

This Week's Developments

January 14 - 20, 2024

- Iran's attacks are heightening fears of a wider war
- Netanyahu rejects US calls to scale back offensive
- US hits 14 Houthi missiles aimed at ships in Red Sea
- Nato sends 90,000 troops to deter Russia
- Jordan moves military closer to the border with Israel
- Are we witnessing the opening salvos of World War 3?
- **The two-state solution is dead. Why pretend anymore?**
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Map 1

Map 2

Map 3

Iran's attacks are heightening fears of a wider Middle East war

The Telegraph, January 18, 2024



EVENT

Tit-for-tat cross-border exchanges between Pakistan and Iran this week marked the latest escalation in the Middle East, a region already dangerously on edge as a result of Israel's war with Hamas. The fallout from the terror group's Oct 7 attacks and Israel's military response has spiked tensions in a range of simmering flashpoints involving Israel's arch-foe Iran, leading diplomats to fear a wider conflict may yet erupt. Those concerns were heightened in recent days when Iran began to flex its military muscles, attacking targets in a string of other countries. Iran has launched missile attacks on "spy headquarters" and "terrorist" targets in Syria and Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region, where it claimed to hit Israeli espionage headquarters. Then Tehran hit what it said were Sunni militants hiding within Pakistan. Tehran anticipates tensions with its number one enemy, Israel, are "going to increase" this year with the Israel-Hamas war set to drag on, said Sanam Vakil, a director with the Chatham House think tank.

COMMENT

This week Iran launched missile strikes on three different countries - Iraq, Syria and Pakistan. Also its proxy militant groups (Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis) continue to target U.S. and Western interests and fight Israel. Iran's attack on Syria was against ISIS militants in response to scores of people killed at a commemoration service in Iran last week. Iran's attack on Iraq was said to be against Israeli spy sites. Iran's attack on Pakistan was against a group that killed some Iranian security forces. All the attacks were using long range accurate missiles. It is probable that all this is to demonstrate to Israel that Iran is able to attack where and when it wants to. Isaiah 13 speaks of the Medes (Iranians) being stirred up and used the bows (missiles) to dash men to pieces.

BIBLE QUOTE

Behold, **I will stir up the Medes** against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. **Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces**; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children. **Isaiah 13 has a latter day fulfilment. It is not only about ancient Iraq and ancient Iran – it is also about modern times.** (Isaiah 13:17-18)

Netanyahu rejects US calls to scale back Gaza offensive

The Times, January 19, 2024



EVENT

Tensions between Israel and the US burst into the open yesterday when Binyamin Netanyahu angrily rejected American calls to scale back its offensive in Gaza and plan for a postwar Palestinian state. The Israeli prime minister used a TV news conference to accuse the US of trying to “coerce” Israel into moves that would “endanger” the country. **“We will not settle for anything short of absolute victory,”** Netanyahu insisted, saying that his war aims of destroying Hamas and releasing all the remaining hostages were not negotiable and could take “many more months”. **Netanyahu said that Israel must have security control over all land west of the River Jordan, which would include the territory of any future Palestinian state.** “This is a necessary condition, and it conflicts with the idea of [Palestinian] sovereignty. What to do? I tell this truth to our American friends, and I also stopped the attempt to impose a reality on us that would harm Israel’s security,” he said.

COMMENT

President Biden is pushing for Israel to scale back its operations in Gaza AND move to talks to create a new Palestinian State. The reason is that Biden is heading towards elections later this year and he wants the Gaza war off the US agenda. However, Netanyahu (and his war cabinet) and the vast majority of those in Israel want Hamas destroyed forever. They also want all their immediate borders safe as well – so at some point the war will end up tackling Hezbollah in the north unless they retreat. In terms of a possible Palestinian State on the West Bank – Netanyahu has said Israel must have security control over all the land west of the Jordan river. Ezekiel 38 tells us that Russia comes against Israel who live on “the mountains of Israel” – the West Bank...

BIBLE QUOTE

After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, **against the mountains of Israel,** which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

(Ezekiel 38:8)

US hits 14 Houthi missiles aimed at ships in the Red Sea

The Times, January 18, 2024



EVENT

The United States military said it struck Houthi missiles as the rebels were preparing to launch them against ships in the Red Sea on Wednesday, hours after the Iranian-backed rebel group claimed responsibility for an attack on a bulk carrier linked to an American company. The strikes targeted 14 missiles as they were being loaded, US Central Command said. “These missiles on launch rails presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels and US Navy ships in the region and could have been fired at any time,” it said. Earlier, the Houthis claimed they had fired “several missiles” at the Genco Picardy, a US-owned bulk carrier flying under the Marshall Islands flag, off the coast of Yemen. The attack came after the US designated the Houthis a terrorist organisation, having delisted the group in 2021 when President Biden came into office. The rebels have also vowed to target British and American assets after both countries conducted airstrikes on the Houthis in Yemen last week.

COMMENT

Despite the US and UK attacking the Houthis last week, this week has seen more attacks by the Houthis in the Red Sea. One of the missiles hit a US owned merchant ship. The Houthis have said they will keep attacking ships in the Red Sea as long as Israel is fighting in Gaza. The trouble is the Red Sea is a major artery of shipping trade with around 15% of total global sea trade flowing through it. Such is the impact on ships having to sail around Africa to avoid the Red Sea that the UK believes it will impact inflation here and has already knocked 0.3% off UK GDP. There is one time in the Bible that Yemen (where the Houthis are based) is mentioned. In Joel 3 God links the Philistines (Palestinians), Tyre (Hezbollah) and Sabeans (Yemen) together!....

BIBLE QUOTE

Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence? and if ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head; And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: (Joel 3:4+8)

Nato sends 90,000 troops to deter Russia in largest exercise since Cold War

Daily Telegraph, January 18, 2024



EVENT

Nato members will send 90,000 troops to the alliance's largest military exercise since the Cold War. Britain is deploying 20,000 soldiers to Operation Steadfast Defender 2024, which starts next week and will continue until the end of May. Gen Christopher Cavoli, Nato's most senior commander, said the exercises would demonstrate the alliance's ability to quickly "reinforce" its territory in the event of an attack. Exercises will take place in Germany, Poland and the Baltic States in what is widely expected to be a simulation of war with Russia. Troops from all 31 Nato members and Sweden, a candidate for membership, are taking part. More than 50 ships from aircraft carriers to destroyers will take part, as well as more than 80 fighter jets, helicopters and drones and at least 1,100 combat vehicles including 133 tanks and 533 infantry fighting vehicles, NATO said. These are the first defence plans the alliance has drawn up in decades, detailing how it would respond to a Russian attack.

COMMENT

The last NATO exercise of a similar size was during the Cold War in 1988 with 125,000 participants. This huge show of strength by NATO in 2024 is to deter Russia from launching any new invasions against countries in the NATO alliance. With Russia bogged down in a war on its doorstep it may seem unlikely Putin would try to take on more countries. With Bible in hand do we expect Putin to head west into Europe mainland or south into Israel? The answer is south – see Ezekiel 38 and Daniel 11. Putin will not be able to move into territory of the old Roman Empire. The same situation occurred with the original king of the north (Antiochus Epiphanes). He tried to push west into the Roman Empire but was prevented from doing so – he then attacked Israel.

BIBLE QUOTE

And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. This "little horn" is Antiochus Epiphanes – the original king of the north. The following 2 slides show what happened when he tried to push west. Putin also wants to push west but will be unable to do so. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch video (Daniel 8:9)

Jordan moves military closer to the border with Israel

Israel News, January 16, 2024



EVENT

In an ominous sign of an expanding regional war, Jordan has been seen moving its army closer to the border with Israel. Israeli towns along the Jordanian border have reported gunfire towards their communities from the Jordanian soldiers. With the Hamas war raging and the potential for Israel's North becoming engulfed with a war with Hezbollah, most have assumed that the Jordanian border would be trusted to remain silent. This has not been the case. Not only have there been increased infiltration attempts from Jordan, the Jordanian military itself has taken aim at Israeli communities nearby. The king's wife, Queen Rania has roots in Tulkarm and is considered a "Palestinian." In addition to his wife, the Jordanian street, which is 80% "Palestinian" has already demanded Jordan's King do something against Israel. It is entirely conceivable that in order to save his crown and appease the majority of his population, he may in fact attempt an assault on Israel or at the very least allow others to attack from his territory.

COMMENT

Israel's prime minister said this week that the war against Hamas would last throughout 2024. Each day and each week the war continues has the potential to get worse and involve more people and countries. Fears are that the war could spread into the West Bank triggering a large scale exodus of Palestinians into Jordan. Jordan said this week that if this happens it would pose an "existential" threat to the kingdom and they would be forced to act. This is code for saying that the Jordan could cease to exist as a nation and therefore they would be forced to join the war. Psalm 83 says that Jordan will eventually be sucked into the war. Edom, Moab and Ammon are all mentioned as joining forces against Israel – along with Hezbollah (Tyre), Hamas and Syria (Assur).

BIBLE QUOTE

For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The **tabernacles of Edom**, and the Ishmaelites; **of Moab**, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and **Ammon**, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah.

(Psalm 83:5-8)

Are we witnessing the opening salvos of World War 3?

The Independent, January 19, 2024



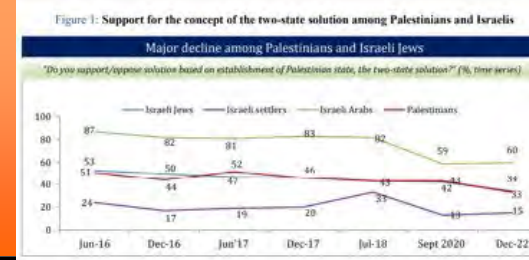
EVENT It is hard to escape the impression of a theatre of military conflict that is inexorably growing – to the east and the south, if not yet to the north and the west. And if you look backwards, rather than forwards, the Hamas massacres of Israelis on 7 October, and Israel’s all-out military response, can be seen as turning the tiny sliver of the Gaza Strip into the epicentre of a conflict that could embrace regions many hundreds of miles further afield. The Hamas attacks of October were followed by dire warnings that this could be the spark that ignited a regional conflagration; that it was only a matter of time before Iran became directly involved – probably through its proxy, Hezbollah, in southern Lebanon – and that, before long, you could be standing on the threshold of the next world war.

COMMENT David Cameron a previous prime minister of Britain is now the UK’s foreign secretary. He warned this week: *"It is hard to think of a time when there has been so much danger and insecurity and instability in the world. The lights are absolutely flashing red on the global dashboard and what we need at that time is strong leadership and a plan and that is what we have with the prime minister and the team in place."* He is right - we are at time of danger, insecurity and instability in the world. The lights are flashing red. The world does need strong leadership. However, the leadership required is not that of worldly leaders and their armies. It is the leadership of Christ and the hosts (armies) of heaven. In fact we are told specifically that judgement will come on the “ships of Tarshish” (Britain). It comes at a time when Lebanon and southern Syria is also judged. These events herald the return of Jesus to the earth and the establishment of God’s kingdom.

BIBLE QUOTE For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan (south Syria).., And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all **pleasant pictures** (should be translated “desirable ships!”). (Isaiah 2;12-13+16)

The two-state solution is dead. Why pretend anymore?

Politico, January 19, 2024



EVENT

Today, Israelis don't believe a Jewish state can live alongside a Palestinian one. As it stands, they have lost all faith in a two-state solution — not that they had much to begin with, even before Hamas' October 7 attacks on southern Israel.. "Israelis are in belligerent mood," pollster Dahlia Scheindlin told POLITICO. She was speaking after a poll by the Israel Democracy Institute found that 75 percent of Jewish Israelis think the country should ignore mounting pressure from the United States to wind down the war in Gaza. And another poll by Gallup recently showed that 65 percent oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. However, if elections are held soon, this won't necessarily benefit Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself or his Likud Party. Most Israelis blame Netanyahu for the bloody security debacle, and seething with anger, they just want him gone — whether sooner or later. But according to Scheindlin, the basic direction of political orientation is unlikely to budge with or without him.

COMMENT

Netanyahu is fighting for his political life in Israel. Reports indicate that as long as the war is being executed his position remains secure, but when it is over the people of Israel want a day of reckoning and his popularity has tanked. He has pushed back quite aggressively against the US attempts to encourage a two state solution. There is good reason for this that Biden and his senior executives recognise, but the US / Israeli optics are not good. It is currently very unpopular to evidence support of Israel and the US feels this pressure. But whether in the future the US is dealing with Netanyahu or his and his party's replacement it is unlikely that anything will change in Israel with reference to the resistance to a two state solution. This stance is in harmony with prophecy and God's purpose. The land of Israel is God's land; it is not for man to divide and sell it as he pleases. It will vomit out those who abuse it. And when the K of N comes down, it is on the mountains of Israel (currently "west bank" land).

BIBLE QUOTE

The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you. O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal; I will take you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the mountains of Israel.

Lev 18:26; Lev 18:28; Lev 25:23; Eze 39:2

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

TV-7 Israel News

Watchman Newscast

2024-01-20 US personnel suffer minor injuries in Iraq base attack, official says - Reuters

2024-01-20 Middle East missile attacks raise Gaza escalation risk - Reuters

2024-01-20 Israel ELIMINATES Top Iranian Commander in Syria STRIKE; Iran Vows Revenge - Watchman -11.18 min - YouTube

2024-01-19 Why is Sweden's Top Defence Officials Asking Citizens to Prepare for War - 4.39 min - YouTube

2024-01-19 The two-state solution is dead. Why pretend anymore- – POLITICO

2024-01-19 Switzerland says Israeli president subject of criminal complaints at Davos - Reuters

2024-01-17 Summary Report_ English_Joint Poll 24 Jan 2023.pdf

2024-01-17 Putin planning World War 3- Leaked documents from German MoD reveal NATO's worst nightmare - 7.00 - YouTube

2024-01-17 Iran Says it Bombed a Mossad HQ in Iraqi Kurdistan & ISIS in Syria - Vantage with Palki Sharma - 5.43 min - YouTube

2024-01-15 Is Russia Immune to Houthi Red Sea Attacks- - Vantage with Palki Sharma - 4.28 min - YouTube

2024-01-13 Turkey's Erdogan slams US, UK for turning red sea into sea of blood - WION - 9.00 min - YouTube

2024-01-13 Taiwan voters rebuff China, ruling party gets third presidential term - Reuters

2024-01-13 Lai Ching-te, Taiwan's new president-elect, will face China's ire - Reuters

2024-01-13 Decoding US-UK bombing in Yemen- Unraveling regional and historical context by Bishara - 5.39 min - YouTube

2024-01-13 Analysis of latest US and UK airstrikes against Houthi rebels - Israel - Hamas war - 3.46 min - YouTube

2024-01-12 Sabaeans - Wikipedia

2024-01-12 Houthi Rebels VOW REVENGE After U.S. & Britain BOMB Iran-Backed Militia Sites - 5.42 - YouTube

2024-01-12 'A very large scale attack'- United States and British forces launch airstrikes in Yemen - 11.37 min - YouTube

2024-01-11 IDF CONFRONTS Hamas in Dense Urban Areas; Brave Canine Heroes in Action - TBN Israel - 12.26 min - YouTube

2024-01-10 2023-AVS-Presentation.pdf

NATO PRESENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE



- 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



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



RUSSIA ("CHIEF PRINCE" = "PRINCE OF ROSH")

○ TOBOLSK (Tubal)

○ MOSCOW (Meshech)

"LION" TARSHISH UK

GERMANY (LAND OF MAGOG)

GOMER European Economic Community

"YOUNG LIONS" (USA, CANADA, ETC)

Gibraltar

TURKEY (Togarmah)

IRAQ/IRAN (Persia)

INDIA

LIBYA

DEDAN

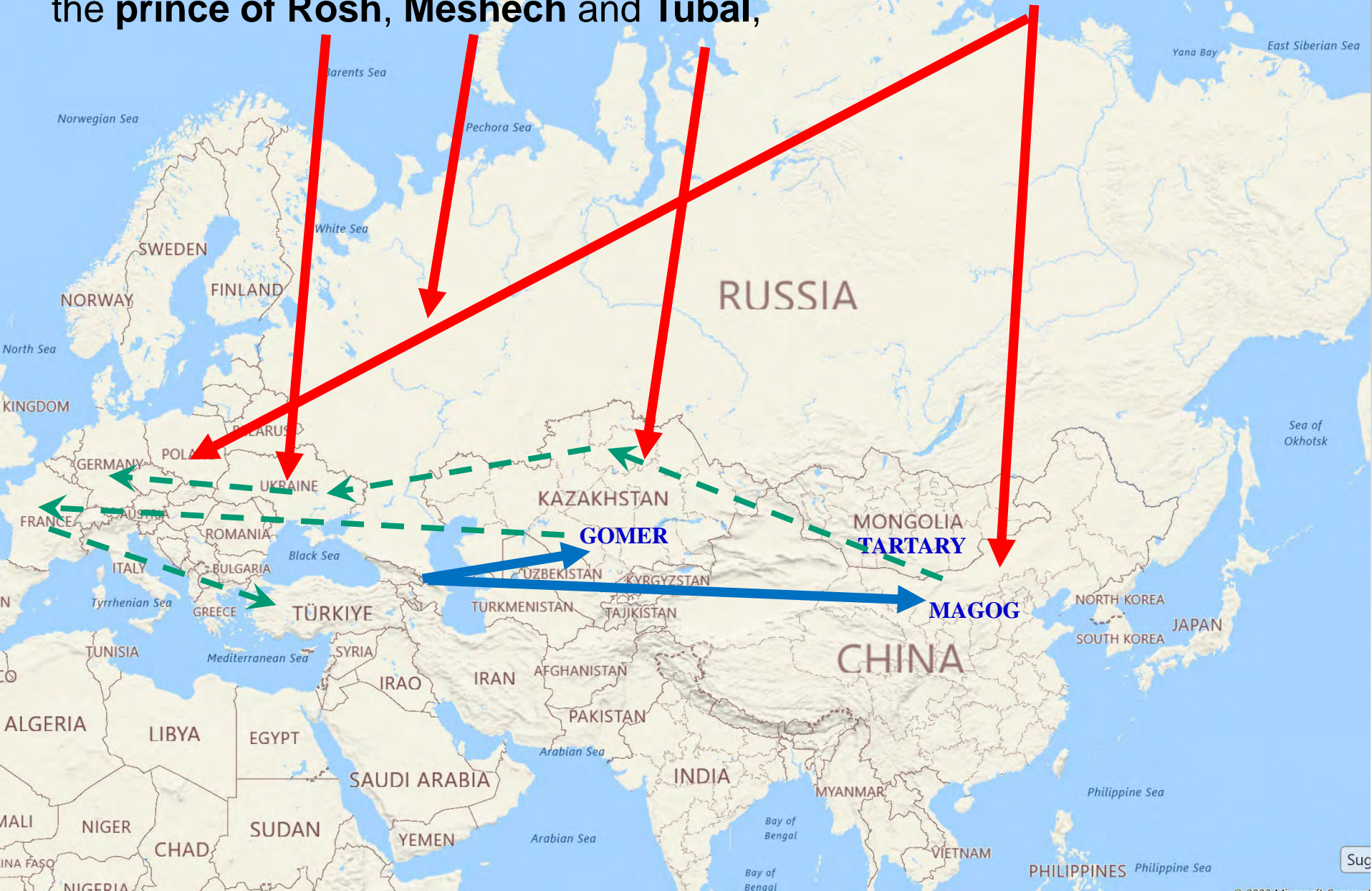
SHEBA

ETHIOPIA

AUSTRALIA

Legend HandOut

"Son of man, set your face toward **Gog of the land of Magog,**
the **prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal,**



"Son of man, set thy face against Gog (head), of the land of Magog (China?), prince
of Ros (river in Ukraine) Meshech and Tubal (rivers in Russia)"?

Antiochus the Madman

An in-depth view of the Greco-Syrian emperor in the story of Hanukkah.

BY RABBI PAUL STEINBERG

In 175 BCE, amid this social-political unrest, a new ruler, Antiochus IV, ascended to the throne of Greco-Syria. As did many rulers, he appended the title Epiphanes (“God Manifest”) to his name; but many people referred to him instead as Antiochus Epimames (“The Madman”).

Immediately upon assuming power, he decided to pursue the conquest of Egypt, which no other Seleucid king had been able to accomplish. The Romans were advancing eastward and expanding their empire. If Antiochus could conquer and annex Egypt, his kingdom’s size and power would be greatly increased and the Romans might be resisted.

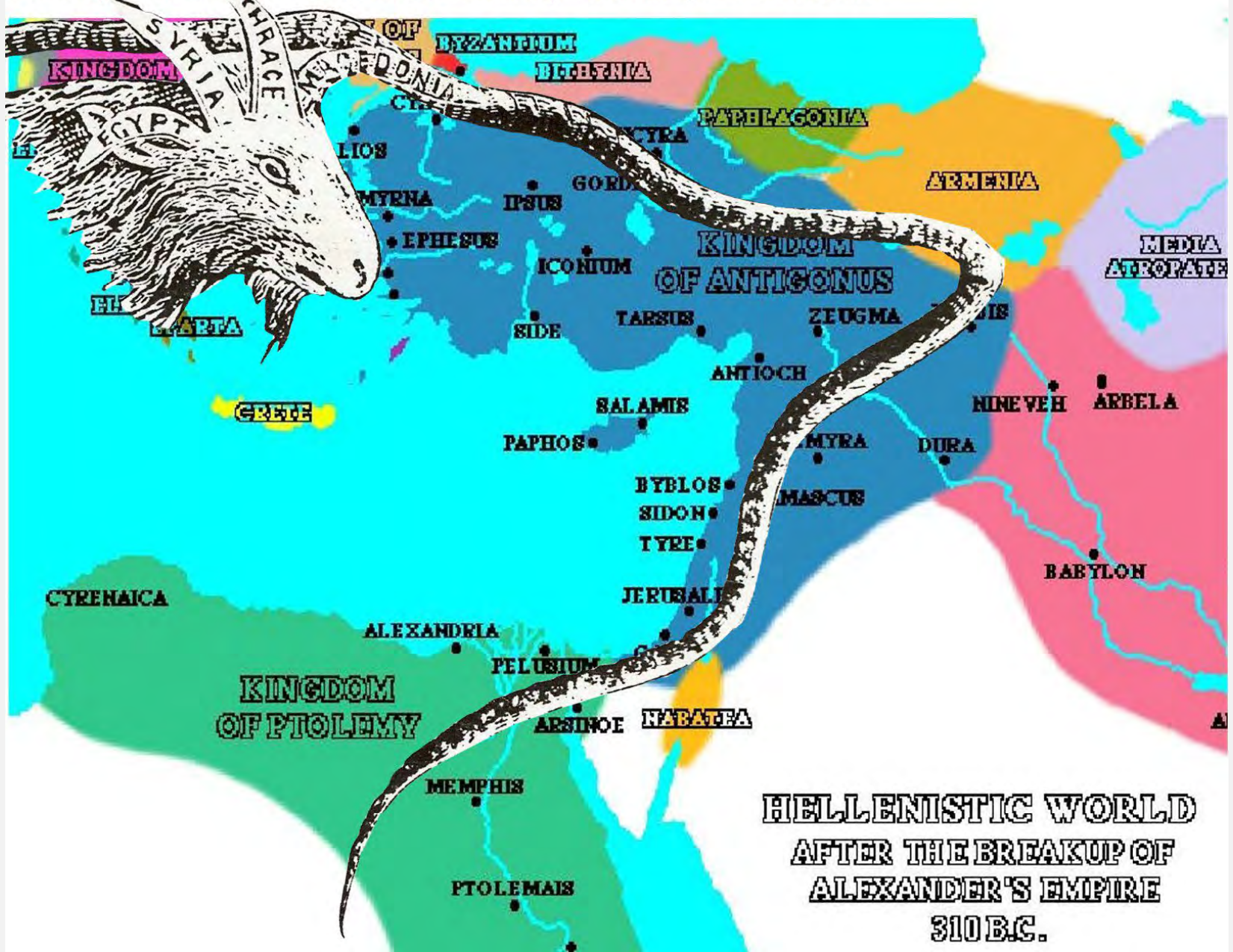
Expansion in the Middle East

Meanwhile, after a decisive battle in 169-8 BCE, Antiochus was on the brink of annexing Egypt to Syria. The Roman army, however, was moving victoriously eastward. With its own sights set upon Egypt, Rome warned Antiochus not to expand his kingdom in that direction. Antiochus was not powerful enough to defy the mighty Roman Empire; and finding his ambitions for conquest thwarted, he would become even more aggressive toward the people he already ruled.

victory based on the rumor that Antiochus was dead. But he was not able to seize control of the government, and he was forced to flee. Antiochus, furious with the rebellion, returned to Jerusalem, slaughtered thousands of people, and reinstalled Menelaus. Once Antiochus departed and heard that a second rebellion had broken out, he outlawed Judaism. Among the now-forbidden practices were the rite of circumcision, the study of Torah, and the keeping of kashrut (Jewish dietary laws).

In the Jews's Holy Temple, he placed a statue of Zeus — the god he believed was manifest in his own royal being — and sacrificed swine on the altar. He stripped the Temple of its sacred vessels, including the seven-branched golden menorah, and stole the silver and gold coin.

And out of one of them came forth a little horn (the military power of Rome), which waxed exceeding great, toward the south (Egypt), and toward the east (Asia & Persia), and toward the pleasant *land* (*Palestine*). - Daniel 8:9



**HELLENISTIC WORLD
AFTER THE BREAKUP OF
ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE
310 B.C.**

Figure 1: Support for the concept of the two-state solution among Palestinians and Israelis

Major decline among Palestinians and Israeli Jews

"Do you support/oppose solution based on establishment of Palestinian state, the two-state solution?" (% , time series)

