

**Prophetic Views of the News
Russia, Ukraine and Israel
Ezekiel 38**

The NY Times reported that, "Russia's invasion of Ukraine is the biggest in Europe since World War II."ⁱ

Barak Ravid of AXIOS news reported, "Israel had attempted to balance aligning itself with its biggest ally, the U.S., while maintaining good relations with Russia, with which it has an important security relationship. **Don't forget: Russia holds enormous influence in neighboring Syria but allows Israel to operate freely against Iranian activity there.** On Wednesday, Israel issued a statement that supported Ukraine's territorial integrity, but didn't condemn Russia. Israeli officials said they are not concerned about paying a price for the stronger position against Russia due to Israel's close and good relationship with Moscow. **"The Israeli government on Thursday condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a "violation of the world order." It is a significant change in the Israeli position toward the Russia-Ukraine crisis."**ⁱⁱ

Ariel Kahana Senior Diplomatic Correspondent for Israel Hayom/Today reported that "Russia was quick to respond to Israel's statement of support for Ukraine, and on Wednesday night the **Russian UN delegation issued a statement condemning Israel's plan for construction in the Golan Heights.** The Russian statement expressed "concern" about plans by "Tel Aviv) [ignoring Israel's and the US acknowledgement that (Jerusalem is the capital of Israel)] to expand "settlement activity in the Golan Heights." Which the Russian delegation said violated the Geneva Convention of 1949." **"Russia does not recognize Israeli sovereignty on the Golan Heights, which are part of Syria."**ⁱⁱⁱ

Reporter Emmanuel Fabian of the Times of Israel reported on February 24th that there were, "three soldiers killed in Israeli strikes near Damascus." The alleged strike came hours after Israel apparently dropped leaflets on Syrian army positions warning that they could be targeted for collaborating with Iran-backed terror group Hezbollah. "The Israeli enemy carried out an air assault with several missiles," state media SANA reported, adding three soldiers were killed. **Early Wednesday morning, Israel allegedly fired surface-to-surface missiles at an observation post and "finance building" near the border town of Quneitra on the Syrian Golan Heights. "To the leaders and members of the Syrian army, we have warned you and continue to warn you, we will not stop as long as your cooperation with Hezbollah continues" the flyer read.**^{iv}

Brig. Gen. (Res.) Professor Jacob Nagel reported in Israel Hayom, **"Despite all the warnings, it appears the American delegation...has swayed global powers to consent to an exceedingly problematic deal that will pave a certain path for Iran to acquire a nuclear bomb in the coming years...at the same time grant it hundreds of billions of dollars, allow it to rehabilitate its economy, and continue funding its terrorist proxies. The "weak" Europeans are again kowtowing to American pressure..." The Russians and Chinese are responding "gleefully. Instead of re-imposing maximum economic pressure and building a credible military threat, the Americans are about to sign a "deal of surrender."**^v

The invasion of Ukraine makes it obvious: The IDF will fight its own battles, alone.

Anna Aronheim a military reporter for the Jerusalem Post wrote, **"If President Joe Biden's speech on Wednesday evening wasn't clear enough: Ukraine is on its own against the Russian bear.** And if there's anything Israel can learn from that, is that **it also will find itself fighting alone should it ever find itself in a war against Iran.** Yes the United States will deploy additional troops to neighboring NATO countries, but no, **US troops will not fight against Russian troops for Ukraine. And no US soldier will die for Israel.**

It is that clear. And while Israel has always known that, Biden made it especially clear on Wednesday. America's deterrence, at least in the Middle East, was tremendously weakened following the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan earlier this year. **America's response to Russia's invasion further diminished its deterrence, around the globe. With the West focused on Ukraine, Iran might also see an opening to accelerate its nuclear program** despite the ongoing negotiations. And that is something that Jerusalem will not accept. It is something that Israel has said over and over

again, Israel is not a party to any deal signed with Tehran. **And if needed, Israel's military will act against Iran and prevent it from becoming a nuclear threshold state...** It has understood that in the new world order, **America is no longer the military superpower that will come to the world's aid.** Israel will not ask American troops to fight its wars. **The IDF has fought its own battles and will do so in the future. No matter the cost.**^{vi}

When Russia invades Ukraine, Israel's standing is undermined

In an analysis by YAAKOV KATZ of the Jerusalem post reported one of Israel's top intelligence officials, who spoke about **The four pillars from which the Jewish state derives its military and diplomatic power.**

- **"The first pillar, the former official said, is Israel's purported nuclear program.**
- **The second pillar is the country's conventional military, otherwise known as the IDF.**
- **The third pillar is the country's technology. Part of what helped bring about the Abraham Accords in...2020**
- **The fourth and final pillar is Israel's unique alliance with the United States.**

What this fourth pillar means is that when America is strong, Israel is strong, and **when America is perceived as being weak, Israel is perceived as being weak.** And this is the problem for Israel when it considers the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

There are other problems as well, including perhaps the biggest: being able to continue operating freely in Syria against Iranian entrenchment, or if Russia – in control of Syria – will now prohibit Israel from continuing its almost weekly forays across the border."^{vii}

Will Russia Back Syrian Invasion of Golan Heights?

In an article from United with Israel it was reported that in an interview Russian academic Vitaly Naumkin, he said.^{viii} **"Russia supports Syria by all means and that Syria is free to "liberate" the Golan from Israel."**

That's today's NEWS. Here's the Bible's Views on prophetic times.

First of all, Israel may falsely feel secure with its "four pillars" but is woefully independent because their only hope is in God. Deuteronomy 32:18-21; 33:27-29, Psalm 121:1-8

The first battle in Campaign that ends at Armageddon starts at the mid-point of the Tribulation with Russia's invasion of Israel.

1. Fact of an Invasion (Ezekiel 38:8, 15)

2. Target of the Invasion is Israel (38:16; 39:2)

"against the mountains of Israel" (38:2,8,15) Exactly which mountains is God referring to here?"

The key is found in, Ezekiel 38:21 "I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains." That is from the highest Hermon all the way to the mountains around Jerusalem.

The Russian led alliance will ascend from the north. "and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land." Ezekiel 38:9

3. The perpetrator of the Invasion is Russia (38:3,3)

A. Gog – "the head" The Hebrew word גֹּג is used today to say "tops", such as "It will cost \$25 - \$30 tops (at the most or as high as it can go)

(38: 15) "north parts" in Hebrew "uttermost north"

The location of the Invaders is north of Israel *Moscow is due north of Jerusalem*

B. Magog – land of Gog..." and North of Caucasus Mountains" Josephus

4. The Allies of Invasion (v. 5)

A. Meshech –tribal name "moschi" or Moscovites now Moscow

B. Tubal –ancient eastern capital of Russia – Tubolsk

C. "chief prince" – Hebrew – שֹׂרֵשׁ "rosh" – or Russia – means "head of"

D. "Persia...and many people with thee." Modern Iran (38:5,6) Ethiopia, Lybia

5. The Time of the Invasion

- A. "Latter days" (v. 8)
- B. "gathered out of many peoples" after 1948 Israel established
- C. "when my people dwell safely," during 7 yr. peace treaty in the Tribulation

Current Prophetic Significance

The Prophetic Significance of the current invasion of Ukraine by Russia is at least a foreshadowing of the invasion of Israel. Specifically, it places Russia one nation closer to Turkey and Israel as mentioned in Ezekiel 38. Is the hook in the jaw of Gog/Magog with an "evil thought," to "turn thee back," to "take a spoil and take a prey," from Israel at the Middle of the Tribulation, the "abomination of Desolation" of Israel's new temple by the Anti-Christ? Would his self-proclamation of godhead and breaking the covenant "with many," indicate to the Russian bear that all bets are off, indication the opportunity for Russia to take the "spoils" of Israel's oil and gas fields?

Prophetic Significance of Iran and it's nuclear ambitions. Dispensational Bible scholars, are consistent that Russian allies including Persia, will be the aggressors in an end time northern invasion of Israel. Persia and Russia are united in oil, nuclear ambitions. One possible trigger that causes the Anti-Christ to intervene in the Middle east with a seven year peace treaty "with many" will be Israel's preemptive attack on Iran's Russian backed nuclear production.

Prophetic Significance of the 2019 political declaration of sovereignty of the Golan Heights have to do with prophecy? Israel's possession of the Golan is essential to Eschatology – the doctrine of end times.

The geography of the Golan stands out in the Ezekiel's prophecy of Gog and Magog.

In Ezekiel, God promised to protect Israel from the end-times and soon coming Russian Invasion.

Satan's next prophesied military campaign to annihilate Israel will be stopped short there.

Prophetic Significance of Syria

When former President Obama blinked in the face of Syrian chemical warfare, he in effect punted the ball to the Russians, who were all-too-willing to fill a power vacuum, to firmly establish control over a naval port and an air base. Putin's subsequent direct military thrust into the Syrian civil war and Middle East politics would be unprecedented in the post-Soviet era. The war in Syria was a testing ground for advanced Russian weapons. There is a added possibility of oil pipelines from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea across Syria partially accounting for Russia's prolonged presence there.

"In 2017 a deal struck by Syria with Moscow allows Russia use of the naval facility free of charge for 49 years and gives the Kremlin sovereign jurisdiction over the base. The agreement also allows Russia to keep a dozen warships — including nuclear-powered vessels — at Tartus, the only navy facility the Kremlin possesses outside the former Soviet Union." "Tartus and the Hmeimim air base, in the nearby province of Latakia, have been the main hubs for Russia's pro-Assad military intervention. **Geopolitically, "Syria has been crucial to the return of Russia's military power status" in the eastern Mediterranean.**"¹

Prophetic Significance of America's decline in world influence

"What really has Israel concerned this week is that

- **America... is no longer respected.**
- **The refusal to force Iran to concede during the new round of talks in Vienna,** yet another illustration of the decline of American power.
- **The hasty and negligent withdrawal from Afghanistan this past summer**

¹ <https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/russia-expands-military-facilities-syria>

Russia's decision to invade without worrying about what the US and its president have warned against. But what it says for Israel – almost immediately – is that the fourth pillar is not as strong as it once was perceived.”^{ix}

Prophetic Significance of the destruction of the Northern invaders. God will glorified among the Nations.

Just when Gog's Storm Troopers are about to accomplish their “final solution” and exterminate Israel, God sends a literal storm and an earthquake to wipe out these hell hounds. Thus “saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken...I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.” Ezekiel 38:18,19,22

“Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of **many nations**, and **they shall know that I am the LORD.**” (38:23)

“So will I make **my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel**; and I will not let them pollute my holy name anymore: and **the heathen shall know that I am the LORD the Holy One of Israel.** (39:7)

“so **the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God** from that day forward.” (39:22)

Some think that the final verses 39:25-29 speak of the final salvation of Israel after the battle of Armageddon indicating that the Russian invasion of chapters 38,39 is the same as the battle of Armageddon and therefore, that 39:17-20 speaks of the great bloody feast of ravenous fowl at the final battle. But is the pouring out of God's spirit upon the house of Israel in verse 29 limited to that final moment when “all Israel shall be saved? The 144,000 Jewish virgin missionary witnesses (Rev. 7,14) will be saved at least midway through the Tribulation and as a result of their spirit filled preaching and the preaching of the two witnesses (Rev.11) in Jerusalem there will be an innumerable response of faith from every “tribe” – of Israelites and of every “nation” of Gentiles to the Gospel.(Rev. 7:9,10) Doesn't the salvation of the 144,000 Jews and their converts from every (Israelite) tribe in the last 42 months, require the pouring out of the Spirit as well as at the final full redemption of Israel as they look on the pierced Jesus? “I will pour upon the house of Israel the “spirit of grace and of supplications” (Zech. 10)? Though some see a time gap between the Battle of Gog/Magog and the pouring out of the Spirit in the final verses 39:25-29, I believe all of chapter 38,39 best fits the mid-Tribulation time frame. **The greatest revival in human history will not be accomplished without the filling of the Spirit of the end time witnesses.**

ⁱ [nytimes.com/live/2022/02/24/world/Russia/Attacks/Ukraine](https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/02/24/world/Russia/Attacks/Ukraine)

ⁱⁱ <https://news.yahoo.com/israel-condemns-russian-invasion-ukraine-143544802.html>
Barak Ravid, Thursday, February 24, 2022, 9:35 AM

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.israelhayom.com/2022/02/24/after-israel-supports-ukraine-russia-refuses-to-recognize-golan-heights-as-israeli/>

^{iv} <https://www.timesofisrael.com/syria-says-israeli-strikes-target-sites-near-damascus/>

^v <https://www.israelhayom.com/2022/02/18/west-is-on-verge-of-siging-surrender-pact-with-iran/>
Brig. Gen. (Res.) Professor Jacob Nagel

^{vi} https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-698644?utm_source=jpost.app.android&utm_medium=share

^{vii} https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-698570?utm_source=jpost.app.android&utm_medium=share

^{viii} <https://unitedwithisrael.org/watch-will-russia-back-syrian-invasion-of-golan>

^{ix} https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-698570?utm_source=jpost.app.android&utm_medium=share