This Week's Developments

February 4 - 10, 2024

- 'God of war': Russian Orthodox Church Stands By Putin
- Green Backlash Looms Over EU Elections
- Binyamin Netanyahu rejects Israel-Hamas ceasefire
- IDF chief: 'We're preparing to expand the war'
- Israel and Lebanon 'could be going to war any day'
- UK / US launch fresh wave of strikes on Houthi targets
- Putin: US 'needs to stop supplying weapons' to Ukraine
- WW3 is approaching fast, few are willing to admit why
- Additional & Supporting Articles

'God of war': Russian Orthodox Church stands by Putin, but at what cost?

Al Jazeera, February 9, 2024



EVENT

Moscow Patriarch Kirill, head of the world's largest Orthodox Christian Church whose clout transcends Russia's borders to believers in former Soviet republics and diasporas, has defended the Kremlin's "right" to start the war. The Russian Orthodox Church (ROC), helmed by Kirill since 2009, has tens of thousands of parishes in Russia and elsewhere, from California to Kazakhstan to Ukraine's Kyiv. Ukraine was the ROC's second-largest "canonical territory" with some 12,000 church communities – and remains paramount to one of the ideological pillars of Russian statehood. A millennia ago, Orthodox priests from Constantinople baptised Prince Vladimir, whose state, **Kyivan Rus**, became the progenitor of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. Once dubbed "the Second Rome", Constantinople fell to the Turks, and Russian czars proclaimed Moscow "the Third Rome". The political and canonical loss of Ukraine, the heartland of Kyivan Rus, nullifies the concept. However, experts say that the subservience and belligerence are already knocking down the ROC's clout in ex-Soviet republics and among Russian diasporas worldwide. Orthodox sees, including the Constantinople Patriarchate, lambasted it.

COMMENT There are a lot of connections that could be made from this report. The first and probably the most important is the tie-in of the Greek Orthodox church based in Constantinople (Istanbul) with the establishment of a major church cannon in "Kievan Rus" which is Kiev in Ukraine. So Russia's "spiritual" heritage is rooted in Ukraine. History tells us that Russia's political heritage is also Ukraine, stemming from the Mongol (Magogian?) invasions of Central Europe in the 12th century. The Mongols were responsible for Russia's origin and Ukraine was at the center of that development. SO today Russia without Ukraine is a country / nation without its spiritual / political roots. We can understand why Putin and Kirill want it back. Prophecy indicates that Ros/Rus (Ukraine) is to be THE key player in the King of the North coalition. That should tell us what will be the outcome of this war.

BIBLE QUOTE

"Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal."

Green Backlash Looms Over EU Elections

Reuters, February 5, 2024



EVENT

What a difference five years make. During the last European Union elections in 2019, hundreds of thousands across the 27-nation bloc staged protests to fight climate change. Ahead of this year's EU vote, farmers are in the streets demanding fewer green rules, and politicians cannot afford to ignore them. A shift in political tone around how to protect the planet is looming over EU Parliament elections in June, even as climate change unleashes more severe and costly extreme weather. "There is a clear backlash on the agriculture part of the Green Deal," said French EU lawmaker Pascal Canfin. An EU proposal on Tuesday will test the political mood. The European Commission is set to recommend an ambitious goal to cut net greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2040. But the goal will need approval from the next EU parliament after the elections, which some EU officials fear could lose the broad support that climate policies have enjoyed since 2019. Polls show more seats could go to far-right and right-leaning parties opposed to climate policies. EU officials say backing for ambitious green laws has also been eroded among EU states by recent elections in Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Polls suggest [the conservative] group could win 27% more seats in the upcoming election than it has now.

COMMENT The purpose of this slide is not to try to set out a postulation about climate change one way or the other. These presentations are about the part being played by the "frog spirits" in influencing the nations to Armageddon. Here we observe that even the controversial topic of climate change has a part to play in the political alignment at the time of the end. We look for the EU to line up with the King of the North coalition. Right now it is very much at odds with it. But as the mood change to right-wing and populist platforms and governments, that can change - almost overnight. Bulgaria is an example. Italy and France are at tipping points; Germany pointing that direction more and more also. If that happens, look for support for Ukraine will weaken, and esteem for autocratic dictators like Putin to strengthen.

BIBLE QUOTE

"...the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men...I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they ... forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Dan 4:17 Rev 16:13-14

Binyamin Netanyahu rejects Israel-Hamas ceasefire

The Times, February 7, 2024



EVENT

Binyamin Netanyahu has rejected a ceasefire deal proposed by Hamas and poured scorn on peace efforts to end the four-month war in Gaza, vowing to pursue a "crushing victory" instead. The Israeli prime minister said the families of 136 hostages were uppermost in his thoughts but insisted that continued military action was the best way of securing their freedom, as he predicted the war would continue for months rather than years. In an evening press conference staged after Hamas outlined its ceasefire deal, Netanyahu promised to advance on Rafah, the southernmost city in Gaza, despite international calls for restraint. "We are on the way to complete victory. The victory is within reach," he said. The ceasefire proposal by Hamas included the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza — something that Netanyahu had already ruled out — as well as further pauses in the fighting.

COMMENT

Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, embarked on his fifth tour of the Middle East this week full of hope. But during Netanyahu's press conference on the night of Blinken's departure he rejected Hamas's ceasefire proposals and vowed to attack Rafah. The ceasefire talks were dead. Israel remains intent on totally destroying Hamas. They have still not caught the main leaders of Hamas and until then the war looks certain to continue despite the increasing pressure from almost every nation. The Bible says that the "pricking briers" around Israel will be removed. Zechariah 12 says that the surrounding, nearby peoples who have become intoxicated by Jerusalem will be burned up by the governors (leaders) in Jerusalem. The burning up is underway. We could be witnessing Zechariah 12:6 being fulfilled – there are more briers to be removed though.

BIBLE QUOTE

On that day I will make the clans [governors in the AV] of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume all the surrounding peoples right and left, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place.

(Zechariah 12:6 NIV)

Northern Command chief: 'We're preparing to expand the war & launch attack'

Israel National News, February 9, 2024

SWORDS OF IRON ISRAEL AT WAR

EVENT

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered the military to prepare to evacuate civilians from the southern Gazan city of Rafah ahead of an expanded offensive against Hamas. Some 1.5 million Palestinians are in Rafah to seek refuge from Israeli combat operations in the rest of Gaza. The US has warned Israel an invasion of Rafah would be a "disaster", while the EU and the UN both expressed concern. Aid groups say it is not possible to evacuate everyone from the city. Mr Netanyahu told military and security officials to "submit to the cabinet a combined plan for evacuating the population and destroying the battalions" of Hamas, his office said on Friday. "It is impossible to achieve the goal of the war without eliminating Hamas, and by leaving four Hamas battalions in Rafah. On the contrary, it is clear that intense activity in Rafah requires that civilians evacuate the areas of combat," the statement added. Earlier this week, Mr Netanyahu said he had ordered troops to "prepare to operate" in Rafah and that "total victory" by Israel over Hamas was just months away.

COMMENT The leaders of Hamas are hiding in Rafah in their network of underground tunnels. These leaders call for the annihilation of Israel in their own charter. The Gaza Strip has become a network of terror using the population as a cover for their evil ways. Even the UN refugee agency has become part of this evil campaign to destroy Israel. The first mention of the Hebrew word, "hamas" appears in the story of Noah. Mankind had filled the earth with violence (hamas). So God said he would destroy the earth. God wiped the earth clean because of the violence (hamas). Hamas will one day be removed as well.

BIBLE QUOTE

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence [hamas] through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. The name of the terrorist group Hamas translated from Arabic means enthusiasm, zeal or fighting spirit, and is also an acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement. (Genesis 6:13)

Israel and Lebanon 'could be going to war any day' as IDF conducts military exercise in Golan Heights

Sky News, February 4, 2024



EVENT

Israeli paratroopers are carrying out drills attacking a mock village in the Golan Heights as fears of war with Hezbollah grow. It's a drill, but any day now it could be for real. A decision whether to invade Lebanon has not been made yet, but the Israeli government has made increasingly hawkish statements and all the soldiers I spoke to privately said they thought it would happen. It would be a bloody war for both sides though. Hezbollah is much bigger, better armed and battle hardened than Hamas, but Israel's commanders believe they would ultimately prevail. There are daily exchanges of fire between Israel and Hezbollah across the border, enough in normal times to have started a war already. These are not normal times though, but they are dangerous ones. Even if there was a ceasefire, and Hezbollah stopped firing rockets into Israel, it might not be enough to prevent war because the Israelis have been very clear that they want to push Hezbollah back, deeper into southern Lebanon in accordance with a UN resolution.

COMMENT

War is coming to Lebanon. Israel will not allow Hezbollah to threaten their northern border in the same way Hamas has threatened their southern border. Israel has witnessed first hand the terrible atrocities these terrorist groups can inflict on their citizens and won't let it happen again. Hezbollah is ten times more powerful and as the article above says it would be a bloody war but Israel would prevail. Strong's concordance says the meaning of Israel is "God will prevail." Israel who are God's people will prevail. The kingdom of God will one day replace all kingdoms on earth. Israel is the one nation that will prevail when all others fail. The verse below says this...

BIBLE QUOTE

For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

Britain and US launch fresh wave of strikes on Houthi targets

The Telegraph, February 4, 2024



EVENT

Britain and the United States launched a fresh wave of strikes against the Houthi in Yemen on Saturday night, in a bid to further disable Iran-backed groups in the region. The new strikes hit 36 targets across 13 locations following attacks by the Iran-backed groups against international and commercial shipping, as well as naval vessels travelling through the Red Sea. Royal Air Force Typhoon FGR4s, supported by Voyager tankers, flew from Cyprus to join US forces in a further strike against Houthi locations involved in targeting shipping in the Bab al Mandab and southern Red Sea. The Typhoons employed Paveway IV precision guided bombs against multiple military targets identified by careful intelligence analysis at three locations. British aircraft targeted a ground control station inside a defensive position. This had been used to control Houthi drones, both attack and reconnaissance types, launched from further inland, operating over the sea against international shipping. The Typhoons also hit a number of targets at Bani.

COMMENT

The Houthis, who are allied with Hamas, began attacking ships in the Red Sea after Israel began its war in Gaza. The US will reclassify the Houthi rebels as a terrorist group at the end of next week if strikes on ships in the Red Sea to not cease. Yemen's legitimate, UN-recognised government in Aden has warned that the Houthis, who seized much of Yemen in 2014, are now threatening to sabotage the crucial undersea communication cables. Far from backing down it appears the Houthis are determined to keep fighting and are directly linking this to the war in Gaza. The Bible says that all nations will slowly but surely be drawn into vortex of conflict with Israel at its epicentre. The US/UK will ultimately fail to put out all the fires springing up all over the Middle East

BIBLE QUOTE

For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together. They saw it, and so they marvelled; they were troubled, and hasted away. Fear took hold upon them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail. Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish [Britain / US] with an east wind.

Putin: US 'needs to stop supplying weapons' to Ukraine and urge Kyiv to hold peace talks EuroNews, February 9, 2024

EVENT

The West will never succeed in inflicting a "strategic defeat" on Russia in Ukraine, the Russian president warned. Vladimir Putin has told former Fox News host Tucker Carlson that Washington should recognise Moscow's interests and persuade Ukraine to sit down for talks. Thursday night's interview is the first time Putin has sat down with a Western journalist since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. Most of the interview focused on Ukraine, where the war is nearing the two-year mark. Putin pointed at Zelenskyy's refusal to conduct talks with the Kremlin. He argued it's up to Washington to stop supplying Ukraine with weapons and convince Kyiv - which he called a US "satellite" - to sit down for negotiations. "We have never refused negotiations," Putin said. "You should tell the current Ukrainian leadership to stop and come to a negotiating table." Putin warned the West would never succeed in inflicting a "strategic defeat" on Russia and rejected allegations that Russia was harbouring plans to attack Poland or other NATO countries.

COMMENT

Putin wants to get a peace deal on his own terms with Ukraine. He has said that the West will never defeat Russia in Ukraine. He is right on that point – Putin is prepared to go to any lengths to come out of the war with some territorial gain. However, he also doesn't want the war to continue forever. Therefore Putin speaks of making some peace agreement. It is highly possible that this will happen at some point. We know that Russia one day will invade Israel. It is unlikely to do so if a large percentage of its army is tied up fighting a war in Ukraine. Therefore the most likely scenario is some negotiated truce, or stalemate or forced agreement. But what would bring this about? The Bible says Gog will use devastating force to succeed. Putin is able to do this...

BIBLE QUOTE

He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause a shocking amount of destruction and succeed in everything he does. He will destroy powerful leaders and devastate the holy people.

(Daniel 8:24 NLT)

World War Three is approaching fast, and too few are willing to admit why

The Telegraph, January 29, 2024

66 COMMENT

World War Three is approaching fast, and too few are willing to admit why

EVENT

Are we on the brink of a third world war? In the age of "peak apocalypse", it is easy to laugh off such a question. After all, we already find ourselves on permanent pandemic-watch, are besieged daily by predictions of ecological collapse, and drip-fed a diet of dystopian drama by crude Netflix algorithms. But the risk of a global war has surely not been so high since America was locked in an existential battle against the USSR. What previous world wars teach us is that it is not confident and successful countries that start wars, but corroded and schizophrenic ones that both suffer from grandiose delusions and mortal dread of the future. Today this paradox of the fragile aggressor is playing out not only in Iran, but to an even more terrifying extent in Russia. The Putin regime has spectacularly failed to capitalise on Russia's inbuilt advantages – not least its embarrassment of natural resources – to raise living standards and create prosperity. Much of the Russian population lives on the brink of destitution, and the country is stuck in an oil trap usually reserved for third-world nations.

COMMENT

This week saw a flurry of headlines in the UK press about being on the brink of World War 3. In the Daily Telegraph (a British daily conservative broadsheet newspaper) there was this headline – "As war creeps closer to Armageddon, the end of days doesn't seem so far away". Then under that headline it read "Fighting on two fronts, Israel is on edge. Its inhabitants feel a sense of foreboding – and some believe the 'third war' has already begun." Even the secular press can see something is about to happen. The world is on the brink of World War. Israel is at the epicentre. It is the exact picture given in the Bible - we are in the very last days that herald the return of Christ..

BIBLE QUOTE

For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem

(Zechariah 14:2+4)

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of Ros (river in Ukraine) Meshech and Tubal (rivers in Russia)"?

