

NEWSBYTES

July 17, 2024

No. 1159

Since 2001

A ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

“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 Hook: What Does Israel Have That The Gog-Magog Coalition Will Covet?

July 15, 2024



Sometime in the future, a war will break out. In today's world, that would seem a normal activity, as there are always conflicts brewing somewhere.

But this war will be different because it was foretold more than 2,500 years ago by the Jewish prophet Ezekiel and is referred to as the Battle of Gog and Magog.

According to the book of Ezekiel, Israel will be invaded by a confederation of nations that includes Russia, Iran, Libya, Turkey, and others. (See “The Invaders”) The big question is: Why?

Why will these nations invade? What does Israel have that these nations will covet? For years, sound Bible teachers speculated that Russia’s motivation would be its desire for a warm-water seaport it could use year-round for exporting and importing goods. Russia’s ports are often frozen due to the region’s extremely frigid temperatures.

Many Bible scholars pointed to this motivation when Russia invaded Afghanistan in 1979; and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) did so as well in a CIA report dated January 2, 1980:

The Soviet military movement into Afghanistan positions USSR armed forces little more [than] 400 kilometers by air from the Indian Ocean, and it revives speculation concerning the century-old Russian quest for a warm-water port.

Other Bible teachers suggested Russia and its allies might want the minerals found in the Dead Sea. However, those minerals hardly seem significant enough to provoke an invasion of the magnitude described in Ezekiel.

The Bible says these hordes come “**to take plunder and to take booty**, to stretch out [their] hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.” What does Israel have that these nations will want?

Under the Sea?

The answer may lie about a mile underneath the Mediterranean Sea.

The Tamar, Leviathan, and Karish natural gas fields located off Israel’s shores contain such massive amounts of natural gas that Israel could become a major exporter to Europe. Tamar began pumping in 2013, Leviathan in 2019, and Karish in 2022.

In 2022, the European Union (EU) signed a memorandum of understanding with Israel that “eventually could see significant quantities of Israeli natural gas shipped to Europe via Egypt,” wrote political analyst Soeren Kern.² He added,

The EU is desperately trying to reduce its dependence on Russia, which supplied around 40 percent of the bloc's gas imports in 2021. Shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine, the European Commission, the EU's administrative arm, proposed reducing imports of Russian gas by two-thirds before the end of this year [2022].

Dr. Karolina Zielinska, a senior fellow in the Israel-Europe project, said, "Mediterranean gas has already enabled Israel to become self-sufficient . . . with regard to electricity generation: plans have been made to phase out the coal used for this purpose by 2025."

Already, others are claiming the natural gas belongs to them. The terrorist organization Hezbollah in Lebanon is putting roadblocks in Israel's way. Zielinska said Hezbollah, "which to a large degree acts as an executor of Iran's will and tightens ties with Russia, is continuing to step up its rhetoric and actions. As a consequence, it is becoming the biggest threat to the implementation of the plan to export Israeli gas to Europe."

In light of these developments, it seems reasonable that natural gas could become a bone of contention, making it worthwhile for Russia (Magog), Iran (Persia), and their allies to invade Israel in hopes of seizing the gas fields as "plunder" and "booty."

Possible Land Grab?

Clearly, the invaders will come from what today constitutes much of the Muslim world. Iran has been working with Russia for years to develop nuclear power and a nuclear bomb.

These nations' intense hatred for the State of Israel is legendary. The Islamic religion maintains that any land once possessed by Islam belongs to Muslims in perpetuity, no matter who preceded or followed the Islamic presence. They see all of Israel as belonging to them forever.

It could be that Russia's allies join the fray, hoping to redeem the land for their god, Allah.

Continued Antisemitism?

The international hatred and vilification of Israel and the Jewish people continues to grow exponentially despite all the Jews and the State of Israel do to make the world a better place. Israel has pioneered historic medical and technological advances over the years and continues to be a world leader in providing humanitarian aid whenever and wherever a cataclysmic event occurs.

Be it an earthquake, hurricane, or 12 young members of a soccer team trapped in a flooded cave in Thailand, Israel frequently arrives first with boots on the ground. The tiny Jewish nation sends supplies, doctors, and technology to help in a crisis.

But does the world say thank you? No. Is the world grateful? Never. Instead, Israel is vilified by the United Nations; and Jewish people everywhere are hated, hounded, attacked, and killed randomly simply because they are Jewish.

The 20th century included pogroms and the Holocaust of World War II; and today, Holocaust denial grows despite all the education and facts available that tell the truth. Furthermore, since the Hamas massacre in Israel on October 7, 2023, antisemitic incidents have increased an unprecedented 337% in the United States alone.

So, the attack by Gog and Magog may also be motivated by antisemitism, as many nations unjustifiably follow in Hamas's wake and gather to destroy Israel.

Power Play?

Often the desire of ungodly leaders lost in sin involves power and world domination.

It is possible the Gog–Magog invasion is part of Satan's power-mad strategy to usurp God. God has promised that Israel will exist forever. The Jewish people are "the apple of His eye" (Zech. 2:8), and Jerusalem is "the city of the great King" (Ps. 48:2).

Clearly, these truths fly in the face of Satan's plan to become God himself. When Satan rebelled against God, he brazenly declared, "I will be like the Most High" (Isa. 14:14).

But the Almighty will have the last laugh: "He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. . . . I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion" (Ps. 2:4, 6).

Satan's power grab will fail. Satan will fail. Israel's enemies will fail. Satan eventually will be thrown into the Lake of Fire for eternity (Rev. 20:10); and the Lord will triumph.

The Jewish people "shall no longer be a prey for the nations, nor shall beasts of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and no one shall make them afraid" (Ezek. 34:28). God will plant them in the land He promised them, the land of Israel, where they finally will dwell in peace (39:25–28)

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Republicans accuse Biden of inciting Trump shooting

24 hours ago

By Rachel Looker, BBC News, Washington

A group of Republican lawmakers are blaming US President Joe Biden, claiming his campaign rhetoric led to the attempted assassination of Donald Trump.

As of Sunday, nearly a dozen lawmakers have pointed fingers at Mr Biden and Democrats at-large for the shooting Saturday evening at the former president's rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. Many are pointing to a comment from Mr Biden while on a private phone call with donors last week.

According to Politico, Biden said on the call: "I have one job, and that's to beat Donald Trump. I'm absolutely certain I'm the best person to be able to do that. So, we're done talking about the debate. It's time to put Trump in a bullseye."

On Saturday, Mr Biden condemned the attack and called on Americans to denounce such violence. On Sunday, he ordered a review of security at the rally.

In the aftermath of the assassination attempt, the specific reference to "Trump in a bullseye" less than a week before, has led some Republicans to place the burden of the shooting in part on Mr Biden.

"Joe Biden sent the orders," Georgia Republican Rep. Mike Collins posted on X, formerly Twitter, in a response to a post about Mr Biden's comments to donors.

In another post, Mr Collins wrote "they attempted to neutralize the threat", responding to a separate graphic featuring the president's comments.

"Notice that after an attempted assassination of President Trump, the same people who wanted him prosecuted for telling his supporters to peacefully march to the Capitol on January 6 are not calling for President Biden's prosecution after he said it was time to put President Trump in the bullseye after their debate," Collins wrote.

FBI officials identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, a kitchen worker from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, who is a registered Republican.

A Secret Service sniper fatally shot Crooks after he fired at the president.

Sen. Marsha Blackburn, a Tennessee Republican, also referenced Mr Biden's bullseye comment in posts on social media.

"Just days ago, Biden said 'it's time to put Trump in a bullseye'. Today, there was an assassination attempt against President Trump," she wrote on X Saturday evening.

Ms Blackburn also criticized Mr Biden for not releasing a statement for the first hour after the shooting, calling his delay "unacceptable".

"Go to the Oval Office and address the American people. We do not settle our differences by violence," she said.

Mr Biden spoke Saturday night from his home in Delaware where he was spending the weekend. He condemned the assassination attempt and called on all Americans to denounce such "sick" violence.

"We must unite as one nation to condemn it. It's sick, it's sick," he said.

Mr Biden then left Delaware to return to the White House, where he addressed the shooting again Sunday afternoon. A national address from the Oval Office is planned for Sunday night.

The sitting president also spoke with Trump over the phone on Saturday night in a call that one White House official described as "good, short and respectful".

Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee took to social media in response to Mr Biden's bullseye statement, too, asking reporters in a post if they plan to delve into the president's comment to donors.

"That just happened," they wrote in a post after the attempted assassination.

Rep. Lauren Boebert, a Colorado Republican, told 9News on Saturday night that she believes "much of the rhetoric from the left has escalated to this moment".

"President Trump was literally put in a bullseye after the President of the United States, the sitting President of the United States, called for him to be put in a bullseye," she said. When asked if she thinks Biden bears responsibility for the attempted assassination, she replied: "I do believe that Joe Biden is responsible for the shooting today."

Other Republicans pointed to Democrats' recent efforts to end Trump's Secret Service protection after he became the first president convicted of felony counts for falsifying business records related to hush money payments to an adult film actress.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, a Mississippi Democrat and ranking member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, introduced the legislation in April that several House Democrats co-sponsored.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, a Georgia Republican who blamed the media and several Democrats for the shooting in posts on X, posted a list on the social media platform of Democrats who co-sponsored the legislation.

"Pray for America. The left wants a civil war. They have been trying to start one for years. These people are sick and evil," she wrote.

Sen. J.D. Vance, an Ohio Republican, who is on Trump's short list of vice presidential picks, echoed similar sentiments blaming the left's rhetoric.

"The central premise of the Biden campaign is that President Donald Trump is an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs. That rhetoric led directly to President Trump's attempted assassination," he wrote on X.

Republican Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina said Democrats and the media have "recklessly stoked fears", and called Trump and conservatives "threats to democracy".

"Their inflammatory rhetoric puts lives at risk," he also wrote on X. Louisiana Republican Rep. Steve Scalise, the House majority leader who was shot at a practice for a congressional baseball game in 2017, said Democrats have fuelled "ludicrous hysteria" about Trump being re-elected.

"Clearly, we've seen far left lunatics act on violent rhetoric in the past. This incendiary rhetoric must stop," he said.

US Jewish Groups Condemn Anti-Zionist Resolutions Considered by American Federation of Teachers

by **Dion J. Pierre**



Illustrative Pro-Hamas protesters outside the Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago, Illinois on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Photo: Ron Sachs via Reuters Connect

A coalition of US Jewish groups on Monday denounced the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), one of the largest educators' unions in the country, for including anti-Israel resolutions in the agenda of its upcoming annual convention.

The resolutions, seven in total, run the gamut of anti-Zionist ideology, calling for the end of US military assistance to Israel while falsely accusing the country of "genocide," a ceasefire in Gaza that would halt Israel's mission to clear Hamas from the territory, and divestment from Israel in the form of selling AFT's Israel bonds. Another resolution accuses supporters of Israel of "weaponizing" antisemitism to shield Israel from criticism.

On Thursday, StandWithUs, New York City Public School Alliance, Educators Caucus for Israel, and Partners for Equality and Educational Responsibility in K-12 (PeerK12), said the measures "undermine the safety and well being of Jewish students, families, and educators in public schools" and foster a culture of hate.

"Each one of these anti-Israel, anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish resolutions is based on propaganda and politically subversive and ideologically driven lies, exposing yet again the deeply unsettling and obvious lack of merit, or even the slightest desire of the AFT to adhere to indisputable facts and historical accuracy that one might expect from a national association," PeerK12 co-founder Nicole Bernstein said in a press release on Monday.

StandWithUs director of K-12 Educator Outreach David Smokler added, "We call on school boards and school superintendents to make it clear to teachers that they may not bring biased materials into their classrooms. Teachers must teach students how to think, not what to think."

If passed at AFT's convention on July 22-25, the resolutions would mark the most severe condemnation of Israel and Zionism passed by a teachers' union and continue the anti-Zionist movement's march through K-12 schools, which *The Algemeiner* has covered extensively.

Antisemitism in K-12 schools has continued to increase every year, according to the ADL's latest data. In 2023, antisemitic incidents in US public school increased 135 percent, a figure which included a rise in vandalism and assault.