

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

E-mail: jvimi@jvim.com
World Wide Web:
<http://www.jvim.com>

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

Hamas: Israel has two options - death or leaving Palestinian lands

Haaretz reports: "The head of Hamas' armed wing warned Israel against launching any new military action in the Gaza Strip, accusing Israel of attempting to escalate the situation. The statement came after days of renewed rocket fire on Israeli communities and Israel Defense Forces strikes in Gaza.

Hamas would not rest until Israel was ousted from Palestine, said Ahmed al-Jabari, leader of the Izz a-din al-Qassam Brigades, adding that Israel had two options — to leave Palestinian territories or face death. He said that Hamas resistance would continue as long as Zionists remained in Palestine.

Al-Qassam Brigades spokesman Abu Obeida ALSO warned Israel to refrain from any further aggression in the Gaza Strip, at a news conference in Gaza to mark the second anniversary of Operation Cast Lead, a three-week IDF incursion aimed at halting rocket fire on Israel's southern communities from the strip.

'We are now stronger than before and during the war, and our silence over the past two years was only for evaluating the situation,' Abu Obeida told the news conference. 'We won't face the current attempts of the enemy to escalate the situation with silence.'

Abu Obeida said that the news

conference was being held to mark the second anniversary of the Gaza war, and the 23rd anniversary of the founding of Hamas..." **(The Islamic terrorists are from numerous Muslim nations. Under different Holy War labels they want to destroy the Jewish race. Palestine is the name of their country since Israel is not even an approved state or nation according to them. Knowing this helps one to understand the above lies and distortions of history. Consider the following: 1) God called the Jews home from many nations — Ezekiel 36:24; Amos 9:15. 2) The returning Jews restored Palestine to its former name Israel. 3) Israel and its people will see an attempt by Islamic terrorists to rid the world of Jews — Psalm 83:4. 4) The anti-Semitic terrorists will fail — Isaiah 56:5. See also the next three reports.)**

Hamas commander: Israel will disappear

YnetNews.com reports: "Muhammad Deif, the commander of Hamas' military wing, said the Palestinians will not give up their struggle until Israel ceases to exist.

In a statement issued to mark 23 years since the Islamist group was founded, Deif also vowed to release all Palestinian prisoners held in Israel. 'We promise to release them and break the (prison) bars

despite the occupiers' efforts,' he said.

In a direct message to Israel, Deif said, 'You will disappear and we will have Palestine. We won't wave a white flag as long as even one Muslim remains.'

Ahmed Ja'abri, another top commander in the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, issued a statement of his own on a Hamas-affiliated website. 'On the anniversary of the war of God's seal (referring to Operation Cast Lead) we say to the enemy that we are willing to face any new Zionist crime,' the statement read..."

Abbas: No Israeli presence in future state

YnetNews.com reports: "Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said that in the future Palestinian state 'there will be no Israeli presence.'

While touring Ramallah, Abbas rejected the possibility that Israeli soldiers would remain stationed along the borders of the future Palestinian state or will be a part of an international force that will deploy there.

'We are prepared to move toward peace based on international resolutions, the Road Map and 1967 borders, but when a Palestinian state is established it will be empty of any Israeli presence,' said the Palestinian leader.

'If a Palestinian state is established with Jerusalem as its capital, we will object to the presence of even one

Israeli in its territory. This is our position,' he said... ”

Hamas leader in Gaza vows group will never recognize Israel

Haaretz reports: “ Hamas will never recognize Israel, Gaza leader Ismail Haniyeh said at a rally to mark the 23rd anniversary of the militant group’s founding.

‘ We say it with confidence as we said it five years ago when we formed our government, and we say it today: We will never recognize Israel,’ Haniyeh told a crowd in Gaza City numbering tens of thousands.

A poster at the rally featured photographs of Hamas leaders assassinated by Israel in the last 10 years.

‘ Hamas will be the faithful guard of the Palestinian people’s rights and the basic Palestinian principles,’ Haniyeh continued.

‘ We say today that there will be no occupation of the land of Palestine and then we can say there is no future for the occupation on our land. I mean from the sea to the river and from Rafah up to Naqoorah.’

The rally featured a scale model of Jerusalem’s al-Aqsa Mosque under a slogan proclaiming that ‘ We Remain Committed to the Covenant.’

Hundreds of teenagers and children, wearing off-white uniforms and green caps, marched through Gaza City, whilst Hamas officials handed out chocolates and candy with a card saying it came from ‘ Hamas with love.’...”

Fayyad says Palestinian state possible by 2011

The Jerusalem Post reports: “ A senior Palestinian Authority official said the PA may withdraw its recognition of Israel if the diplomatic process doesn’t yield results, even as PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad told Israelis there has been a change in the Palestinian mindset and they are ‘ fully committed to non-violence.’

Fayyad, in a Channel 2 interview taped at the Saban Forum in Washington, expressed optimism about the prospects of a peace agreement, saying ‘ it is possible to get this process to move forward as long as there is a dialogue on the core issues.’

Fayyad said he was optimistic that a Palestinian state could be established by August 2011. ‘ In the past too much time was wasted on the process, but we should not be discouraged because we have failed before, we should not give up,’ he said.

Regarding whether the Palestinians would seek a UN Security Council resolution recognizing a Palestinian state, Fayyad said, ‘ We are looking for a state of Palestine, not a unilateral declaration of statehood.’

Asked if the Palestinian people would support a peace agreement Fayyad said that ‘ there has been a fundamental change in the mindset of the Palestinians’ and that the Palestinian people are ‘ fully committed to non-violence.’

Fayyad concluded that ‘ I think it’s time for the expectations to be set high’ and that ‘ we have to believe that this can happen in order for it to happen.’...” (**A global dictator will arise to power on**

a peace contract covering seven years — Daniel 9:27. A week in this text is a Shabua — Hebrew for seven years. In order for this to happen there must be a division of the land and Jerusalem. This lasts for only forty-two months. Then World War III begins because of the division of Israel and Jerusalem — Joel 3:2.)

Nasrallah: Hizbullah stronger, no longer scared of Israel

The Jerusalem Post reports: “ Hizbullah leader Hassan Nasrallah said that recent warnings made by Israeli officials that Lebanon would be dealt a heavy blow if Hizbullah attacks Israel do not scare the Shi’ite organization and will not cause it to change its goals, reported Israel Radio.

During a speech to mark the Shi’ite Muslim Ashoura festival, Nasrallah said that gone are days in which Israel threatened or intimidated his organization. He added that Israel has been waging a psychological war that has failed, and that Hizbullah is better today than it was in the past.

Commenting on the international tribunal investigating the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafiq Hariri, Nasrallah again blamed Israel and the US for conspiring to divide, and stir tensions between, Shi’ites and Sunnis.

He stressed that Hizbullah rejects any attempt to blame it for Hariri’s murder and promised that the organization would defend its honor...” (**Nasrallah’s statement may not scare Hizbullah now, but it will in the very near future. Yahweh God says in Zechariah 12:2 “ I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people.”**)

NEWS FROM CHINA

China preparing for armed conflict ‘ in every direction’

The London Daily Telegraph reports: “ China is preparing for conflict ‘ in every direction’, the defence minister said in remarks that threaten to overshadow a visit to Beijing by his US counterpart.

‘ In the coming five years, our military will push forward preparations for military conflict in every strategic direction,’ said Liang Guanglie in an interview published by several state-backed newspapers in China. ‘ We may be living in peaceful times, but we can never forget war, never send the horses

south or put the bayonets and guns away,’ Mr Liang added.

China repeatedly says it is planning a ‘ peaceful rise’ but the recent pace and scale of its military modernisation has alarmed many of its neighbours in the Asia-Pacific, including Japan which described China’s military build-up as a

‘global concern’.

Mr Liang’s remarks come at a time of increasingly difficult relations between the Chinese and US armed forces which a three-day visit by his counterpart Robert Gates is intended to address. A year ago China froze substantive military relations in protest at US arms sales to Taiwan and relations deteriorated further this summer when China objected to US plans to deploy one of its nuclear supercarriers, the USS George Washington, into the Yellow Sea off the Korean peninsula.

China also announced that it was preparing to launch its own aircraft carrier next year in a signal that China is determined to punch its weight as a rising superpower. The news came a year earlier than many US defence analysts had predicted...” **(Revelation 16:12 predicts the region from which warriors come during the second invasion of Armageddon. At this time the Eastern Kings from China and her Oriental**

partners create the greatest battle in history as described in Revelation 9:14 — 18. See also the next report.)

China deploying carrier-sinking missile

The Washington Times reports: “China’s military is deploying a new anti-ship ballistic missile that can sink U.S. aircraft carriers, a weapon that specialists say gives Beijing new power-projection capabilities that will affect U.S. support for Pacific allies.

Adm. Robert Willard, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, disclosed to a Japanese newspaper that the new anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM) is now in the early stages of deployment after having undergone extensive testing.

‘An analogy using a Western term would be ‘initial operational capability (IOC),’ whereby I think China would perceive that it has an operational

capability now, but they continue to develop it,’ Adm. Willard told the *Asahi Shimbun*. ‘I would gauge it as about the equivalent of a U.S. system that has achieved IOC.’

The four-star admiral, who has been an outspoken skeptic of China’s claims that its large-scale military buildup is peaceful, said the U.S. deployment assessment is based on China’s press reports and continued testing.

The new weapon, the ‘D’ version of China’s DF-21 medium-range missile, involves firing the mobile missile into space, returning into the atmosphere and then maneuvering it to its target.

Military officials consider using ballistic missiles against ships at sea to be a difficult task that requires a variety of air, sea and space sensors; navigation systems; and precision guidance technology — capabilities not typical of other Chinese missiles...”

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Egypt bomb kills 21 at Alexandria Coptic church

BBC News reports: “President Hosni Mubarak has urged Egypt’s Muslims and Christians to stand united against terrorism after a bombing outside a church in Alexandria.

At least 21 people were killed and 70 hurt in the suspected suicide attack, which happened during a New Year’s Eve service at the al-Qiddissin Church.

In a rare televised address, Mr. Mubarak said it bore the hallmark of ‘foreign hands’ seeking to destabilize Egypt.

Several hundred Christians later clashed nearby with Muslims and police.

About 1,000 worshippers were attending the Mass at the al-Qiddissin (Saints) Church in the Sidi Bechr district of the Mediterranean port city.

As the service drew to a close after midnight, a bomb went off in the street outside.

‘The last thing I heard was a powerful explosion and then my ears went deaf,’ 17-year-old Marco Boutros told the *Associated Press* from his hospital bed. ‘All I could see were body parts scattered all over.’

Another witness told the private *On-TV* channel that he had seen two men park a car outside the church and get out just before the blast.

Officials initially thought the cause was a car bomb, but the interior ministry later ruled it out, saying the attack was instead ‘carried out by a suicide bomber who died among the crowd’...” **(God’s Word, the Holy Bible predicts the persecution and slaughter of Christians preceding the 7-year Tribulation period – Philippians 1:29; 3:10 — 14; II Timothy 3:12; Matthew 5:10-12. God says: “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life...” to lay at Jesus’ feet — Revelation 2:10; 4:10, 11. See also the next three reports.)**

Canada’s Coptic Christians ask for protection in wake of Egypt bombing

The Globe and Mail reports: “Coptic Christians in Canada are imploring police to step up security at churches during the week’s orthodox Christmas celebrations, as they brace for any copycat violence after the New Year’s weekend’s suicide bombing in Egypt.

Fallout from the slaying of 21 people at an Alexandria church is causing political turmoil in Egypt and ripples of fear to spread in diaspora communities through the West. Yet Copts in Canada say they will still turn out in droves to celebrate the birth of Christ.

‘We have strong faith that God is protecting us as his people. But, on the other hand, we are expecting that authorities do their part,’ said Rev. Angelos Saad.

He and his officials are to meet local police to discuss security measures. The fear is that terrorists could target his 2,000 congregants during the midnight

mass on Jan. 7.

Canadian authorities are insisting there are no known credible threats. Yet in Europe, authorities are stepping up security at some churches in France and Austria.

Al-Qaeda-inspired groups have essentially declared war on Copts in recent months. The ancient Christian sect, which adheres to the Julian calendar, predates Islam and still accounts for 10 percent of the Egyptian population...

Two killed in Iraq attacks on Christian homes

BBC News reports: “Two people have died and 14 injured in a series of attacks on Christian homes in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

The homemade bomb attacks began at 1930 local time (1630 GMT) and took place in six locations in the capital.

The worst was in the district of al-Ghadir, where the deaths occurred. No one has admitted carrying out the attacks.

It comes after a deadly attack on a Baghdad cathedral in October, which killed more than 50 people.

Militants took over the Our Lady of Salvation church during Sunday Mass, demanding the release of al-Qaeda prisoners.

Al-Ghadir is home to a significant Christian population, though many have fled due to ongoing threats and violence, according to *AFP* news agency.

Other bombs exploded in west Baghdad, one in the garden of a home in Yarmuk, and another in Khadra.

Another explosion went off in the Karrada district, where the Our Lady of Salvation church is located, and there were also blasts in Dora and Saidiya in south Baghdad.

The *BBC's* Jim Muir in Baghdad said the bombs were not big by Baghdad standards, but the message was clear...”

Christian exodus from Iraq gathers pace

The Guardian.co.uk reports: “Their cathedrals stand silent and their

neighbourhoods are rapidly emptying. Now Iraq's Christians face two further unthinkable realities: that Christmas this year is all but cancelled, and that few among them will stay around to celebrate future holy days.

It has been the worst of years for the country's Christians, with thousands fleeing in November and December, and more leaving the country during 2010 than at any time since the invasion nearly eight years ago. Christian leaders say there have been few more defining years in their 2,000-year history in central Arabia.

The latest exodus follows a massacre led by al-Qaida at a Chaldean Catholic church in central Baghdad on 31 October, which left about 60 people dead, almost 100 maimed and an already apprehensive community terrified. Since then, the terrorist group has targeted Christians in their homes, including family members of those who survived the attack.

In Baghdad, as well as the northern cities of Mosul and Kirkuk, Christmas services have been cancelled for fear of further violence. Church leaders said they would not put up Christmas decorations or celebrate midnight mass. They told families not to decorate their homes, for fear of attack after al-Qaida reiterated its threat to target Christians.

‘Now more than 80% of Christians are not going to the churches,’ said the head of Iraq's Christian Endowment group, Abdullah al-Noufali. ‘There is no more Sunday school, no school for teaching Christianity. Yesterday we had a discussion about what we would do for Christmas. We took a decision just to do one mass. In years before we had many masses.’

Noufali's church was closed and barricaded in 2005 when violence was consuming Baghdad. Many others had stayed open since then. Until now. In the wake of the attack on the Our Lady

of Salvation church, at least 10 churches are believed to have been closed. At others, congregations are down to a handful...” **(750,000 Christians have already fled their homes in Iraq and are attempting to find a safe place in other areas of the world.)**

Police: Fatal Attack on Christian Women was Terror

Israel National News reports: “Police have imposed a gag order on the stabbing of two Christian women near the city of Beit Shemesh, but said they believe the stabbing was a terrorist attack. Earlier police had said the incident may have been criminally motivated.

No terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the fatal attack.

The victims, both Christian missionaries, had been hiking in the Jerusalem Forest when they were attacked by two Arab men bearing knives. American Kristine Luken was killed, and an Israeli immigrant from Britain, Kay Wilson, was badly hurt.

Wilson told police that she survived the brutal attack by pretending to be dead. She was stabbed multiple times with a large serrated knife.

At one point, she said, one of the Arab attackers ripped off a Star of David necklace she was wearing and then stabbed her in the chest where the star — which traditionally symbolizes Jewish identity — had lain.

After the attackers left she was unable to call for help, as her severe injuries left her struggling for breath. However, she managed to stand and walk toward a nearby town, and found two families near the road who called for help.

A memorial will be held for Luken in a church in the Old City of Jerusalem. Luken, who will be buried in the United States, worked as the head of the British branch of Church Ministry among Jewish people (CMJ)...” **(Matthew 24:9; John 16:2.)**

SPEAK NO EVIL

Thousands Rally to Uphold Pakistani Blasphemy Laws

Voice of America News reports: “Pakistani Islamists are demanding the government leave the country’s laws against blasphemy alone.

Thousands rallied in Karachi and other cities to warn government officials any effort to repeal the laws would have serious consequences.

Several Pakistani lawmakers proposed changing the law after the conviction of a Christian mother of five for blasphemy against Islam.

Asia Bibi is the first woman condemned to die under Pakistan’s blasphemy law. She denies claims by local women that she made derogatory remarks about the Prophet Muhammad.

Pakistan’s Minister for Minority

Affairs Shabaz Bhatti has recommended Bibi be pardoned or released if her pending court appeal is not quickly addressed.

One Pakistani cleric has said if the government fails to go ahead with the hanging, his mosque will offer \$6,000 to anyone who kills her...” **(The blasphemy law being proposed by the United Nations and fully backed by President Obama is fully in favor of Islam but waffles on Christianity. The future: Revelation 6:9 “...I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.” This testimony is about the one and only Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ — Revelation 20:4.)**

Assassin of Pakistani Governor Driven by Belief in Blasphemy Laws

Voice of America News reports: “The man who allegedly killed the governor of Pakistan’s Punjab province, Salman Taseer, in broad daylight in the capital, Islamabad, has been arrested and confessed to the crime, according to Pakistani officials.

The assassin was Mr. Taseer’s bodyguard. Once in police custody, officials say he defended murdering Mr. Taseer, a senior member of the ruling party and a close associate of President Asif Ali Zardari, because the governor was an outspoken critic of Pakistan’s strict blasphemy laws...” **(Here is a Muslim who wanted to promote love and forgiveness — and was killed by an Islamic bodyguard.)**

NEWS FROM IRAN

Iranian President Urges Enemies to Give Up Wrong Policies

The Fars News Agency reports: “Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad advised Tehran’s enemies to abandon their wrong policies and acknowledge their mistakes, and stressed that the Iranian nation will continue progress under any kind of conditions and despite enemies’ plots.

Addressing a large and fervent congregation of Iranian people in the country’s Northern province of Semnan, Ahmadinejad said that the enemies of Iran have hatched numerous plots during the last 32 years since the victory of the Islamic Revolution (1979) to pin down the revolution and the Iranians, but all their plots remained futile and the Iranian nation is moving on the path of progress.

‘God willing, the final victory is imminent and the Iranian nation will witness such a day in the near future,’ Ahmadinejad promised.

He offered two options to the enemies of Iran for their future policies, and stated, ‘You (enemies) have two options. You can continue your previous path that will result in nothing but failure and humiliation for you.’

If so, ‘the Iranian nation will not allow you to materialize even your slightest dreams and minor wishes’, Ahmadinejad added...” **(Millions are opposed to the Iranian President’s policies and are being imprisoned as both Muslim and Christian assassins — I Timothy 6:12. The head cleric of the Shi’ite branch of Islam recently warned: “It matters not if millions of Muslims die from a nuclear war as long as the flag of Islam flies over all**

nations. It won’t happen Khamenei. See the next report.)

Iranian students threaten to destroy Esther’s tomb

YnetNews.com reports: “A group of extremist Iranian students threatened to destroy the mausoleum of Queen Esther and Mordechai should Israel cause damage to the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, *Ynet* reported.

According to tradition, the tomb is located in the western Iranian city of Hamadan.

The students, who rallied at Bu-Ali Sina University in Hamadan, said in a statement, ‘We, the student basijis... warn Zionist regime leaders if they assault the Al-Aqsa mosque in any way we will destroy the tomb of these lowly murderers.’

Iranian news agencies said the

protestors are members of the student *basisij*, or hardline Islamist militia.

The shrine in Hamadan commemorates Esther, a young Jewish woman

who married Achaemenid King Xerxes five centuries before Christ, and convinced him to allow Jews to settle freely in the Persian empire.

Iran has the largest Jewish community in the Middle East — 20,000 to 25,000 by different estimates — after Israel, and the shrine is visited by many pilgrims every year...”

KNOWLEDGE INCREASED

Spanish Researchers Want to Tag Human Embryos With Bar Codes

Fox News reports: “In futuristic movies like ‘*Aliens 2*’ and ‘*12 Monkeys*,’ prisoners are bar coded for easy identification. But today’s reality is even wilder: Scientists have proposed bar-coding embryos.

Researchers from the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona* in Spain have just finished testing a method for imprinting microscopic bar codes on mouse embryos -- a procedure they plan to test soon on humans. The venture is meant to avoid mismatches during *in vitro* fertilization and embryo transfer procedures. But privacy experts and children’s rights advocates were instantly concerned by the concept of ‘direct labeling’ of embryos, calling for transparency in the process.

‘An embryo is a human life, so we have to move forward with this very, very cautiously,’ Pam Dixon, executive director for the World Privacy Forum, told *FoxNews.com*. ‘Obviously we can’t ask the embryo what it wants, so the individual making the donation must consent to this as well as the individual receiving the donation. There’s got to be a lot of public discussion.’

The researchers insist that their technique is perfectly safe, claiming that the bar codes simply evaporate as the embryo develops into a fetus. Dr. Arthur Caplan, the director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, said that as long as development is not affected, any improvement on embryo transfer would be extremely beneficial — since mistakes can be heartbreaking.

‘When you’re talking about mismatch, those kinds of errors are psychologically and emotionally devastating,’ Caplan told *FoxNews.com*. ‘You have parents who want to reject the child saying that the child clearly isn’t the same race as they are. There’s also a danger that the donor may change their mind and want to get involved in parenting. People really want that biological connection. So I think this is a terrific idea to reduce those difficulties.’

The bar codes aren’t hidden or concealed — in fact, they’re easily observed through a standard microscope, and the research team hopes to develop an automatic code reading system when they perfect their technique for labeling mouse embryos.

And once that’s done, testing on human embryos will begin...” **(The push is on for the microchipping of the citizens of the world. The Bilderbergs, promoters of the New World Order, laid plans two years ago in Chantilly, Virginia to carry out this goal by 2017. Since it occurs 3½ years after the Rapture, it could begin around 2014.**

Germany reports ‘sharp rise’ in cyberattacks

SpaceDaily.com reports: “Germany detected a sharp rise in cyberattacks in 2010, many originating in China, and plans to set up a special centre next year to deal with the danger, the government said.

‘There has been a sharp rise in so-called electronic attacks on the networks of German government and local authorities,’ interior ministry spokesman

Stefan Paris told a regular government briefing.

‘Germany is a very high-tech country with considerable experience and know-how, so of course others will naturally try to get hold of this knowledge ... China is playing a large role in this.’

In the first nine months of 2010 there were some 1,600 such attacks recorded, compared to around 900 for the whole of 2009, plus most likely a considerable number that went undetected, he said.

The increase was in part due to more and more government business being conducted electronically, he noted however.

The new ‘National Cyberdefence Centre’ will pool the resources and know-how of different government agencies including the federal police and the BND intelligence service with that of private firms, he said.

Europe’s biggest economy is far from being alone in seeing government agencies, firms and individuals coming under attack from foreign governments and organised crime attempting to hack into computer networks.

Last year, the United States created its own Cyber Command, while NATO leaders agreed in November to enshrine cybersecurity as one of the 28-nation military alliance’s priorities...” **(“This know also that in the latter days perilous [dangerous] times shall occur” II Timothy 3:1. Cyberattacks can create total electrical failure for months in any nation from coast to coast.)**

SIGNS IN THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS

Forecasters keep eye on looming 'Solar Max'

AFP reports: "The coming year will be an important one for space weather as the Sun pulls out of a trough of low activity and heads into a long-awaited and possibly destructive period of turbulence.

Many people may be surprised to learn that the Sun, rather than burn with faultless consistency, goes through moments of calm and tempest.

But two centuries of observing

sunspots — dark, relatively cool marks on the solar face linked to mighty magnetic forces — have revealed that our star follows a roughly 11-year cycle of behaviour.

The latest cycle began in 1996 and for reasons which are unclear has taken longer than expected to end.

Now, though, there are more and more signs that the Sun is shaking off its torpor and building towards 'Solar Max,' or the cycle's climax, say experts.

"The latest prediction looks at around midway 2013 as being the maximum phase of the solar cycle," said Joe Kunches of NASA's Space Weather Prediction Center.

But there is a prolonged period of high activity, 'more like a season, lasting about two and a half years,' either side of the peak, he cautioned... **(If these last two lines are factual this momentous prediction could occur from 2011 to 2016 — Matthew 24:29; Luke 21:25; Revelation 6:12.)**

NEWS FROM ASIA

North Korea 'ready for sacred war' with the South

BBC News reports: "North Korea is ready for a 'sacred war of justice' using the nuclear deterrent, its armed forces minister has said.

Kim Yong-chun said exercises conducted by South Korea near the border were a preparation for war with the North.

The drill is one of the largest in South Korea's history, involving tanks, helicopters and fighter planes.

Tension has been high since North Korea shelled the South's Yeonpyeong island, killing four South Koreans.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak has promised immediate retaliation to any further Northern attack.

The South Korean army acknowledged that the drill was aimed to display its firepower.

Although the South has conducted 47 military drills this year, this is the largest winter live-fire exercise ever conducted on land.

The North earlier branded Seoul's exercises 'warmongering' but until now had not threatened the South with any retaliation.

During a meeting in the North Korean capital, Mr Kim, quoted by Pyongyang's *Korean Central News Agency*, accused the South of preparing for a new Korean War... **(North Korea will undoubtedly be part of the second invasion of the Armageddon campaign — Revelation 16:16. Presently China controls North Korea and she obeys Chinese orders. Watch for more shocking developments as North Korea threatens the South Koreans and our American troops stationed at the 38th Parallel — Revelation 16:12; Revelation 9:14-18. See also the next two reports.)**

North Korea 'has boosted special forces'

BBC News reports: "North Korea has increased its investment in tanks and special forces, a South Korean defense review has reported.

The paper, written every two years, notes the North has trained at least 20,000 more special forces.

It said the North remained capable of a 'massive surprise bombardment' of the South's capital, Seoul.

Tensions on the Korean peninsula this year have resulted in cross-border

artillery fire and calls for new talks.

The total size of the North's military remained unchanged at about 1.19 million, the paper said, but the number of special forces within that had risen to 200,000.

These are soldiers trained to carry out assassinations, and the infiltration and disruption of key facilities, the paper said.

It said the North had deployed its new battle tank, 'Pokpung-ho' (or 'Storm Tiger'), which reportedly made its debut in 2002..."

South Korean president ramps up aggressive stance towards North

The London Daily Telegraph reports: "South Korea's armed forces will 'respond relentlessly' if they are attacked again by North Korea, the country's president warned, providing further evidence that Seoul is determined to maintain a newly aggressive posture against Pyongyang.

"We have now been awakened to the realization that war can be prevented and peace assured only when such provocations are met with a strong response," said President Lee Myung-bak

in a national radio address, 'Fear of war is never helpful in preventing war.'

Mr. Lee's hard-line government has been under pressure after critics said it had failed to respond fiercely enough to the North Korean bombardment of an island off the South's west coast in November that left four dead.

The government has responded by

firing its defense minister, installing more hawkish commanders and staging a series of U.S.-backed live-fire exercises along the land and sea borders with the North in a bid to deter any further attacks.

The South said it was planning more drills, despite objections from Russia and China who have urged calm on both sides and increasingly bellicose rhetoric from

Pyongyang which promised a 'sacred' nuclear war if the South impinged on its territory.

But while the world has grown inured to such language from the North in recent years, the hardening tone in the South has raised concerns among many analysts that a future provocation by North Korea could now spark a war between the two sides..."

NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Putin Calls for Suppressing Extremism

Voice of America News reports: "Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin says it is necessary to 'suppress' extremism following ethnic clashes in Moscow.

Mr. Putin spoke in his annual televised question-and-answer session.

His comments come after at least 5,000 mostly young men attacked both police and people from Central Asia and the Caucasus region to protest the death of a fan of Moscow's Spartak football club.

Mr. Putin also discussed jailed Russian businessman Mikhail Khodorkovsky, saying 'a thief must be in jail.' Khodorkovsky, a former oil tycoon, is serving an eight-year prison sentence for tax fraud, and faces additional charges of embezzlement and money laundering..." (*"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" – Matthew 7:15, 16.*)

Russia warns Poland against hosting US fighter jets

SpaceWar.com reports: "Russia warned Poland against hosting US F-16 fighter jets, possibly from 2013, saying it would work to counter the move.

Poland's Defence Minister Bogdan Klich announced that his country would accept a US proposal to host rotations of

F-16 and Hercules transport aircraft and their crews on its territory.

'I hope this will begin in 2013,' Klich had told Poland's *TOK FM* commercial radio station.

A statement issued by the Russian defence ministry said Moscow would 'take into account the American-Polish plans and carry out [its] own armed forces development projects'.

It did not elaborate but added: 'We believe that different decisions would be better in the interest of European security...' (**President Obama as reported in *The New York Times* made a secret deal with Russia stating "If you will help America control Iran, we will not build missile bases in Poland or the Czech Republic." Presently neither nation is keeping its promise. In fact, Russia just loaded Iran with 300 of its best missiles and has discussed the installation of a missile base with Chavez in Venezuela to attack America. Politicians — who can you trust? God's Word states in II Timothy 3:3, 4 that in the final days before Christ returns there will be "trucebreakers, false accusers, and traitors." It's happening globally. The next report will fail for the reasons just described.**)

Nuclear treaty goes easy on Russia

SpaceDaily.com reports: "The new Russia-US nuclear arms pact may have been hailed as historic but analysts said

that all Moscow really has to do is phase out Soviet-era missiles and warheads that are already out of date.

The new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) was ratified by the US Senate after a passionate months-long debate and given initial approval by Russia's State Duma lower house of parliament two days later.

It will face two more hearings in Russia and almost certainly come into force within the next few months.

The first nuclear pact in two decades has been feted as vital to global security because it reduces old warhead ceilings by an impressive 30 percent and sets a streamlined new inspection procedure designed to eliminate cheating.

The new START limits each side to 1,550 deployed warheads and 700 deployed long-range missiles — including those fired from submarines — and heavy bombers.

The two sides may also have up to 800 deployed and non-deployed launchers and bombers.

But analysts said that Russia's real problem was that even these lower missile and launcher ceilings were too high for the country to keep pace with the United States.

Soviet-era missiles such as the Saber SS-22 are rapidly approaching their expiry date and technical specifications mean the weapon has no purpose if its nuclear warheads are taken out of commission..."