

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

Israel Planning for Direct Retaliatory Attack from Iran

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is believed to be planning an attack in retaliation for alleged Israeli strike on T4 airbase in Syria last week.

BY ANNA AHRONHEIM APRIL 17, 2018

Israel is preparing for a crossborder attack by the Revolutionary Guard Corps, in response to a strike allegedly carried out by the Jewish state against an Iranian-operated air base in Syria that killed seven of its soldiers.

Israel believes the attack will come in the form of precision- guided missiles or armed drones launched from a base in Syria by the IRGC itself – not by proxies, as was done before – under the command of Quds Force commander Maj.-Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

“Israel will react strongly to any Iranian action from inside Syria,” a senior IDF source told Sky News in Arabic, adding that Iran plans to attack Israel from Syria.

Aerial photos of Iranian bases in Syria were released Tuesday morning that show Tehran has increased the scope of its military relationship with the Assad regime under the auspices of the IRGC’s air force commander Brig.-Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh.

The source stated that civilian airlines Simorgh Air and Pouya Cargo Air are used by the IRGC as a front for military flights bringing in soldiers and weaponry to bolster Iran’s military presence.

According to the pictures, the IRGC has established several bases in Syria including a military base in Deir al-Zor province in eastern Syria where Ilyushin planes transporting weapons from Iran to Syria can be seen.

The aerial intelligence photos showed five air bases with an IRGC presence: T4, Aleppo, Deir al-Zor, Damascus International Airport and another airfield south of the capital.

The photos reportedly illustrate how Tehran remains capable of flying in surface- to-surface missiles to the war-torn country as well as unmanned aerial vehicles under the guise of humanitarian aid.



The release of the photos comes ahead of Iran's national Army Day on Wednesday, when Israel also begin marking its 70th Independence Day in the evening.

Tensions have risen dramatically between the two archenemies following the infiltration of an Iranian drone into northern Israel, which the IDF on Friday said was armed and on an attack mission against the Jewish state.

Last week, an alleged Israeli air strike on Syria's T4 Airbase in Homs province killed seven IRGC soldiers, including Col.

Mehdi Dehghan who led the drone unit operating out of the base. A senior IDF official confirmed to The New York Times

on Monday that Israel was behind the attack, stating the February incident "opened a new period" between the Jewish state and the Islamic Republic.

"This is the first time we saw Iran [itself] do something against Israel – not by proxy," he said, adding that the strike on the Iranians at T4 "was the first time we attacked live Iranian targets – both facilities and people."

Following the strike, Ali Akbar Velayati, the top aide to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, warned that Israel "should be waiting for a powerful response" to the strike on the airfield, saying "it will not remain unanswered."

Khamenei's representative to the IRGC, Ali Shirazi, cautioned, "If Israel wants to continue its treacherous existence... it should avoid stupid measures. If they give excuses to Iran, Tel Aviv and Haifa will be destroyed."

Bill Gates Backs Plan to Surveil the Entire Planet From Space

EarthNow is a new company looking to provide satellite imagery and live video in virtually real-time. Its unsettling pitch describes a network of satellites that can see any corner of the globe and provide live video with a latency of about a second. And a look at the startup's top investors gives a lot of confidence that this thing is happening.

On Wednesday, EarthNow announced that it will emerge from the Intellectual Ventures ISF Incubator to become a full-scale commercial business. Its first round of investors is comprised of a small group of complimentary powerhouses: AirBus, the SoftBank Group, Bill Gates, and satellite-industry vet Greg Wyler.

The amount of the initial investment hasn't been disclosed, but the announcement says the funding "focuses primarily on maturing the overall system design to deliver innovative and unique real-time Earth observation services." That makes it sound like the company is in its very early stages, but don't be so sure. Wyler's OneWeb has already deployed highly advanced satellites with a blazing fast 130ms latency

and its goal is to have a constellation of hundreds of satellites beaming broadband around the globe by 2020.

EarthNow will use an upgraded version of OneWeb's technology with a lot of hardware power packed into a 500-pound unit. "Each satellite is equipped with an unprecedented amount of onboard processing power, including more CPU cores than all other commercial satellites combined," the announcement says. The satellites will also do an onboard analysis of the live imagery using machine learning, but the company doesn't go into detail about what it will analyze or why it would be necessary to dedicate that processing onboard.

CEO Russell Hannigan told The Wall Street Journal that EarthNow will not only have a head start with OneWeb's technology, it will also be able to use that company's assembly line and manufacturing process. Hannigan estimated the total cost of the final system will be around \$1 billion. SoftBank alone has put \$1.5 billion into OneWeb, so that figure should be easily achievable. The Japanese investment giant sunk \$1.25 billion into Uber this year, so it's definitely not afraid of losing massive amounts of cash.

Notably, Gates' contribution to the project isn't mentioned, but it should be obvious. He's rich, of course, but he's also well-connected and brings a lot of global goodwill. The company's goal is to make money selling its service to government and enterprise clients—and that's kind of terrifying. Sure, governments have their own individual satellite operations, but the scale of what EarthNow is promising is jaw-dropping. Who better to calm worries and work through regulatory hurdles than the world's most prolific philanthropist? He wouldn't do anything immoral with that tech, would he?

For the record, the company lists a lot of potential uses for its network, including:

Catching illegal fishing in the act, watching hurricanes and typhoons as they evolve, detecting forest fires the moment they start, watching volcanoes the instant they start to erupt, assisting the media in telling stories from around the world, tracking large whales as they migrate, helping "smart cities" become more efficient, providing on-demand data about crop health, and observing conflict zones around the world.

Google Earth is one of my most beloved time-wasters on the web, so I have to admit that despite the fact that this thing creeps me out, I want to be able to play around with it. Only the rich and powerful are likely to get their hands on the controls, but EarthNow does say that it plans to release "live Earth video mass market applications that can be accessed instantly from a smartphone or tablet" so that we can "all become virtual astronauts." I suppose that's better than nothing.

Why my generation is indifferent to anti-Semitism

For young Labour supporters, Zionism is a synonym for white supremacy and western colonialism
Alastair Thomas

It took a protest of Jews in Westminster for Jeremy Corbyn to own up to the Labour party's problem with anti-Semitism. It 'has caused pain and hurt to Jewish members of our party and to the wider Jewish community in Britain,' he said — an admission that has been a very long time coming. But among Corbyn's cultish young followers, the apology was met with a shrug. 'Problem? What problem?'

This I know, because I'm (roughly) a Labour supporter and have lots of Corbyn-supporting friends. And for Corbynites of my age (early twenties), the whole issue remains just another attempt to delegitimise Corbyn's bid to become prime minister. That's why Twitter accounts were awash with the hashtag #PredictTheNextCorbynSmear, which mocked all accusations of anti-Semitism. It demonstrates the Corbyn faithful's remarkable capacity for indifference.

Why is it that young left-wingers find it so hard to care about anti-Semitism? Why is that huge group of self-proclaimed anti-racists and anti-fascists so unwilling to expel anti-Semites from the party? They've all studied the second world war at school; they know how much Jews suffered and how dangerous discrimination is. Surely they must have a problem with that blatantly anti-Semitic mural that Corbyn himself had endorsed?



A protestor holds a sign at a demonstration against anti-semitism (image: Getty)

The answer is: not really. I constantly hear the same excuse from people my age when they find out that I have Jewish parentage. 'Oh, I have no problem with Jews whatsoever,' they assure me. 'Just Zionism.' But you have the feeling that for quite a few people, it's a distinction without much of a difference. They find Israel, as a country, guilty of all kinds of crimes, and regard Jews, anywhere, as Zionist

sympathisers. Within the far left, the de facto position is one of hostility and distrust, not just towards Zionists but towards Jewish communities wherever they are. This attitude infects the whole party, even my friends.

It is not a new problem either. Hannah Arendt, the political philosopher who fled Germany in 1933, wrote that in 19th-century Berlin a Jew could only be accepted into wider society if he rejected his own people's values and beliefs. He 'had to stand out — as an individual who could be congratulated on being an exception — from "the Jew" and thus from the people as a whole'.

Strange as it seems, I find the same attitude prevalent in the left today. Jews are expected to apologise for Israel's wrong-doings, oppose any right to a homeland and condemn the capitalists who rose from Jewish communities. If you do this, then you get to be a 'good Jew'. But this idea of the 'good Jew' is very dangerous. It legitimises and excuses general anti-Semitism. Only a 'good Jew' is deserving of protection against hate speech; the rest of us bad Jews can go hang.

Corbyn is often described as a nice guy, and I'm sure he is in person. But it's no coincidence that the anti-Semitism epidemic within Labour really kicked off when he became leader. He appealed to the young, and it's the young these days who refuse to see Jews as an authentic minority. For them, Zionism is now a synonym for white supremacy, neoliberalism and western colonialism. As the years pass, the historical association changed. So now, for my generation, Jews are not oppressed. They are the oppressors.

Part of the problem is that millennials — especially millennial socialists — find self-reflection very hard. We tweet and post constantly in response to our emotions. It's almost painful for net-natives to pause for thought before doing so. It's this inability to reflect that allows my Corbynite friends to ignore and even defend the most egregious of sins committed in the name of socialism. At university, I met a young Corbynite who wanted to rename the Socialist Society '-Jezbollah'. It never crossed his mind that this was hugely offensive.

Why would it? St Jeremy attends rallies that include Hezbollah flags and offers words of solidarity to anti-Semitic conspiracy theorists. This his fans accept as reasonable behaviour. Nice guy or not, he has turned terrorists into freedom fighters in the eyes of the young and hate preachers into outspoken activists.

Corbyn's apology spoke of the 'pockets' where anti-Semitism exists — but the problem is the party as a whole. Time and time again, Jewish Labour members are threatened and abused at local meetings, conferences or online, while the 'anti-racists' turn away in wilful ignorance. To them, Jews are simply not a minority worth caring about. And as Jewish protestors demonstrate in Parliament Square to declare 'enough is enough', it is likely that young Corbynites will continue to ask: 'So what?'

The End is Nigh: Ten Reasons Why

Monday, April 23, 2018 Pete Garcia

While it is impossible to know the day or hour of the Rapture of the Church (Mark 13:32), it is however, possible to recognize the season of His return and our subsequent deliverance (1st Thess. 5:1-3, Hebrews 10:25). For those who would assert our ability to even wonder when Christ could return as soft date setting, just remember that Christ chastised the Pharisees' and Sadducees, as well as the city of Jerusalem, for not recognizing the season of their visitation (Matt. 16:1-4, Luke 19:41-44).

We are to be actively watching and waiting for the Lord's soon return (Luke 12:37). This does not mean we sell all of our belongings and move to a mountaintop to idly wait, but to live our lives recognizing that our departure is soon at hand. We are to hold loosely to the things of this life, and to understand the temporary nature of our current existence. When we do this, we renew and sustain our hope and faith in Christ, whilst living in a world that is aggressively falling apart.

With that, I have put together ten definitive signs that point to the very soon return of Christ for His Church. However, there is a bit of a divine-paradox going on here. The Rapture of the Church is the only sign-less event noted in Scripture. Every other prophetic event has either signs for, or other things that lead up to it. The Rapture does not.

So how can we see evidence for an event that has no preliminary evidence?

The Bible plainly teaches that the Rapture happens before (or pre) Daniel's 70th Week (aka...The Tribulation or the time of Jacob's Trouble). There are two primary purposes for the Tribulation: 1) to discipline Israel and bring her back into relationship with God, 2) to destroy all the Christ-rejecting nations of the world in their current state (Jeremiah 30:7-11). Since the Church could not exist in the first 69 Weeks of Daniel, we should be able to conclude with confidence that it will not in the 70th Week of Daniel.

Furthermore, the 70 Weeks of Daniel were exclusively determined for the Jews, and Jerusalem. As members of the Church (i.e., the multi-membered, corporate, body of Christ), we are only beneficiaries (through Christ) of the six must-happen things listed in Daniel 9:24 which MUST find their fulfillment at the conclusion of the 70th Week:

- finish the transgression
- make an end of sins
- make reconciliation for iniquity
- bring in everlasting righteousness
- seal up vision and prophecy
- to anoint the Most Holy

Since national Israel still largely rejects the Messiahship of Jesus to this day, we know that this last week of years must yet be future. Besides, if we are already seeing signs for events that happen after the Rapture, naturally, the Rapture must then be all the sooner. Therefore, since we cannot look for signs of

the Rapture itself, we must look for signs of Daniel's 70th Week.

1. Israel. Clearly, the super-sign of the end times is the rebirth of the nation of Israel. The reason we can be certain it is the super-sign, is because there is no other explanation for the supernatural hatred for her existence amongst the nations. Not even the most tyrannical nation on the planet, North Korea, evokes as much vitriol from the leftists, godless, socialists, and Islamists as does Israel. The world has not seen this level of Anti-Semitism since the pre-World War II days in Europe. Unfortunately, this demonic hatred is not only at the geopolitical level, but also even within Christendom. Movements like Reformed and Covenant theology, as well as eschatological positions of Amillennialism, Preterism, and Post-Millennialism, were all designed to discredit Israel's legitimacy as both a nation, and as the rightful heirs of the Genesis 15 endowment. Deuteronomy 30:1-10, Ezekiel 37

2. Jerusalem. The fact that Jerusalem is back under Israeli control, especially in light of how she reacquired it, is simply miraculous. Moreover, since 1967, the world has furiously tried to wrest control of Jerusalem back out of Israeli hands. However, as of December 6th, 2017, President Donald Trump became the first gentile world leader (in over 2,500 years) to officially recognize her as the sovereign capital of the nation of Israel further enraging anti-Semites around the world. Zechariah 12:3, Luke 21:24

3. Damascus. Isaiah 17 predicts this Syrian city's ultimate and total destruction as a city. The fact that the Arab Spring has largely blown over and subsided around the rest of the Middle East, but has continued to linger in Syria, speaks to the prophetic nature of the circumstances there. Not only that, but it became the casus belli to draw in the major players mentioned in Ezekiel 38-39.

4. Gog and Magog. The fact that we are seeing this coalition form before our very eyes over Syria is a sure sign that the Rapture of the church is extremely near. Never before has Russia, Iran, and Turkey (all formerly rival empires) ever collaborated economically, militarily, and politically with a common goal in mind. Listed by their ancient names, modern day Russia, Turkey, and Iran have formed an anti-Israel/US alliance that are currently building their forces literally tens of miles from the Israeli border (to her north). They are not there because they care about Bashar Assad, or his regime. They are there because of its proximity to Israel and wealth (spoils). Two things about this stand out to me:

Israel's allies are either unable or unwilling to help (Ezekiel 38:13)

God defeats this coalition so spectacularly, that spiritual Israel finally awakens, and the people finally demand to rebuild their third temple (Ez. 39:22, 28-29)

For the past two-thousand years, Jesus has been actively building His body the Church (i.e., the corporate, multi-membered, universal body of Christ- as noted in Matt. 16:18, Col. 3:8-11). The reason this event (Ezekiel 38-39) indicates that the Rapture is near, is that this war is the event where God returns His full attention back to My land Israel and My people the Jews (Ez. 38:16). The Church should no longer be in play on the earth, which makes sense. Again, the Church was not in play in the first 69 Weeks of Daniel's 70 Week's, why should we be in the 70th? It seems to me that Gog/Magog serves not only as the weathervane event for the Rapture, but also as the transition period into the final 70th Week.

5. The Kings of the East. While Russia, Turkey, and Iran are inexplicably drawn toward Syria, the US is being inescapably drawn to the other side of the world because of the threat from the East. North Korea (NOKO) has been a thorn in the side of US foreign policy since the 1953 Korean Armistice. However, things have been turned on its head since the election of President Trump and his unwillingness to play politics as usual. Due to a number of factors including nationwide malnutrition and starvation, growing corruption and an escalation of desperation, the status quo of the past is no longer an option for NOKO. Only three outcomes are possible for the Kim regime of North Korea:

War with regime change

Denuclearization and reunification

Economic Collapse

These are all unacceptable outcomes for the Chinese regime. The Chinese prefers the status quo, because it gives them a measure of leverage over the United States. They also realize that after 17 years of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, the US military (in its present state) barely has the capacity, resources, or manpower to conduct itself simultaneously in two major theaters of war as we once did in World War II. The Philippines, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Australia are all key US allies that require our immediate protection should China engage any of them (or us) militarily. This would require the US to shift most or all our assets from around the globe to meet the Chinese military threat. Our unwillingness to come to Israel's aid in a Gog/Magog scenario may be because we are fully engaged elsewhere and cannot respond militarily.

6. The Pace of Modernization. The new arms race is not nuclear, it is digital. Nations around the world are racing to corner the market on artificial intelligence (AI), crypto-currency, quantum computers, genetic editing/cloning/modifications, data collection and mining, surveillance, lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS), and many more. In fact, technological advancements are moving so rapidly today that an inevitable breakthrough in any one of these areas could upend the current geopolitical balance of power. Of particular note is CERN's experiments (dimensional portals, teleportation, etc.) in Europe, which could rapidly change the balance of power in their favor. Furthermore, AI opens the possibility for demonic entities to inhabit inanimate objects (as opposed to people). If demons can use Ouija boards, imagine what they can do with autonomous (or "sentient") system and robot.

7. The Inescapable Threat. The world currently faces numerous, seemingly unsolvable crises (real or perceived) that demands global attention. Issues like: Climate change, economic instability, exploding population growth, weaponized immigration, the decline of fiscal currencies and other 20th century legacy institutions, increasingly hybrid forms of terrorism and crime, cosmic threats (comets, asteroids, solar storms, etc.), global travel and pandemics, and natural disasters (super-volcanoes, tsunamis, 9-10.0 earthquakes, etc.). Even the threat of these have caused tremendous anxiety amongst the world's leaders and populations. Luke 21:25-26

8. Peace and Safety. The more destabilized the world becomes, the more the people will clamor for peace and safety. People will willingly trade their liberty for security, which is what globalists have wanted all along (via the Hegelian dialectic). Although this has been the case for the last thirty-years or more, the call for it has only intensified as the world has increasingly become more unhinged. While this is a passive sign, it is however, the one phrase Paul told us to listen for that would precede immediate the destruction caused by the Rapture. 1st Thess. 5:1-3

9. Godlessness. The Apostle Peter remarked that in the last days, scoffers would come mocking that Christ had not yet returned (2nd Peter 3:3-4). Paul wrote that in the last days, perilous times would come (2nd Tim. 3:1). Paul's definition of perilous interestingly enough, does not include war or natural disasters, but how treacherous and wicked men would become. Jesus stated that in the last days, because lawlessness abounded, the love of many would grow cold (Matt. 24:12). Furthermore, Jesus stated that the days surrounding His return would be similar to Noah and Lot's day, both of which were noted for being exceedingly violent and wicked. Luke 17:26-30

The rise in godlessness and the general lack of fear/respect for God began back in the 19th-century when man first began to progress in both science and technology. This while many humanistic philosophies were simultaneously being developed. Existentialism, Marxism, Darwinism, Secularism, Socialism, Eugenics, Higher and Lower Criticism, etc., were all devoted to either doubt, reinvent, or dismiss God and the Bible. Either through coercion, deception, or manipulation into the public and higher education systems (even seminaries), these humanistic doctrines became the new modern dogma of the left.

While I believe that most of God's attributes are limitless, there is one, which I suspect, is not. That is His tolerance of evil. God is longsuffering, but that longsuffering will not go on indefinitely. At some point, God will have to bring judgment upon this earth because His righteousness demands it. Ruth Graham (Billy Graham's wife) was quoted as having once said that if God does not punish America soon, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Since the left dominates the media and the government (both state and federal), it has wide platforms for promoting these humanistic narratives; their intent being stamping out true, biblical Christianity. Why is there such fierce opposition to Christianity, as opposed to Islam or communism? Both of those have long, sordid, and proven track records of death and violence.

The answer is that Satan is currently managing this planet, and will tolerate anything and everything, except for the truth. In fact, we have arrived at such a time now that the godless are mentally, spiritually, and physically unable to distinguish right from wrong, up from down, or male from female, etc. Luke 4:5-7, Romans 1:18-32, Ephesians 2:2, 1st Peter 5:8

10. Convergence. While each generation could claim one or two from this list, none but ours could claim all of them. The sad fact is that this list is hardly comprehensive at all. There are so many more things pointing to the soon return of Christ that written space here does not allow for. Daniel was told that the end would come as a flood, and a flood-indeed it is (Daniel 9:26). However, it is not only the convergence of signs that is noteworthy; there is also the convergence of believers all coming to the same conclusions.

At no point in church history, has so many believers from so many spectrums all been so convinced that we are living in the last days. I believe this speaks to the Holy Spirit's witness to us all who are awake and watching. Granted, most of the mainstream and aberrant churches and movements (Emergent, Hebrew-roots, Social Justice Gospel, Prosperity Gospel, Seeker-Sensitive, etc.) are sound asleep; however, the watchers are not. We may disagree on some of the finer points of eschatology; but we all generally agree that these are what the Bible describes as the last days.

Even So, Maranatha!