skies arms control and verification treaty in November, accusing Russia of violating it, something Moscow denied. The Russian government, which in January announced plans to leave the pact, on May 11 submitted legislation to parliament to formalize its departure. A Kremlin spokesman said one reason was that the United States was still able to receive information acquired via the treaty from its NATO allies.

## COMMENT

The Treaty on Open Skies established a program of unarmed aerial surveillance flights that could gather information about military force movements from an opposing country. The idea of allowing countries to openly survey each other is thought to prevent misunderstandings (e.g., to assure a potential opponent that one's country is not about to go to war) and limit the escalation of tensions. The treaty came into force in 1/1/2002 and Russia, EU and US were included in it. President Trump pulled out of the agreement last year and Biden this week affirmed it will not rejoin. Russia is pulling out later in the year. What this does of course is increase the chances of one side misinterpreting what the other is doing. It increases the possibility of conflict. The Bible says that nations will prepare for war at the time of the end. Surely the ending of treaties such as this only brings the world closer to that time – to Armageddon....

## 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)

# As Russia tensions simmer, NATO conducts massive war games

Associated Press, May 27, 2021



## EVENT

As tensions with Russia simmer, thousands of NATO troops, several warships and dozens of aircraft are taking part in military exercises stretching across the Atlantic, through Europe and into the Black Sea region. The war games, dubbed Steadfast Defender 21, are aimed at simulating the 30-nation military organization's response to an attack on any one of its members. It will test NATO's ability to deploy troops from America and keep supply lines open. Already in recent years, the United States and its allies have deployed troops and equipment in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to try to reassure those members neighbouring Russia that their partners will ride to the rescue should they come under attack. Russia's decision last month to send thousands of troops to the border area with Ukraine has raised concern at the military alliance, which launched one of its biggest ever defence spending initiatives after Russian troops annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

## COMMENT

Nato chiefs insist the military exercises are not aimed at Russia specifically, but they focus on the Black Sea region, where Moscow is accused of blocking the free navigation of ships. The alliance's secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg says the exercises send an important message to any potential adversary: "Nato is ready." On top of this the new HMS Queen Elizabeth (the pride of the British Navy) is making its maiden voyage carrying 18 F-35 jets. The 65000 ton aircraft carrier leads 6 Royal navy ships, a submarine and a US navy destroyer. It is the largest concentration of maritime and airpower to leave the UK in a generation. God speaks of the ships of Tarshish....

## BIBLE QUOTE

God himself is in Jerusalem's towers, revealing himself as its defender. The kings of the earth joined forces and advanced against the city. But when they saw it, they were stunned; they were terrified and ran away. They were gripped with terror and writhed in pain like a woman in labor. You destroyed them like the mighty ships of Tarshish shattered by an east wind. (Psalm 48:3-7 NLT)

## ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

2021-05-20 Israel Shoots Down IRANIAN Drone; Hamas Blindsided By Israel's Response

2021-05-20 Israeli Air Strikes on Hamas “Metro” Tunnel System in Gaza

2021-05-22 CEASEFIRE- As Hamas Regroups, Iran Preps for a Future War Against Israel

2021-05-15 UPDATE- Israel Destroys Gaza Tower Where Hamas Used Media as Human Shields - YouTube

2021-05-25 Did Israel Just Destroy an Iranian Attack Drone Factory - YouTube

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