This Week's Developments

April 7 - 13, 2024

- Biden: Iran attack on Israel expected sooner than later
- Sirens, blasts sound across Israel Iran Attacks
- Iran's options for an attack on Israel & Israeli response
- Putin preparing to unleash a wave of terror weapons
- Putin comparison to Jesus in battle to uphold tradition
- Trump portrayed as Christ-like figure
- Allies face \$10 trillion reckoning in the race to rearm
- Uncharted territory' fears after record hot March
- Additional & Supporting Articles

Biden warns Iran attack on Israel expected 'sooner than later'

The Times, April 12, 2024



EVENT

President Biden has said he expects an attack on Israel from Iran "sooner than later" as Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets into northern Israel in a prelude to a feared Iranian revenge attack. The US has also reinforced its military presence in the Middle East. The Iranian-backed terrorist group, which has conducted regular cross-border attacks on Israel, claimed that it fired the volley on Friday night in response to Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon. The Israeli military said about 40 rockets were launched, some of which were intercepted, along with two kamikaze drones. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Israel is on high alert for a possible attack by Iranian forces or their regional proxy forces, of which Hezbollah is the most powerful. Tehran has threatened reprisals after an Israeli strike on its consulate in Damascus killed 13 people on on April 1. Israel has vowed to retaliate against Iran, if attacked. President Biden said on Friday that he expected an Iranian attack on Israel "sooner than later".

COMMENT

Last weekend Israel attacked an Iranian consulate in Damascus killing several very senior Iranian military commanders. There is high expectation that Iran will seek revenge for this as usually embassies are off limits in warfare. As fears increase that the Middle East could soon be dealing with a wider war the US is deploying extra warships near Israel to protect it from a strike by Iran. The US has also increased its presence on existing bases in the Middle East in anticipation of attacks by Iran or its proxy groups, including Hezbollah in Lebanon. The Bible says the inner ring war will include Israel's immediate neighbours – including "the inhabitants of Tyre" (Hezbollah). See Psalm 83. The Bible also says that Israel will defeat (burn up) those people who live "round about".

BIBLE QUOTE

In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.

Sirens, blasts sound across Israel after Iran launches retaliatory attack

Reuters JERUSALEM/DUBAI, April 13, 2024

EVENT

Iran launched a swarm of explosive drones and fired missiles at Israel late on Saturday in its first ever direct attack on Israeli territory, risking a major escalation as the United States pledged "ironclad" backing for Israel. Sirens wailed and Reuters journalists in Israel said they heard distant heavy thuds and bangs from what local media called aerial interceptions of explosive drones. Authorities said a 7-year-old girl was critically injured. Israel's military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said Iran launched dozens of ground-to-ground missiles at Israel, most of which were intercepted outside Israeli borders. They included more than 10 cruise missiles, he said. The Iranian salvo amounted to more than 200 drones and missiles so far, Hagari said, and had caused light damage to one Israeli military facility. Israel's Channel 12 TV cited an unnamed Israeli official as saying there would be a "significant response" to the attack. The Gaza war between Israel and Hamas, now in its seventh month, has driven up tensions in the region, spreading to fronts with Lebanon and Syria and drawing long-range fire at Israeli targets from as far away as Yemen and Iraq. Those clashes now threaten to morph into a direct open conflict pitting Iran and its regional allies against Israel and its main supporter the United States, with regional power Egypt urging "utmost restraint". U.S. and British warplanes were involved in shooting down some Israel-bound drones over the Iraq-Syria border area, Channel 12 reported. Three U.S. officials said the U.S. military had shot down drone aircraft without saying how many.

COMMENT

The tensions between these two countries has been simmering for months, even years. The latest information now has the number of projectiles launched against Israel at 300. Once started, it is difficult to determine where or when this conflict may end. <u>How</u> it will end, students of prophecy already know. This conflict is with a power that is part of a coalition – a triple axis consisting of Russia, Iran and China that is predicted to invade the land of Israel at the time of Christ's return. We are getting close; monitor the signs, "lift up your heads, your redemption draws nigh"...

BIBLE QUOTE

'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, Persia...with them... "After many days you will be summoned; you will come into the land...to the mountains of Israel..."You will go up, you will come like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you." Ezek 38:7-9 NAS95

All Iran's options for an attack on Israel – and how Netanyahu could respond

The Telegraph, April 11, 2024



EVENT

Israel is braced for a potentially major escalation in its conflict with Iran after a US intelligence assessment warned that Tehran could order a strike on military and government targets inside the country in the coming days. Israeli ministers have vowed that if Tehran takes direct military action then they will respond with their own strikes on Iranian territory, opening the door to a full-scale regional war in the Middle East. A US intelligence assessment revealed this week by Bloomberg states that Iran could be poised to launch high-precision strikes using ballistic missiles or drones on targets inside Israel. A source quoted in the report said it was a matter of "when, not if," Iran strikes, though it is less clear whether Tehran would take direct action or rely on its proxy network. Either way, the Bloomberg report suggests Iran is drawing up plans for attacks only on military and government sites in Israel, of which the most obvious would be the Kirya, the Israeli military headquarters in Tel Aviv.

COMMENT

Experts on the Iranian regime are highly skeptical of the prospect of a direct attack from Iran as it would upend a long-standing policy of fueling conflicts with Israel from a distance via proxy groups or covert attacks. This also fits in with what the Bible says will happen. There is an initial inner ring war around Israel involving Iran's proxy military groups. These pricking briers surrounding Israel are removed by Israel. Iran however forms part of the outer circle war that invades Israel with Russia. This war comes after during a time of so-called peace and security for Israel. Therefore it is unlikely Iran will fire missiles from Iran itself and it will instead activate Hezbollah to try to punish Israel.

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)

Putin is preparing to unleash a new wave of terror weapons

Comment: The Telegraph, April 8, 2024



EVENT

The revelation that Russian forces have been making widespread use of CS gas – a chemical banned under the Chemical Weapons Convention – should be a horrific wake up call to the West and Nato that no weapons are off limits for Vladimir Putin. I saw the 4-year "conventional" siege of Aleppo in Syria broken in days of chlorine barrel bomb attacks in December 2016. Just this weekend, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) was again hit by drones. Further such strikes raise the risk of a catastrophic nuclear incident, with potentially appalling effects for the whole of Europe. All this experience leads me to believe that a leader without morals will turn to these weapons again and again; they are terrifyingly effective. Putin has no morals. All the triggers for a nuclear and chemical disaster are now in plain sight and even those with their heads deepest in the sand surely cannot fail to see that action must be taken now to prevent a terrifying escalation of this conflict.

COMMENT

Russia has been accused of systematically using illegal chemical gas attacks against Ukrainian soldiers. There have been reports of the use of chlorine and chloropicrin – a substance typically used as a pesticide that was deployed by the Germans as a chemical weapon in the First World War. Putin has also been attacking the nuclear power stations in Ukraine. All of this shows Putin will go to any lengths to achieve a victory in Ukraine. He will never concede – never back down. The Bible says that a latter day king of the north (Antiochus Epiphanes) will use "astounding devastation" and "will succeed in whatever he does." The two things are linked. The "astounding devastation" help him to "succeed". Putin will one day declare victory in Ukraine by taking Donbass.

BIBLE QUOTE

In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a fierce-looking king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does

Putin compares himself to Jesus in his battle to uphold tradition

The Times, April 9, 2024



EVENT

President Putin has compared himself to Jesus Christ as he quoted the Bible to explain his divine mission schooling Russia's youth in "traditional" values. The Russian president has frequently portrayed himself as a stalwart defender of the Christian faith against the "Satanic" West. But in a revealing insight into how Putin sees his role, he spoke in overtly religious terms about the need to shape the worldview of young Russians. Putin compared his mission of protecting the Russian youth from the creeping influence of the West to the efforts of Jesus Christ recruiting Peter and Andrew to spread the word of God. "Do you remember how Jesus came to Galilee and saw the fishermen beside the Sea of Galilee?" he asked a meeting of Russian officials. "One was catching fish, another was fixing his net. And He said to them: 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men, fishers of human souls.' They became his evangelists, his students. "This was very important at a time when world religions were developing but it is no less current now. We must defend our traditional values, our culture, our traditions and our history. This is very important for the future of the country."

COMMENT Putin counts Patriarch Kirill as an important ally in the drive to maintain public support for the war A close ally of Russian leader Vladimir Putin, Kirill has described Putin's rule as "a miracle of God". Kirill is Patriarch of Moscow and all Rus! At a meeting in Moscow at the end of last month, the patriarchate officially called the special military operation a "svyashchyennaya voyna" or "Holy War". Putin is using religion himself to justify his war. Interestingly in Joel 3 (speaking of Armageddon) it says the gentile nations will "prepare war" The word "prepare" means "sanctify" or "holy". A "Holy War"!

BIBLE QUOTE

Authorised Version = 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:

Youngs Literal Translation = Proclaim ye this among nations, Sanctify a war, stir up the mighty ones, Come nigh, come up, let all the men of war. (Joel 3:9)

Trump's Portrayal as Christ-like Figure

Chatenooga Times Free Press April 12, 2024



EVENT

Casual political observers may not be aware that Donald Trump has taken on a new strategy — infusing Christianity into his movement and presenting himself as a Christ-like figure. Images of Jesus Christ, hands resting on a beatific Donald, have been common at the former president's rallies for months. The focus has now gone mainstream. The sentiment is explicit in the recent video "God Made Trump," posted to Truth Social. It portrays the former president as a vessel of a higher power. Recent rallies suggest that Trump has been chosen by God — determined to save America. Supporting pastors amplify this message to devout followers. By all reports, the former president has never shown any devotion to a religious faith. On the contrary, every attempt to reveal his knowledge of the Bible or principles of Christianity is evaded. These facts do not come into play when the prize, perhaps too great to ignore, is the image of Jesus Christ, his hand reaching out to anoint Trump to Make America Great Again. As in many of Trump's schemes and choices, his decision to embrace religious clothing comes solely from his wish for ever more devotion. His aides repeatedly declare that Trump's greatest exhilarations, his most substantial emotional highs, occur at his rallies. There, thousands, sometimes tens of thousands, adore his every utterance. There is little to exceed such a messianic experience, except, perhaps, standing next to God.

COMMENT

America has undergone a major shift in the last few years toward secularism. Religion is fast becoming a non-entity. Any mainstream religion can only survive and flourish in this environment by means of an embracing of politics by its religious leaders and a push toward more blending of church and state. This phenomenon is growing with the mixing of church "doctrines" and "rules" relating to the lifestyles of the populace with the statutes and laws of the state. Political leaders like Trump who thrive on populism see themselves as saviours of the people and state. This phenomenon is not new. It existed in Christ's day as an offshoot of Roman secularism, with many false "Messiahs" proclaiming deliverance, and Jesus predicted it would reoccur at the time of the end. And Putin isn't the only one!

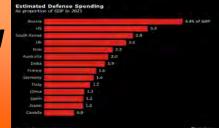
BIBLE QUOTE

... if someone will say to you, "Behold, The Messiah is here or there", you should not believe. For false Messiahs will arise and Prophets of lies, and they will give great signs so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you beforehand.

Matt 24:23-25 FCAB

The US and Its Allies Face a \$10 Trillion Reckoning in the Race to Rearm

Bloomberg, April 9, 2024



EVENT

A new era of global rearmament is gathering pace, and it will mean vast costs and some tough decisions for western governments already struggling with shaky public finances. Despite world defense spending reaching a record \$2.2 trillion last year, European Union nations have only just begun to consider what 21st-century security will require with an aggressive Russia stirring on their eastern borders, a volatile Middle East, and the expansion of the Chinese military tugging Washington's attention toward the Pacific. Political leaders have been congratulating themselves on the progress toward NATO's targets for members of the alliance to set aside 2% of their gross domestic product on defense. But officials focused on security say that military budgets may need to emulate Cold War spending of as high as 4% in order to deliver on the alliance's plans. If the US and its Group of Seven allies were to reach such levels, that would equate to more than \$10 trillion of additional commitments over the next decade, according to calculations by Bloomberg Economics.

COMMENT

The brutal reality for the US and its allies is that Vladimir Putin's advances in Ukraine mean they need to dramatically ramp up their defenses in eastern Europe at the same time as they counterbalance China — just as that country increases cooperation with Moscow. Russia is now spending more of its GDP (as a percentage) on defense spending than any other nation on earth. In 2023 Russia spent 4.4%. In terms of actual spend the United States dwarfs all other countries but its commitments are spread around the world. The Bible says that the nations will "Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears." Food becomes secondary to fighting!

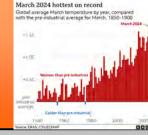
BIBLE QUOTE

Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat:

(Joel 3:10-11)

Climate change: 'Uncharted territory' fears after record hot March

BBC, April 9, 2024



EVENT

Climate change could move "into uncharted territory" if temperatures don't fall by the end of the year, a leading scientist has told the BBC. The warning came as data showed last month was the world's warmest March on record, extending the run of monthly temperature records to 10 in a row. It's fuelled concerns among some that the world could be tipping into a new phase of even faster climate change. A weather system called El Niño is behind some of the recent heat. Temperatures should temporarily come down after El Niño peters out in coming months, but some scientists are worried they might not. "By the end of the summer, if we're still looking at record breaking temperatures in the North Atlantic or elsewhere, then we really have kind of moved into uncharted territory," Gavin Schmidt, the director of Nasa's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, told BBC News. March 2024 was 1.68C warmer than "pre-industrial" times - before humans started burning large amounts of fossil fuels - according to the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

COMMENT

Due to record heat in parts of the Atlantic this year, and the La Nina weather pattern expected to take hold at the height of the season the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season is likely to be one of the most active on record, a forecasting service has said. The forecasters are expecting up to 23 named storms, of which 11 could become hurricanes and five major hurricanes. These are "well above" the average of for the 1991-2020 period of 14 named storms, seven hurricanes and three major hurricanes. We wait to see what happens in this regard. But we know the physical world is in groaning and in labour pains just as the political and spiritual world is. We need Jesus to return....

BIBLE QUOTE

For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering

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