

This Week's Developments

May 9 - 15, 2021

- Israel hits Gaza after violence at Jerusalem holy sites
- UN warn of full-scale war as Hamas/Israel trade blows
- Israel: Neighbours turn to enemies as anger boils over
- Erdogan wants to 'teach a deterrent lesson' to Israel
- Putin calls escalating Israel conflict a 'direct threat'
- Putin sounds a warning to the West at parade
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Israel strikes Gaza after violence grips Jerusalem holy sites

The Times, May 11, 2021



EVENT

Israeli jets carried out further airstrikes over Gaza this morning in response to rocket attacks by the militant group Hamas after last-minute attempts to defuse growing protests and violence in east Jerusalem failed. Gazan health officials said that at least 24 people, including nine children, were killed as Israeli forces aimed at missile sites and militants yesterday. The Israeli military said 15 of the dead were militants. Gaza militants fired more than 200 rockets toward Israel, injuring six Israeli civilians. Hamas unleashed the first of the missiles at 6pm, the deadline it set for Israeli police to withdraw from the al-Aqsa mosque compound and a district where Palestinian residents are in a dispute with Jewish settlers. This had been preceded by hours of clashes yesterday between Palestinians and Israeli security forces in Jerusalem and across the West Bank, which left more than 700 people injured.

COMMENT

A perfect storm of events has led to the sudden escalation of violence in Israel. It reminds us of the start of the 2nd intifada which began in September 2000 when Ariel Sharon visited Temple Mount. That intifada culminated in 9/11 which in turn sparked the Iraq war. This time the Al Aqsa mosque (Temple Mount) is also the centre of the conflict. Israeli police used stun grenades and rubber bullets. It was also the end of Ramadan and Monday was Jerusalem Day - the anniversary of the capture of east Jerusalem in 1967. On top of this there is political crisis in Israel and political stagnation with the Palestinians. The Bible says that Jerusalem will be an "intoxicating drink" to all those peoples who live "round about" or "nearby". We see the Palestinians intoxicated by Jerusalem - those intoxicated can be violent, mad and aggressive. And they are...

BIBLE QUOTE

This message is from the Lord, who stretched out the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and formed the human spirit. I will make Jerusalem like an intoxicating drink that makes the nearby peoples stagger when they send their armies to besiege Jerusalem and Judah. Notice it is NEARBY people that are intoxicated (inner circle stage 1 conflict) (Zechariah 12:1-2)

UN warns of full-scale war as Hamas and Israel trade blows

The Times, May 12, 2021



EVENT

Israel killed four senior Hamas commanders this morning in Gaza after a night during which the Palestinian movement bombarded Tel Aviv with rockets. Hamas, the network that runs Gaza, claimed that it had fired 50 rockets on the port town of Ashdod and 15 rockets towards the town of Dimona in the Negev desert, near Israel's main nuclear reactor. One civilian in Ashdod was lightly wounded by falling shrapnel. The Gaza health ministry said that in the past two days 56 people had been killed in Gaza, including 14 children. The death toll in Israel rose to six this morning when an Israeli military vehicle was hit by an anti-tank missile on the Gaza border, killing one soldier and wounding two. Three Israeli civilians were killed overnight in towns near Tel Aviv by rockets fired from Gaza. Britain urged both sides to "step back from the brink" and the United Nations warned that the outbreak of violence could escalate into a "full-scale war".

COMMENT

There is clearly great concern from many countries that the violence between Israel and the Palestinians could escalate into a wider war. Hamas have tried to overwhelm Israel's iron dome defence system by firing hundreds of rockets at Tel Aviv and other cities. Incredibly the system has managed to intercept around 90% of them. However this does not remove the fear created and destruction of some property and the loss of some lives. The Bible says that the people "round about" are like a "pricking brier". Surely there is no better description – a brier that pricks you won't kill you but does cause pain in multiple places. But God says the pricking briers will be removed. The removal of the pricking briers is mentioned in Psalm 83. The Philistines (Palestinians) will become like Sisera (commander of the Canaanite army) killed with a tent peg through his head.

BIBLE QUOTE

1. And there shall be no more a pricking brier unto the house of Israel, nor any grieving thorn of all that are round about them, that despised them; and they shall know that I am the Lord GOD.
2. Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Do unto them as unto the Midianites; as to Sisera, as to Jabin, at the brook of Kison: (Ezekiel 28:24 + Psalm 83:7,9)

Neighbours turn into bitterest of enemies as anger boils over in Israel

The Times, May 14, 2021



EVENT

The marketplace in the centre of the small town of Lod, not far from Tel Aviv, looked on Monday morning like a battle scene. Burnt cars, melted rubbish bins and a small municipal building blackened by fire. A Jewish resident had been stabbed and wounded on his way to prayers two hours earlier. Lod is at the heart of Israel, a main terminus of railway lines. Many of its residents work at the nearby Ben Gurion airport. Over the past three nights it has descended into chaos as Arab mobs headed for Jewish neighbourhoods, torching synagogues and schools, and then Jewish vigilantes arrived from the settlements to join the pitched street battles. The anarchy was sparked on Monday, when Hamas fired rockets at Israeli cities from Gaza, in reaction to the clashes between Israeli police and Muslim worshippers in the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

COMMENT

This is new. Israel has not had to contend with internal violence like this before. The pent-up anger of Israel's Arab minority was not confined to Lod. Shops and a hotel were burnt down in the Galilee and Jewish drivers were stoned in the Negev desert. In other towns, Jewish far-right activists have hit back, lynching a driver in Bat Yam, a suburb south of Tel Aviv, and destroying Arab-owned shops. It is terrible to see God's land wracked with violence like this. In the list of tribes that form a confederacy to try to destroy Israel there is one tribe called the "Amalek". The Amalekites lived in southern Canaan and were in fact one of the tribes Israel had to destroy when they entered the land. But note this – they were IN the land. This current trouble is also IN the land. Israel has not only an outside problem but an INTERNAL problem. The enemy is within as well.

BIBLE QUOTE

1. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, ..Geba, and Ammon, and Amalek; (Psalm 83:5-7)
2. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. (1 Samuel 15:2)

Erdogan wants to 'teach a deterrent lesson' to Israel

AL Monitor, May 12, 2021



EVENT

Turkish President Recep Tayyip **Erdogan had harsh words for Israel** during a call with his Russian counterpart Wednesday. Erdogan said the international community needs to **“teach a deterrent lesson” to Israel** over the ongoing conflict with Palestinians, the Turkish news outlet Hurriyet Daily News reported. The Turkish leader made the comments during a call with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Erdogan also said he thinks Russia will agree with Turkey at the United Nations on the issue, according to Turkey’s official Anadolu Agency. The situation has hurt Turkey’s recent efforts to mend ties with Israel. Turkey is one of the few but growing number of countries in the region to recognize Israel, though **relations have soured in recent years in part due to Turkey’s friendly relationship with Hamas**. Israel and the Palestinian territories are engulfed in an intense conflict. Hamas in Gaza and the Israel Defence Forces have both struck each other’s territory, leading to dozens of deaths.

COMMENT

Turkey is leading the fray in condemnation of Israel and support of the Palestinians. His phone call this week (made to Putin) basically said that Israel must be taught a lesson. He also suggested to Putin that an **international protection force to shield the Palestinians should be considered**. Late last year Erdogan had expressed a desire to improve Turkish / Israeli relations. But as we reported at the time the Bible does not say this will happen. Turkey forms part of Gog’s alliance of nations that invade Israel after the initial inner ring war. **Turkey is Togarmah in Ezekiel 38**. Josephus (ancient historian) says Togarmah was the father of the Phrygians. Ancient Phrygia is eastern Turkey. And so **we see Togarmah turning to Gog** [Putin] and asking him to teach Israel a lesson....

BIBLE QUOTE

Gomer, and all his bands; **the house of Togarmah of the north quarters**, and all his bands: and many people with thee. Be thou [Gog, Putin] prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.

(Ezekiel 38:6-7)

Vladimir Putin Calls Escalating Israel Conflict a 'Direct Threat' to Russia's Security

Newsweek, May 14, 2021



EVENT

Russian President Vladimir Putin called the escalating Israel-Palestinian conflict a **direct threat to Russia's security** on Friday. During a meeting with the Russian Security Council, Putin said that the proximity of the violence in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip to Russia "directly affects" his country's agenda on security. "I would like to ask my colleagues to comment on the current situation in the Middle East, I mean the escalated Palestinian-Israeli conflict. **This is happening in the immediate vicinity of our borders and directly affects our security interests,**" Putin is quoted saying by the Turkish state-run news agency Anadolu Agency. On Wednesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov pushed for an international effort to diffuse the conflict, calling for a "quartet" to meet on the situation. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Vershinin has **called on Israel to "immediately" stop all settlement activities in the Palestinian territories,** according to Russian state-owned news agency RIA Novosti.

COMMENT

We now see the mind of Putin and what he really thinks about Israel. Remarkably he sees the **Israel v Palestinian conflict as a direct threat to Russia's security!! He even said it was happening in the "immediate vicinity of our borders"!!** How so? The southern border of Russia is 1745 miles from Israel. Why does Putin see this conflict as being on his own border? The answer is that **Putin now sees Syria as his domain.** Russia's sphere of influence. He has bases there and many soldiers. Russia is there because Assad needs them there. We know Russia is the modern day king of the north. But the **ancient king of the north territory was based in modern Syria.** When Damascus is destroyed in the initial inner ring war we can see why Putin decides to invade Israel. He sees Syria as his territory – and **down he comes to Israel** to take a spoil...

BIBLE QUOTE

The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. 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 (Russia etc) descend into Israel AFTER Damascus is destroyed... (Isaiah 17:1+12)

Putin sounds a warning to the West at Victory Day parade in Red Square

The Times, May 10, 2021



EVENT

President Putin pledged that Russia would defend its national interests “firmly” as he oversaw a military parade in Red Square yesterday to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the Soviet Union’s victory over Nazi Germany. The parade came amid rising tensions with the United States and other Nato member states over a host of issues including alleged Kremlin cyberhacking and Russia’s military build-up on Ukraine’s borders. The two sides have engaged in tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions in recent weeks. Yars intercontinental ballistic missile launchers, tanks, armoured personnel carriers and other military hardware rolled past the Kremlin’s walls during a parade involving 12,000 Russian troops, with Putin, 68, watching from a stand that also seated Soviet war veterans. Above Red Square, Su-35 fighter jets accompanied a TU-160 strategic nuclear bomber in a dramatic flyover.

COMMENT

Literally the day before the violence erupted in Israel, Putin stood before an enormous display of military power in Moscow. It happens every year but each year it is bigger and more ominous than the year before. Putin is obsessed with power and military might as he believes it is the one way he can get the respect he craves from other nations. At this time of tension with the West, Putin uses this parade to talk about how he will defend and firmly protect Russia’s interests. Putin has transformed his forces into a high tech super powerful force. In Daniel 11 it says that the king (Gog, Russian ruler / Putin) would “honour the god of forces”. He will be strong, powerful, puffed up, fierce, deceitful and arrogant we are told in Daniel 8. Yet he will come to his end and none shall help him...

BIBLE QUOTE

But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. ...And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.
(Daniel 11:38+45)

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

Alexei Navalny ally says Biden must sanction Putin's associates

Russian troops start pulling back from Ukrainian border - ABC News

Pope Francis Calls For Using COVID to Re-Direct World Onto 'New Path' Toward Economic Revolution

Israel May Have Destroyed Iranian Centrifuges Simply by Cutting Power

Iran to enrich uranium to 60% after 'wicked' nuclear site attack - BBC News

Water fight- Israel turns off Jordan's water supply amid drought and 'personal frictions' — RT World News

Iran and China sign 25-year cooperation agreement - Reuters

Iran blamed as Israeli-owned ship said hit by missile near Oman - The Times of Israel

Navalny Joins the Ranks of Russia's Religious Dissidents - The Moscow Times

What Does China's Latest Five-Year Plan Mean for Russia- - The Moscow Times

The revolt of the public- Martin Gurri on a world without trust - Vox