

Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

The Cursed Coalition of Gog-Magog

By Dan Payne raptureready.com

The invasion of Israel by a Russian led coalition which is known as the “Gog-Magog” war could happen at any time. The attempted Gog-Magog invasion of Revelation chapter 20 is not to be confused or compared with the Gog-Magog invasion of chapters 38 and 39 of Ezekiel.

“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them” (Revelation 20:7-9).

The very beginning of verse 7 makes it abundantly clear that this gathering of Gog-Magog will take place “when the thousand years have expired.”

However, the last five verses in the book of Ezekiel make it abundantly clear that the Gog-Magog invasion described in chapters 38-39 of Ezekiel is an entirely separate event than that described in Revelation chapter 20.

“These are the exits of the city. On the north side, measuring four thousand five hundred cubits (the gates of the city shall be named after the tribes of Israel), the three gates northward: one gate for Reuben, one gate for Judah, and one gate for Levi; on the east side, four thousand five hundred cubits, three gates: one gate for Joseph, one gate for Benjamin, and one gate for Dan; on the south side, measuring four thousand five hundred cubits, three gates: one gate for Simeon, one gate for Issachar, and one gate for Zebulun; on the west side, four thousand five hundred cubits with their three gates: one gate for Gad, one gate for Asher, and one gate for Naphtali. All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE” (Ezekiel 48:30-35).

These verses describe the rebuilt city of Jerusalem as it will exist during the millennial kingdom of Christ and they also clearly describe a city completely surrounded by walls, for no gate can exist without a wall.

However please note that the land described in Ezekiel chapter 38 has no walls:

“You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates’” (Ezekiel 38:11).

There can be no doubt that the Gog-Magog battle as described in Ezekiel 38-39 takes place before the city of Jerusalem is rebuilt in preparation for her kingdom service to the Righteous King.

A clue may also exist as to whether or not Gog-Magog of Ezekiel 38-39 will take place before or after the Rapture of the true Church.

God says in Ezekiel that when He supernaturally defeats the Gog-Magog alliance, He will make the world know that He is the God of Israel.

“So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel” (Ezekiel 39:7).

Notice that any reference by the Lord as the Holy One of the true Church is missing. Our Almighty God is recorded by Ezekiel as referring to Himself only as “the Holy One in Israel.”

And as we who believe in the Pre-Trib Rapture know, the true Church will be absent after the Rapture takes place. Yes, there will remain a false harlot church after the Rapture but God would certainly not claim Lordship over a false church.

This may not mean anything, but it is interesting nonetheless:

President-elect Donald Trump made his willingness to work with Russia as an ally in the fight against ISIS abundantly clear during his campaign, and also since his election. In conjunction with Assad's latest offer to work with the United States as an ally in the fight against ISIS [1], does Ezekiel 38:13 now seem plausible under a Trump administration?

“Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, ‘Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?’” (Ezekiel 38:13)

If anything else it appears certain that the battle of Gog-Magog will take place very soon, as new and stronger alliances are forming between Russia and the other nations that the Bible says will make up the cursed coalition (Russia, Iran, Turkey, etc. Ezekiel 38:2-6).

Christian Group Sends Bibles to UNESCO After Resolution Denies Temple Mount's Judeo-Christian Ties

Evangelical Christians plan to inundate the United Nations' Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization with Bibles in response to the passing of an Arab-sponsored resolution last month that opponents claim denies Jewish and Christian ties to the Temple Mount and Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City.

Twenty-four UNESCO members voted in favor of the resolution, 26 abstained, and six voted against the proposal that was put forth by the Palestinians, along with Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar and Sudan. The resolution also condemns Israel on several issues related to Jerusalem and its holy sites, according to i24News.

"The draft resolution, a copy of which was obtained by Ha'aretz, acknowledges that the city of Jerusalem is holy to Judaism, Islam, and Christianity but says the Temple Mount holy site is sacred only

to Muslims."

The International Christian Embassy of Jerusalem, an organization established by evangelicals in 1980 "in recognition of the biblical significance of all of Jerusalem and its unique connection with the Jewish people," launched an appeal on its website calling on Christians from around the world to flood UNESCO offices with Bibles to prove the biblical significance of the sites.

"We are asking Christians all over the globe to take a Bible, use a highlighter and mark some of the many passages where it speaks of 'Jerusalem' and the 'Temple,' and then mail it to the UNESCO headquarters in Paris," the appeal states. "Make sure to include a short letter expressing your disapproval of the recent vote."

The website provides an example letter, which argues that "Jews and Christians have a much more genuine, historic connection to Jerusalem and the Temple Mount than Muslims."

"In fact, the city is never mentioned even once in the Quran, whereas Jerusalem and the Temple Mount are mentioned over 1,000 times throughout the Bible and are central to both the Jewish and Christian faiths," the sample letter asserts. "So this omission is either a deliberate rewriting of history or a case of ignorance by those we would otherwise expect to be educated and informed."

"Most of us view these diplomats as being principled and well-educated. But apparently, some of them forgot their history lessons and we are sending them Bibles to refresh their memory," ICEJ Executive Editor Jürgen Bühlert said in a statement. "Even worse, some of these representatives are deliberately trying to erase the Jewish and Christian bonds to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and other revered sites in the Land of Israel. Hopefully, our campaign will give our nations' envoys at UNESCO the courage to stand up to the anti-Semites in their midst."

The embassy advises supporters to send Bibles to Michael Worbs, the chair of the UNESCO executive board, who has already issued an apology for the resolution and says that he understands the Jewish and Christian ties and he would never deny them.

Additionally, UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova voiced her opposition of the resolution.

"The heritage of Jerusalem is indivisible, and each of its communities has a right to the explicit recognition of their history and relationship with the city," she said in a statement. "To deny, conceal or erase any of the Jewish, Christian or Muslim traditions undermines the integrity of the site."

The Continued War on Cash

The heads of government, the mainstream media, and banking institutions have become obsessed with the idea that currency is evil. Because cash cannot be traced or controlled, it is blamed for drug dealing, terrorism, money laundering and tax evasion. The solution to this problem is the introduction of a cashless system that will allow the government to monitor all transactions.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had the black market in mind when he ordered the withdrawal of current 500 and 1,000 rupee notes from circulation. Modi said that while people could exchange their old notes for new bills at banks or post offices until the end of the year, or deposit them in their accounts—they are now no longer allowed for daily transactions.

"To break the grip of corruption and black money, we have decided that the 500 and 1,000 rupee

currency notes presently in use will no longer be legal tender from midnight that is 8 November, 2016,” he said in a televised address to the nation. Finance secretary Das said there had been a disproportionate rise in the number of 500 and 1,000 rupee notes in circulation in the last five years.

The 500 and 1,000 notes, which are worth around \$7.50 and \$15 respectively, are the largest bills in use in India. The average Indian only makes about 200,000 rupees or \$3,000 a year. Numbers logic would call for the printing of 5,000 and 10,000 notes; but that would make it easier for the criminals to haul around the cash used for their fraudulent schemes.

The sudden move has triggered total panic in the nation. The Indian people are lined-up at banks trying to deposit their cash or exchange it for new notes. All types of business transactions that depend on cash have come to a standstill. The value of the rupee has dropped on foreign exchange markets. The Indian government has a history of trying to restrict the financial options of its citizen. In 2013, the government imposed a 10 percent import duty on gold to dampen demand for the precious metal in the world's second biggest consumer.

The rich people of India have no trouble escaping taxes and exchange rules. Their money is safe in Swiss and Singapore bank accounts. Over the past decade, some \$439 billion left the country, according to estimates from the Global Financial Integrity group in Washington.

When the dust settles in India, I doubt the government is going to have a large windfall from taxable money that suddenly appears in the bank accounts of their citizens. India's largest employment sector is agriculture—which employs literally hundreds of millions of people. It is completely exempt from paying income tax. The only people who do regularly file income taxes are believed to be salaried employees at big companies whose bosses file for them.

Despite widespread chaos and economic uncertainty in India following its surprise announcement, UBS Bank analysts think Australia should follow India's lead and scrap its 100 dollar bank note. UBS supports the move because it would increase bank deposits in Australia by about 4 percent.

One major victim of the war on cash is the 500 Euro note. In May, the European Central Bank said it will no longer produce the 500 Euro note because of concerns that it could help facilitate illegal activities. Politicians and bankers would also like to get rid of the \$100 U.S. note, Switzerland's 1,000 franc note and Britain's 50 pound note.

I think it is a great danger to allow government to use excuses to restrict access to cash currency. Governments should exist for the pleasure of the people, and not the other way around. It just seems that a demonic spirit is driving the world closer and closer to the point where the financial powers will be able to dictate how we live our lives.

Anyone who has a basic understanding of Bible prophecy should recognize the danger of cashless system. The Bible predicts that the Antichrist will use a financial system that allow him to enslave the world. All who fail to receive the mark of the beast will be locked out of the banking system. Because the 666 mark will occur within the Tribulation hour, believers in Christ have the hope of escaping this sinister financial system.

“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” (Rev.13:16-17).

--Todd Strandberg

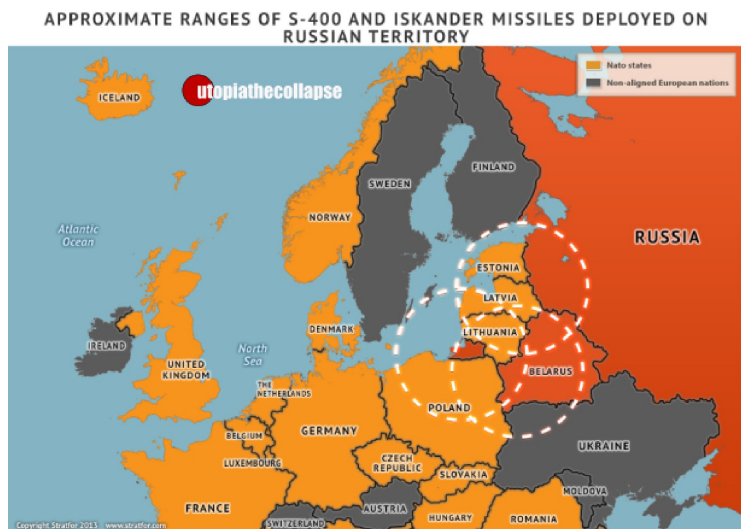
Russia responds to NATO expansion with a missile deployment in European enclave

Posted on November 22, 2016 by Utopia: the Collapse

November 2016 – EUROPEAN UNION – Russia will deploy two advanced missile systems to its far-west territory of Kaliningrad in a direct response to NATO expansion in Eastern Europe, a pro-Kremlin Russian lawmaker said Friday. Kaliningrad is a parcel of land disconnected from the Russian mainland that sits on the coast of the Baltic Sea, sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania. A Russian deployment of S-400 surface-to-air missiles and nuclear-capable Iskander ballistic missiles to Kaliningrad, with its proximity to NATO member states, will undoubtedly heighten concerns among leaders of the transatlantic security alliance, who were already nervous over incoming American leader Donald Trump's commitment to their collective defense pact.

Viktor Ozerov, chairman of the defense committee in the Federation Council, Russia's equivalent to the U.S. Senate, said according to the state-run RIA news agency that Russia had been forced into the deployment by the installation of a U.S. missile shield in Eastern Europe. "As response measures to such threats we will have... to deploy additional forces... This reinforcement includes deployment of S-400 and Iskander systems in Kaliningrad," RIA quoted Ozerov as saying. Russian President Vladimir Putin warned in May, just a couple weeks after the U.S. anti-missile shield was declared operational at a site in Romania and days after U.S. and Polish officials broke ground at another site, near the Baltic Sea in Poland, that there would be "action in response to guarantee our security."

Raising the Stakes: This is a very significant strategic move by Russia in response to NATO and the U.S missile shield. Russia's Deployment of S-400 missile batteries in Kaliningrad will make the Baltic region a no-go-zone in the event of a war.



Romania and Poland have requested a bolstered NATO presence in their countries in the wake of Russia's annexation by force of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula. U.S. officials have always maintained that the missile defense shield in Romania is aimed at protecting against a missile threat from Iran. But NATO decided in early 2015 to establish new command-and-control centers in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria by the end of 2016, and those sites are indisputably intended to serve as a warning to an increasingly aggressive Russia that NATO remains resolute in its commitment to defend all members.

Putin views the defense, however — at least in his public rhetoric — as offense by the U.S. and NATO in a region that was, until recent decades, firmly within his government's domain. "Why are we reacting to NATO expansion so emotionally? We are concerned by NATO's decision making," Putin said in an interview taped a couple weeks ago, set to air Monday in a documentary focused on Ukraine. "What should we do? We have, therefore, to take countermeasures, which means to target with our missile systems the facilities, that, in our opinion, start posing a threat to us," Putin said in the interview. —CBS News