

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh" - Luke 21:28

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NEWS FROM ISRAEL

Netanyahu turns to Bible in tussle over Jerusalem

Reuters reports: "Beset by questions about Jerusalem's future in talks with the Palestinians, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reached for the Bible to stake out the Jewish state's contested claim on the city.

Netanyahu told a parliamentary session commemorating Israel's capture of East Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 war that 'Jerusalem' and its alternative Hebrew name 'Zion' appear 850 times in the Old Testament, Judaism's core canon.

'As to how many times Jerusalem is mentioned in the holy scriptures of other faiths, I recommend you check,' he said.

Citing such ancestry, Israel calls all of Jerusalem its 'eternal and indivisible' capital — a designation not recognized abroad, where many powers support Arab claims to East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

The dispute is further inflamed by the fact East Jerusalem houses al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third-holiest shrine, on a plaza that Jews revere as the vestige of two biblical Jewish temples.

Heckled by a lawmaker from Israel's Arab minority, Netanyahu offered a lesson in comparative religion from the lectern.

'Because you asked: Jerusalem is mentioned 142 times in the New Testament, and none of the 16 various Arabic names for Jerusalem is mentioned in the Koran. But in an expanded interpretation of the Koran from the 12th century, one passage

is said to refer to Jerusalem,' he said.

Responding to Netanyahu's citations, Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said: 'I find it very distasteful, this use of religion to incite hatred and fear. East Jerusalem is an occupied Palestinian town, and East Jerusalem cannot continue to be occupied if there is to be peace.'..."
(Prime Minister Netanyahu found that Jerusalem is mentioned 850 times in the Old Testament. It is also found 142 times in the New Testament for a total of 992 times as he includes Zion, the original name for Jerusalem. Sad that President Obama has promised it to the Muslims whose Koran never mentions Jerusalem even once.)

Report: Israel threatens to send Syria back to Stone Age

YnetNews.com reports: "After Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman threatened that Syrian President Bashar Assad will lose his power should he provoke Israel, recent reports of advanced missiles being transferred from Syria to Hezbollah have led to more serious threats being made.

'We will return Syria back to the Stone Age,' an Israeli minister was quoted as saying in British paper, the *Sunday Times*. The paper reported that this sentiment was communicated to Damascus via a third party.

According to the report, the minister, speaking off the record, warned that Israel will do so by 'crippling its power stations, ports, fuel storage and every bit of strategic infrastructure if Hezbollah dare to launch

ballistic missiles against us.'

The reason behind increasing tensions in the Israel-Syria arena broke in a report in Kuwaiti newspaper, *al-Rai*, that the Syrian military trained members of Hezbollah in how to fire advanced Scud ballistic missiles. In response, it has been reported that Israel directed pointed warnings to Syria via Turkey and Qatar that it will attack targets in Syria and Lebanon if the missiles reach Hezbollah.

On this backdrop, the Syrian minister in Washington was summoned for a warning.

Washington has voiced contradictory viewpoints on the Scud issue. The State Department reported that they are 'very concerned' by reports of the transfer of advanced weaponry to Hezbollah. However, over the weekend, senior administration officials expressed doubt as to whether the Scuds really made their way across the border Syria-Lebanon border.

According to the report in the *Sunday Times*, Israel 'now regards Hezbollah as a division of the Syrian army and that reprisals against Syria will be fast and devastating.'

As such, Israel has decided to hold Syria directly responsible for Hezbollah's activities following intelligence assessments that Beirut has lost control over the strengthening Shi'ite organization. Until now, Israel has said that Lebanon will be responsible for any attack made by Hezbollah on Israel..."
(Israel could do it. They have one of the most powerful air forces and nuclear centers in the Mid East. Also see Isaiah 17:1.)

Syria threatens to send Israel back to 'prehistoric times'

YnetNews.com reports: "Syria has threatened to 'send Israel back to the era of prehistoric man' if the Jewish state attacks it with unconventional weapons.

A source close to decision-makers in Damascus was quoted by Kuwaiti newspaper *al-Rai* as saying that 'If Israel uses unconventional weapons, we'll respond in a similar fashion.'

Earlier, an Israeli minister told the *Sunday Times* that Syria would be 'sent back to the Stone Age' if Hezbollah launches ballistic missiles.

The Syrian official said Damascus has upgraded its military capabilities and has prepared for a number of possible scenarios in case a war against Israel breaks out.

'Despite the fact that Syria has been outside the cycle of war since 1973, it did not sit idly by for even one day and is still working to develop its capabilities via missiles,' he was quoted by the Kuwait paper as saying.

The official said Syria has drawn lessons from Hezbollah's 'success' during the Second Lebanon War and has since then developed 'advanced methods of warfare...' **(This headline I doubt since Yahveh, Israel's God fights for His chosen people — Ezekiel 39:6. This text pertaining to Damascus [Syria] predicts that the capital shall become a heap of rubble — Isaiah 17:1.)**

Iran: We'll 'cut off Israel's feet' if it attacks Syria

Haaretz reports: "Iranian Vice President Mohammad Rida Rahimi warned that Iran would 'cut off Israel's feet' if it attacked Syria, French news agency *AFP* reported.

'We will stand alongside Syria against any [Israeli] threat,' Rahimi told reporters during a news conference with Syrian Prime Minister Mohammad Naji Otri in Damascus, adding that 'If those who have violated Palestinian land want to try anything we will cut off their feet.'

According to *AFP*, the Iranian vice president said that '[Syria is a] strong country that is ready to confront any threat,' adding that Tehran 'will back Syria with all its means and strength.'... **(Iran's windbag forgets that Israel's**

God promises His people "an everlasting name" — Isaiah 56:5.)

Abdullah: Israel playing with fire

The Jerusalem Post reports: "Jordan's King Abdullah reiterated his warning to Israel over its policies in east Jerusalem and the West Bank.

'Israel is playing with fire concerning Jerusalem and it must stop all unilateral moves in the occupied territories,' said the Jordanian monarch.

In a meeting with journalists in Jordan, Abdullah added that the onus was on Israel when it came to making peace with the Arab and Muslim world.

'Israel has to choose between life behind walls, and living in peace with all Arab and Muslim countries on the basis of the Arab peace initiative,' he said. 'This can be achieved by withdrawals from occupied Arab land and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.'... **(The onus [burden of proof] about Jordan's prediction will undoubtedly fail, instead Israel will be protected by her God Yahveh — Ezekiel 39:6; Zechariah 14:12.)**

Abbas to Obama: Impose Mideast peace solution

Haaretz reports: "Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas urged the Obama administration to impose a solution to the Middle East conflict that would give his people an independent state.

'Mr. President [Barack Obama] and members of the American administration, since you believe in this [an independent Palestinian state], it is your duty to take steps toward a solution and to impose this solution,' Abbas said in a speech.

Abbas made the remarks to members of his Fatah party in the West Bank city of Ramallah a day after talks there with Obama's Middle East envoy. George Mitchell is in the region to try to revive peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

'We've asked them [the Obama administration] more than once: 'Impose a solution,' Abbas said.

Abbas also rejected the establishment of a Palestinian state within temporary borders, an idea he said was recently proposed for restarting peace talks.

In his speech, Abbas referred to recent

proposals — apparently from Israel — for a temporary state but did not elaborate. Frankly, we will not accept the state with temporary borders, because it is being offered these days, he said... **(If Obama is the final leader of the New World Order, he definitely will force Israel and the Palestinians to the bargaining table by withholding America's funds for Israel's disobedience — Daniel 8:23; Daniel 7:23.)**

Report: Obama promised Abbas a Palestinian state within two years

Haaretz reports: "U.S. President Barack Obama told Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas that he was committed to seeing the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state within two years, an Egyptian official told the Arabic-language daily *Al-Hayat*.

Obama promised Abbas that the United States would make great effort to help see that Palestinian goal achieved, the official told the London-based newspaper.

The official also told *Al-Hayat* that Israel had rejected special U.S. envoy George Mitchell's proposal to withdraw Israel Defense Forces troops from Palestinian-occupied sections of the West Bank, as it did on the eve of the Second Intifada in 2000.

According to the report, Israel told Mitchell that it could not guarantee such a move before beginning direct peace negotiations with the Palestinian Authority.

In place of withdrawing troops, the official told *Al-Hayat*, Israel offered other goodwill gestures, such as removing checkpoints and releasing certain Palestinian prisoners.

Earlier, Abbas urged the Obama administration to impose a solution to the Middle East conflict that would give his people an independent state, and rejected the idea of creating a state within temporary borders... **(Who but a dictator could make such promises and fulfill them — Daniel 9:27; Isaiah 28:15; Daniel 8:25; and I Thessalonians 5:3.)**

Netanyahu: Israel Must Rely Only on Itself

Voice of America News reports: "On the eve of Israel's 62nd Independence Day, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the nation must not rely on the help of foreigners. He was quoting from the founder

of modern Zionism, Theodor Herzl.

Mr. Netanyahu told the Cabinet that according to Herzl, Israel can rely only on itself.

Commentators say it is a clear reference to Israeli ties with the United States, which have plummeted over Jewish construction in disputed in East Jerusalem. The U.S. backs Palestinian demands that East Jerusalem should be the capital of a future Palestinian state.

But Israel sees all of Jerusalem as its eternal capital, and Mr. Netanyahu, who heads a right-wing government, has rejected U.S. demands to stop building there. As a result, the Palestinians have refused to return to U.S.-sponsored peace talks, and the diplomatic process has been deadlocked for 15 months...” **(Don’t be forced into doing what is against your Torah, the Word of God, Mr. Netanyahu, to do so is wrong and dangerous — Joel 3:2.)**

World Jewish leader to Obama: Is U.S. committed to Israel’s security?

Haaretz reports: “World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder has publically questioned U.S. President Barack Obama’s commitment to Israel’s security, in a letter he reportedly drafted with the approval of his close friend Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

‘Our great country and the tiny State of Israel have long shared the core values of freedom and democracy,’ wrote Lauder, in a letter published as an advertisement in *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

‘It is a bond much treasured by the Jewish people. In that spirit I submit, most respectfully, that it is time to end our public feud with Israel and to confront the real challenges that we face together,’ wrote Lauder.

In his letter, Lauder asks why the Obama administration has taken such a critical stance toward Israel amid efforts to revive stalled Middle East peace talks.

‘Why does the thrust of this administration’s Middle East rhetoric seem to blame Israel for the lack of movement on peace talks? After all, it is the Palestinians, not Israel, who refuse to negotiate,’ wrote Lauder.

‘Can it be true that America is no longer committed to a final status agreement that provides defensible borders for Israel? Is a new course being charted that would leave Israel with the indefensible borders that invited invasion prior to 1967?...’ **(Under numerous presidencies since Harry Truman Israel has been secure. Under Obama, the situation is in turmoil, the worse in 35 years — Jeremiah 30:7; II Kings 17:34.)**

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

Gaza extremists urge Al-Qaida to target Yemen Jews

Haaretz reports: “A group of Muslim extremists in the Gaza Strip that is opposed to Hamas has called on Al-Qaida in Yemen to target Jews there in an effort to drive them from their country — part of what the group described as its war against Jews.

According to e-mails sent by a person identifying himself as Ali Hussein, who says he represents a group of Shi’ite guerrillas in northern Yemen opposed to Al-Qaida, a Salafi group based in the Gaza Strip and calling itself the ‘Abu Amir’ group is allegedly calling for attacks on Jewish leaders in northern Yemen. As proof, Hussein sent a scanned hand-written note naming the Jewish targets in Yemen.

In another letter from Yemen, the Salafists detail their extremist views and request that Al-Qaida targets Jews, and also Hamas activists, because ‘the group has completed the work of the Jews by killing members of our group and we would like to deter Jews around the world through you by asking you to kill Yemenite Jews or do anything that you consider right, especially not allowing the representatives of the Hamas government to move about Yemen.’

Another letter states that an Al-Qaida operative in Yemen, who goes by the name of Abdullah al-Hajj, is funding the activities of the Salafis in the Gaza Strip through Egyptian sources, including the transfer of arms into the Strip for their use.

Hussein also claims that Al-Qaida based in Yemen is planning to set up a ‘military base’ in the Sinai peninsula for training, stockpiling arms, acquiring long-range missiles for attacks on Israel, and carrying out raids into Israel...” **(The Lord Jesus predicted His people, the Jews, would become a persecuted race — Matthew 24:9; John 16:2.)**

Nasrallah: Hezbollah has a right to amass weapons

Haaretz reports: “Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said that the Lebanese militia had a ‘legal and humanitarian’ right to amass weapons in order to protect those ‘oppressed and threatened by Israel,’ *Israel Radio* reported.

The Hezbollah chief was responding to U.S. allegations that Syria had transferred shipments of Scud missiles to Hezbollah, refusing to neither deny nor confirm the claims.

Earlier Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said that ‘complete panic’ was reigning in Lebanon because of fears of an Israeli attack and another war. However, Nasrallah issued a calming message, saying that the reports surrounding the alleged missile shipments sparked uproar, but that he did not believe that they were meant to clear a path for a war with Hezbollah. ‘The atmosphere at this time is not an atmosphere of war,’ he said.

Earlier Syria’s foreign minister said that it was weapons being supplied to Israel by the United States that were destabilizing the region, and not Syrian missiles...” **(I Chronicles 21:1 “Satan stood against Israel.” See the next report also.)**

Hezbollah vows to continue amassing ‘arms of resistance’

Haaretz reports: “A Hezbollah member of parliament in Lebanon has vowed that the militant Shi’ite group will continue to build its arsenal, media reports.

‘Our choice was and remains to secure all the arms of resistance that we can,’ Hassan Fadlallah was quoted as saying by the Lebanese daily *As-Safir*.

Fadlallah was hitting back at a statement

by U.S. Secretary of Defence Robert Gates accusing Iran and Syria of arming Hezbollah with increasingly sophisticated rockets and missiles, which he said undermined stability in the region.

Gates said that Hezbollah has more missiles than most governments in the world, during a joint press conference with Defense Minister Ehud Barak in Washington.

‘Syria and Iran are providing Hezbollah with so many rockets that they are at a point where they have more missiles than most governments in the world,’ said Gates.

Barak told reporters that Syria was transferring weapons systems to Hezbollah and that Israel is closely watching the developments, though he assured Israel did not plan to provoke a conflict.

‘There is a big difference between arms which only serve invasions, occupations and aggressions, such as those of the United States and its ally Israel... and the arms of a resistance which defends, protects, and liberates,’ Fadlallah said.

Israel and the U.S. have accused Syria of supplying Hezbollah with Scud missiles, which are capable of striking deep into Israel. Both Beirut and Damascus have denied this...”

Netanyahu: Iran inciting to war with lies

YnetNews.com reports: “Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Iran of attempting to escalate the relations between Israel and Syria. Speaking during a tour of the Israel Defense Forces’ Northern Command, Netanyahu said that ‘Iran’s recent attempts to incite to war between us and Syria are a completely groundless act.’

Netanyahu added that the Iranians were ‘spreading lies in order to escalate the relations.’

Together with IDF Chief of Staff Gabi

Ashkenazi, the prime minister attended a military drill in one of the fire practice areas in northern Israel.

‘We want security, stability and peace. Israel has no intention of attacking its neighbors, despite false rumors on this matter,’ said Netanyahu...” **(Proverbs 6:16-18 states: “These six things doth the LORD hate...” #2, “a lying tongue”, and #6 “a false witness that speaketh lies.” Liars face an eternity in “The Lake of Fire” — Revelation 21:8; 22:15. See next report also.)**

Ahmadinejad: Iran does not need to gain West’s trust

YnetNews.com reports: “A defiant Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Tehran does not need to gain the trust of the West as it is observing global rules, unlike those who have nuclear arsenals, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.

Ahmadinejad, on arriving in New York to participate in a review meeting of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), said Western powers are not seeking to build trust with the Islamic Republic, *IRNA* reported.

‘We should not offer ways to obtain their trust as Iran abides by the international law and acts within its framework,’ Ahmadinejad said as he landed at New York’s JFK airport.

‘Iran is committed to international regulations,’ he said, adding that Western powers ‘who have stockpiled nuclear weapons, have used them and are monopolizing them, are not seeking to build trust’ with Iran.

Ahmadinejad, who has enraged the West with his country’s dogged pursuance of a nuclear program, also said Iran will make ‘practical, fair and clear proposals’ aimed at world security at the NPT conference...”

Khamenei: We won’t allow America to renew its hellish dominance over us

Haaretz reports: “Iran’s supreme leader denounced the U.S. ‘nuclear threats’ against the Islamic Republic, and its elite military force said it would stage war games in a waterway crucial for global oil supplies.

The Revolutionary Guards’ exercises in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz take place at a time of rising tension between Iran and the West, which fears Tehran’s nuclear program is aimed at developing bombs. Iran denies the charge.

Iran has also reacted angrily to what it sees as U.S. President Barack Obama’s threat to attack it with nuclear arms.

Obama made clear that Iran and North Korea were excluded from new limits on the use of U.S. atomic weapons -something Tehran interpreted as a threat from a long-standing adversary.

‘The international community should not let Obama get away with nuclear threats,’ Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said.

‘We will not allow America to renew its hellish dominance over Iran by using such threats,’ he told a gathering of Iranian nurses, the semi-official *Fars News Agency* reported. Iran was a close U.S. ally before its 1979 Islamic revolution.

Brigadier General Hossein Salami, also quoted by *Fars*, said three days of maneuvers would start and would show the Guards’ naval strength...” **(Dear Imam Khamenei, it doesn’t take America to hold a hellish dominion over your nation. You and Ahmadinejad need no help.)**

THE NUCLEAR THREAT

Peres: Nuclear terror is the world’s greatest threat

Haaretz reports: “President Shimon Peres said that nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorist groups constitutes the modern

world’s greatest threat.

‘The world has changed,’ Peres told an audience in Russia, where he was awarded an honorary doctorate from MGIMO, an institute for international relations.

‘Terror is borne by small fanatic groups,’ Peres said. ‘They have no inhibitions, they harm even innocents without differentiation and they have modern equipment at their disposal. There is a reasonable fear that nuclear weapons will make their way into

the hands of terror groups worldwide. This is the world's new danger and the world must develop a counter-strategy.

'In our new world there is no going back to armed warfare of the past,' Peres said, adding that the new warfare consists of terror groups whose location is unknown and missiles that easily cross borders.

Peres also addressed the shared history between Russia and the Jewish people and said that they both suffered a great deal during World War II. He said that shared fate obligated Israel and Russia to work together toward a better future..." **(This headline is prophetic — Zephaniah 1:18; Malachi 4:1; Revelation 8:8; 9:18.)**

Ahmadinejad: Israeli threats won't stop Iran's nuclear program

Haaretz reports: "Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that his country would 'definitely continue' its nuclear program despite Israeli hints at military action.

'Iran will definitely continue its path. You should not even doubt that we will continue our path. We'll definitely continue our path,' Ahmadinejad said in an interview with ABC's 'Good Morning America' program.

Asking if that meant Iran was playing with fire in light of Israel's threat of a possible military strike, Ahmadinejad said it was not. 'They're not a factor, in our defense doctrine, we don't even count them...' **(Iran's threat mentioned in Psalm 83:4 will fail — Isaiah 56:5.)**

UN Security Council permanent members call for nuke-free Mideast

Haaretz reports: "The United States, Russia, Britain, France and China voiced support for making the Middle East a nuclear-arms-free zone, which would mean Israel would have to scrap any atomic bombs in its possession.

'We are committed to a full implementation of the 1995 NPT resolution on the Middle East and we support all ongoing efforts to this end,' the five permanent UN Security Council members said in a unanimous statement issued at a conference taking stock of the

1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The 1995 resolution adopted by signatories of the landmark arms control treaty called for making the Middle East a zone without nuclear arms.

Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear weapons, is the only country in the Middle East not to have signed the treaty and, along with India and Pakistan, one of only three countries worldwide outside the agreement. Iran, though a signatory, is accused by the West of flouting treaty requirements to disclose its nuclear activities.

'This conference represents a pivotal turning point in the history of the treaty, and an opportunity that may be the last and that must be seized,' Egyptian UN Ambassador Maged A. Abdelaziz told delegates...

The Middle East would join five other nuclear-free regions — Africa, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the South Pacific and Latin America — covering some 116 countries that have outlawed the presence of atomic arms in their areas..." **(The above material will fail — II Peter 3:10-15.)**

Iran Calls U.S. 'World's Only Atomic Criminal,' Calls for Its Suspension From IAEA

ABC News reports: "Kicking off a two-day nuclear disarmament conference, Iranian leaders had harsh words for the United States.

In a summit hall decorated with pictures of the American atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a written statement from the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei was read aloud saying: 'Only the U.S. government has committed an atomic crime. The world's only atomic criminal lies and presents itself as being against nuclear weapons proliferation, while it has not taken any serious measures in this regard.'

Attending the conference in person, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad took it a step further, calling for the U.S. and other nuclear-armed nations to be suspended from the IAEA. He said those who 'possess, have used or threatened to use nuclear weapons [should] be suspended from the IAEA and its board of governors, especially the U.S.'

Despite growing momentum for sanctions, Iran's strategy has been to hit back hard. Iranian officials criticized the U.N. Security Council as reflecting the views of only a handful of countries.

Officials also questioned whether China would, in the end, support additional sanctions against the Iranian regime..." **(We'll see who the criminal is when Ahmadinejad gets the weapon within one year as prognosticators believe. Proverbs 6: 17 & 18 envision this nation's leader. He has: "...hands that [will] shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, and feet that [will] be swift in running to mischief."),**

North Korea warns it will use nuclear weapons if invaded

SpaceDaily.com reports: "North Korea warned it was prepared to use nuclear weapons if it was invaded by the United States and South Korea.

The official *Korean Central News Agency* (KCNA) carried the remarks by the North's Joint Chief, General Ri Yong-Ho, during a national meeting on the eve of the birthday of the communist country's armed forces.

'The revolutionary armed forces of the DPRK (North Korea) are fully ready to frustrate any provocation of the aggressors at a single blow,' Ri said.

'They will mobilise all means including the nuclear deterrent... should the US imperialists and the south Korean puppet warmongers dare intrude into the inviolable sky, land and seas of the DPRK even 0.001mm,' he said.

He added that 'a grave situation is now prevailing on the Korean Peninsula' because of the neighbouring South and its ally the United States, who he said wanted to start a war.

The harsh rhetoric comes as tensions between the two Koreas are high over the sinking of a South Korean warship last month near the disputed sea border in the Yellow Sea with a loss of 46 lives.

Seoul has been careful not to point the finger directly at the North over the incident in the Yellow Sea, which has stoked already tense ties, and Pyongyang has denied it was to blame.

The tensions prompted US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to say she hoped there would be 'no miscalculation' that could spark a new war between the Koreas..." **(North Korea will probably be one of the kings of the East invading Israel during Armageddon — Revelation 16:12; Revelation 9:14-18.)**

NATO Chief: Missile Defense Needed Against Irrational Players

Voice of America News reports: “NATO Secretary General Anders Rasmussen says NATO must work toward nuclear disarmament, but must also have missile defense against irrational countries and players with nuclear weapons. NATO foreign ministers meeting is being held in Tallinn, Estonia.

Secretary General Anders Rasmussen says the allies must discuss the issue of whether tactical nuclear weapons can serve as a credible deterrent against terrorists who may obtain a nuclear device. Turkey and former Soviet satellite countries want to keep such weapons. Several older members want them removed. He said in his personal opinion, U.S. tactical arms in Europe do serve as a deterrent.

Rasmussen says NATO members must also review their overall nuclear posture. He gives credit to President Obama for putting “new wind in the sails of reducing nuclear weapons and risk.” He says the alliance must do what it can to support arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation.

At the same time, Secretary General Rasmussen says NATO’s reason for existence is to protect the 900-million

people among its members.

“Missile defense is no replacement for an effective deterrent, but can compliment it, because there are states or other actors who might not be rational enough to be deterred by our nuclear weapons,” said Anders Rasmussen...” **(Irrational countries such as Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria, Lebanon and the war mongers controlling Palestine, namely Hamas, are most certainly the players intended in the above headline — Isaiah 17:1; Ezekiel 38:5; Psalm 83: 5-7.)**

Iranian missile may be able to hit U.S. by 2015

Reuters reports: ““With sufficient foreign assistance, Iran could probably develop and test an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of reaching the United States by 2015,” said the April report, a copy of which was obtained by *Reuters*.

A classified version was also submitted to Congress.

The timing of advances in Iran’s long-range missile technology is being closely watched in Washington, which accuses Tehran of pursuing nuclear weapons and is pushing for a new round of sanctions. Iran denies the charges and says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

‘Iran’s nuclear program and its willingness to keep open the possibility of developing nuclear weapons is a central part of its deterrent strategy,’ the report said.

The U.S. military tried and failed to shoot down a simulated Iranian missile strike on the United States in January, in a botched \$150 million exercise over the Pacific Ocean. That attempt failed because of a malfunction in a radar built by Raytheon Co.

It was not immediately clear whether the latest estimate on Iran’s missile technology was a departure from a May 2009 National Intelligence Estimate, which deemed Tehran unlikely to have a long-range missile until between 2015 and 2020, according to U.S. officials who saw the report at the time.

The 2009 estimate was revised from an earlier range of between 2012 to 2015...” **(I believe the above headline could happen much sooner. All predictions for a Mid East war name Iran as the enemy even of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — Ezekiel 38:13. Sheba in this text is Saudi Arabia — see Webster’s Dictionary.)**

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

National Day of Prayer ruled unconstitutional

WorldNetDaily.com reports: “A federal district court in Wisconsin ruled the National Day of Prayer unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb issued the decision in a case filed by the Freedom From Religion Foundation, a Wisconsin-based atheist and agnostic group that challenged the constitutionality of a 1988 federal law.

The law gives the president the authority to designate the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer.

Crabb, appointed to the court in 1979 by President Carter, determined the statute violates the First Amendment’s establishment clause, which says, ‘Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.’

In her opinion Crabb wrote that in her view of case law, ‘government involvement in prayer may be consistent with the establishment clause when the government’s conduct serves a significant secular purpose and is not a ‘call for religious action on the part of citizens,’” citing a high-profile Ten Commandments case, *McCreary County, Kentucky v. ACLU*.

‘Unfortunately,’ she wrote, the National Day of Prayer law ‘cannot meet that test.’

‘It goes beyond mere ‘acknowledgment’ of religion,’ Crabb wrote, ‘because its sole purpose is to encourage all citizens to engage in prayer, an inherently religious exercise that serves no secular function in this context. In this instance, the government has taken sides on a matter that must be left to individual conscience.’...” **(This pleases Annie Gaylor who heads up the Freedom from Religion Foundation, an atheist organization. Psalm 9:17 states: “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God...”)**

WARS IN SPACE

U.S. military launches top-secret robotic spacecraft

AFP reports: “A US Air Force unmanned spacecraft has blasted off from Florida, amid a veil of secrecy about its military mission.

The robotic space plane, or X-37B, lifted off from Cape Canaveral atop an Atlas V rocket at 7:52 pm local time (2352 GMT), according to video released by the military.

‘The launch is a go,’ Air Force spokeswoman Major Angie Blair told *AFP*.

The lift-off appeared to proceed as planned without major problems, judging by the commentary in the Air Force webcast.

Resembling a miniature space shuttle, the plane is 8.9 meters (29 feet) long and has a wing-span of 4.5 meters.

The reusable space vehicle has been years in the making and the military has offered only vague explanations as to its purpose or role in the American military’s arsenal.

The vehicle is designed to ‘provide an ‘on-orbit laboratory’ test environment to prove new technology and components before those technologies are committed to operational satellite programs,’ the Air Force said in a recent release.

Officials said the X-37B would eventually return for a landing at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, but did not say how long the inaugural mission would last.

‘In all honesty, we don’t know when it’s coming back,’ Gary Payton, deputy undersecretary for Air Force space programs,

told reporters in a conference call.

Payton said the plane could stay in space for up to nine months...” (**Revelation 12:7; Luke 21:26. See also the next article.**)

Is the X-37B the start of war in space?

News.com.au reports: “It’s one of the most anticipated space launches since the original manned space shuttle Columbia blasted off in 1982.

Hundreds of millions of dollars have been sunk into it over nearly 20 years of research and development.

It’s the X-37B.

And unfortunately, that’s all we can tell you, because the unmanned spacecraft, which looks like a small shuttle, is one of the US military’s most tightly guarded secrets.

Built by Boeing’s Phantom Works division, the X-37 program was originally headed by NASA.

It was later turned over to the Pentagon’s research and development arm and then to a secretive Air Force unit.

And when it launches (local time) in a nine-minute window between 23:52 and 00:01 GMT (09:52-10:01 AEST), only a very select few in the US military will know what its ‘unspecified payload’ is.

We do know it can circle the Earth for more than nine months.

‘In all honesty, we don’t know when it’s coming back,’ US Air Force spokesman Gary Payton told reporters.

The X37-B was originally planned to require the services of a space shuttle to launch, but now it’s a standalone craft.

It also lands like a space shuttle.

As usual with this type of thing, there is plenty of speculation about what the military will do with the X-37B.

Christian Science Monitor believes the X-37B rollout may signal the start of war in space, quoting arms control advocates who say it’s clearly the beginning of the ‘weaponisation of space’.

What information the US military has chosen to release only claims that the spacecraft will conduct ‘classified experiments’ while in orbit.

Mr. Payton said the Air Force’s main interest is to test the craft’s automated flight control system and learn about the cost of turning it around for launch again...”

EMP could leave ‘9 out of 10 Americans dead’

WorldNetDaily.com reports: “There is renewed alarm about the possibility of an EMP attack — electromagnetic pulse — on the United States because of Iran’s work on a multi-stage Space Launch Vehicle, according to a report from Joseph Farah’s *G2 Bulletin*.

And experts forecast if such an attack were a success, it effectively could throw the U.S. back into an age of agriculture.

‘Within a year of that attack, nine out of 10 Americans would be dead, because we can’t support a population of the present size in urban centers and the like without electricity,’ said Frank Gaffney, president of the Center for Security Policy. ‘And that is exactly what I believe the Iranians are working towards...’ (**II Timothy 3:1; Luke 21:25.**)

WARNINGS FROM RUSSIA

Russia warns West against unilateral sanctions on Iran

Haaretz reports: “Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned the United States and other Western nations against

imposing unilateral sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program, *Interfax* news agency reported.

The European Union has said it may impose unilateral sanctions if a UN Security

Council resolution fails.

U.S. President Barack Obama’s administration has been lobbying Western companies not to do business with Iran, but has not imposed sanctions

against them.

Countries facing Security Council sanctions ‘cannot under any circumstances be the subject of one-sided sanctions imposed by one or other government bypassing the Security Council’, Lavrov was quoted as saying by *Interfax*.

‘The position of the United States today does not display understanding of this absolutely clear truth.’

Russia is in talks with the United States and other U.N. Security Council members on a fourth round of sanctions. Moscow has indicated it could support broader sanctions but has stressed they must not harm the Iranian people.

Washington has not publicly warned of unilateral sanctions but has made clear it wants tougher measures than veto-wielding Security Council member Russia is likely to accept.

Permanent Security Council member China has joined Russia in opposing Washington’s plans to impose tough, wide-ranging sanctions on the Islamic Republic over its refusal to suspend sensitive uranium enrichment activity and open up fully to UN nuclear inspections...” **(Russia and Iran are united during World War III — Ezekiel 38:1, 2, 5, 8, 16.)**

Hints of Syrian nuclear deal with Russia unsettle U.S.

Haaretz reports: “Russia must take into account Syria’s problematic nuclear stance before considering cooperation with Damascus over nuclear power, a top United States official said.

The comments followed reports that Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his Syrian counterpart Bashar Assad had discussed the possibility of nuclear collaboration in Damascus earlier.

‘Cooperation [with Syria] on atomic energy could get a second wind,’ Medvedev told reporters, but provided no further details on what form the collaboration might take.

Russian news agencies quoted Assad as saying that he had discussed with Medvedev the possibility of building power plants, including nuclear ones, in Syria...” **(Syria and Russia are also united for Armageddon — Isaiah 17:1; Ezekiel 36, 39; Revelation 16:16.)**

Syria asks Russia to lean on Israel

Asia Times Online reports: “Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has been in the headlines, first for describing his predecessor Joseph Stalin as a ‘totalitarian

dictator’ and then for making the first state visit to Syria by a Kremlin chief since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

Medvedev met with Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal during his Syria visit and in an unprecedented move wrote a front-page editorial for Syria’s daily *al-Watan* on how important bilateral relations are between Damascus and Moscow.

During the two-day visit, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his Russian counterpart agreed a 14-point declaration which included periodic presidential visits as well as cooperation on tourism, education, military affairs, investment and trade and prevention of the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

A strongly worded statement was also issued calling for peace in the Middle East based on United Nations resolutions and the restoration of the June 4, 1967 borders of Israel, which would return all occupied land to the Arabs. It also called for a solution to the Palestinian refugee question and the creation of a viable Palestinian state...” **(Believe me they will lean on Israel and soon. Eighteen Biblical texts document Russia’s invasion against Israel — Ezekiel 38: 8, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19; 39:2, 4, 7 [twice], 9, 11, 12, 17, 22, 23, 25, 29.)**

THE EU SUPERSTATE

EU unleashes \$1 trillion rescue package for embattled euro

Haaretz reports: “Global policymakers unleashed an emergency rescue package worth about \$1 trillion to stabilize world financial markets and prevent the Greek debt crisis from destroying the euro currency.

The rescue, hammered out by European Union finance ministers, central bankers and the International Monetary Fund in marathon talks, was the largest package in over two years since G20 leaders threw money at the global economy following the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

The size of the package surprised financial analysts and the euro rose close to 2 percent while stocks in Asia firmed.

The U.S. Federal Reserve reopened currency swap lines with several central banks and Group of Seven and Group of 20 finance ministers weighed in with their backing for the measures.

EU Monetary Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn told a news conference the package of measures ‘proves we shall defend the euro whatever it takes.’

The emergency measures are worth much more than any previous attempts by the 27-country EU or the 16-state single-currency group to calm markets.

They come after the Greek crisis drove sovereign debt yields and insurance on this debt to record levels.

Financial markets had started to punish

other euro zone debt of members with bloated budgets such as Portugal, Spain and Ireland, in what Sweden’s finance minister described as ‘wolfpack behaviors.’

The \$1 trillion package consists of 440 billion Euros in guarantees from euro area states, plus 60 billion Euros in a European instrument.

EU finance ministers said the International Monetary Fund was expected to contribute 250 billion Euros, taking the total to 750 billion Euros, or around \$1 trillion...” **(Financial collapse is coming during the 7-year period called the Tribulation — James 5:1-4; Revelation 18:10, 17, and 19.)**