

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

## SIGNS IN THE SUN, MOON AND STARS

### **United States regards space as theatre of war – President Putin**

**December 5, 2019** -- *SpaceDaily.com* reports: “The comment comes as leaders of NATO approved the decision to recognise space as ‘potential theatre for operations’ at a summit that is currently taking place in London.

The military and political apparatus of the United States views space as a theatre of war, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting dedicated to the development of the Russian Navy on Wednesday.

‘Russia has always been and will remain opposed to the military use of space,’ Putin said. ‘Leading nations of the world are actively developing modern space systems for military use...and the United States, in particular, is openly regarding space as a war theatre.’ The Russian president added that the U.S. is planning to conduct military operations in space to maintain its strategic superiority in this domain.

According to Putin, the current situation requires Russia to pay increased attention to strengthening the orbital group, as well as space and rocket industry in general.

He noted that the capabilities of

Russia’s missile attack warning system had significantly grown, adding that the system promptly detected launches of ballistic missiles...” (*“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”* – Luke 21:25 – 27. See the next five reports.)

### **Challenged by China and Russia, U.S. builds force for future space wars**

**December 23, 2019** -- *SpaceDaily.com* reports: “The United States met a mounting 21st century strategic challenge from Russia and China Friday with the creation of a full-fledged U.S. Space Force within the Department of Defense.

Acting on an ambition by President Donald Trump that had met resistance at first, the White House signaled its determination to not cede superiority in a Star Wars-like future of killer satellites and satellite-killer weapons.

Trump made the Space Force’s

creation real with the signing of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which set the initial budget for a Pentagon force that will stand equally with the military’s five other branches. ‘Going to be a lot of things happening in space, because space is the world’s newest warfighting domain,’ Trump told members of the military gathered for the signing...”

### **Beijing attacks U.S. for ‘weaponisation’ of outer space**

**December 25, 2019** -- *SpaceDaily.com* reports: “Beijing warned Monday that the U.S. was turning the cosmos into a ‘battlefield’, after Washington announced a new military arm called the Space Force.

Following concerns that China and Russia are challenging its position in space, U.S. President Donald Trump signed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act on Friday — which created a new branch of the U.S. military.

Beijing responded by accusing the U.S. of ‘pursuing the weaponisation of outer space’.

‘These actions from the U.S. strongly violate the international consensus of the peaceful use of outer space... posing a direct threat to outer space,

peace, and security,’ said foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang at a regular press briefing.

Geng called for the international community to ‘adopt a prudent and responsible attitude to prevent outer space from becoming a new battlefield’.

The Space Force will be the sixth formal force of the U.S. military, after the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard...”

### **U.S. Space Policy: The United States Space Force**

**December 16, 2019 -- *SpaceDaily.com*** reports: “The Trump Administration and United States Congress are currently in discussions regarding a proposal to create and fund a service branch within the U.S. Air Force that would assist in deterring conflict in space.

The Trump Administration and United States Congress are currently in discussions regarding a proposal to create and fund a service branch within the U.S. Air Force that would assist in deterring conflict in space. Called the United States Space Force, the branch would be part of the U.S. Air Force much the way the Marine Corps are part of the U.S. Navy.

Over time, the Space Force would evolve to become a stand-alone branch of the armed services. Scott Pace is Executive Secretary of the National Space Council. He explained why space is now considered what the Pentagon calls a ‘war-fighting domain’:

‘Some people say: are we going to militarize space? And the answer is

space has really been a military domain since the Soviet Union launched Sputnik. They used, actually, a converted ICBM to do it. So space has been a realm of military activity really since the very beginning. It’s been used for reconnaissance.

It’s been used for communications. It’s used for navigation. ... What space has not been, has been a war-fighting domain. And, what’s become different in the last few years, ever since the 2007 anti-satellite test that China conducted, where they destroyed one of their own weather satellites, we’ve seen a rapid and steady growth in anti-satellite weapons by Russia and China...”

### **Allies join Space Force for multinational collaboration**

**December 30, 2019 -- *SpaceDaily.com*** reports: “Allies are in the early stages of collaboration with the newly created U.S. Space Force, which has hosted its first ‘five eyes’ level briefing and authorized its first collaborative task order, the Air Force said Friday.

According to an announcement by the U.S. Air Force, Group Captain Darren Whiteley, a Royal Air Force officer from Britain and the deputy director of the Combined Space Operations Center, recently signed the first combined tasking order for Space Force command units.

‘Allied partnerships are critical to defending our assets at home and in the space domain,’ Whiteley said. ‘The threat is expanding and international collaboration is essential to strengthen

deterrence against hostile actors. Through these partnerships we are able to expand the depth and multiply the effects we can have to those evolving threats.’

The task order is the first by a coalition partner under Operation Olympic Defender, a multinational effort intended to optimize space operations and share information between allies...”

### **China improves space-based observation of Earth**

**December 12, 2019 -- *SpaceDaily.com*** reports: “China has greatly improved its ability to observe the Earth from space with a series of high-resolution remote sensing satellites sent into orbit over the past nine years, according to the China National Space Administration (CNSA).

The satellites, belonging to China’s high-resolution Earth observation project (Gaofen project) initiated in 2010, have formed a stable satellite remote sensing system, said Tong Xudong, chief designer of the project.

The project has increased the resolution of China’s low-earth orbit remote sensing satellites from 2.1 meters to 0.65 meter, and the resolution of China’s geostationary orbit remote sensing satellites improved from kilometer-level to 50 meters, Tong said.

The satellites, covering different observation bands, are deployed in different orbits, giving China a preliminary ability for all-weather and round-the-clock observation, said Tong...”

## **RUSSIA AND THE KINGS OF THE EAST**

### **China, Iran, and Russia to hold joint naval drills starting Friday**

**December 26, 2019 -- *The Jerusalem Post*** reports: “China, Iran and Russia will hold joint naval drills starting on Friday in the Indian Ocean and Sea of Oman, China’s defense ministry said on Thursday, amid heightened tension in the region between Iran and the

United States.

China will send the Xining, a guided missile destroyer, to the drills, which will last until Monday, and are meant to deepen cooperation between the three countries’ navies, ministry spokesman Wu Qian told a monthly news briefing.

The drill was a ‘normal military exchange’ between the three armed

forces and was in line with international law and practices, Wu said.

‘It is not necessarily connected with the regional situation,’ he said, without elaborating...” **(Russia in Bible prophecy is the main instigator of death and suffering during Armageddon and China will become a basic partner with them for the rapidly approaching**

**battle of Armageddon – Revelation 16:16. Russia will lead invasion number one – Ezekiel 38 & 39. China will lead invasion number two – Revelation 16:12; Revelation 9:14 – 16. Then all nations will come against Jerusalem for the final invasion at which point Jesus will return to stop the bloodshed and set up his eternal kingdom upon earth – “[He gathers] all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken... Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south” – Zechariah 14:2 – 4. Then Psalm 2:6 occurs as God the Father says: “...I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion [Jerusalem].” See the next report.)**

### **Analysis: Iran hopes naval drill will show U.S. is not a global power**

**December 30, 2019 --** *The Jerusalem Post* reports: “It wasn’t exactly the largest naval exercise in the world, or even a very significant one in terms of firepower. But when Iran, Russia and China gathered ships at Chabahar in southeastern Iran on Friday, they were sending a message to the world.

Iranian photographers were on hand to capture the moment that ships from the three countries readied to go to sea. It was a big moment for Tehran in which it showed that U.S. sanctions and attempts to isolate Iran are not working.

Acting-U.S. Navy Secretary Thomas Modly said on Friday, in a statement that appeared timed to coincide with the naval drill, that Iran could conduct provocative actions in that region.

Since May, tensions have risen in the Gulf between the U.S. and Iran. According to U.S. assessments, Iran has

attacked six oil tankers, as well as Saudi Arabia and downed a U.S. drone. Iran continues to harass ships and even took control of a UK-flagged vessel in July. Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps fast boats continue to be a threat...”

### **China hosts Japan, South Korea with eyes on nuclear North**

**December 25, 2019 --** *SpaceDaily.com* reports: “China hosts the leaders of squabbling neighbours South Korea and Japan on Tuesday, flexing its diplomatic muscle with America’s two key military allies in Asia and seeking regional unity on how to deal with a belligerent North Korea.

The gathering in the southwestern city of Chengdu is being held with the clock ticking on a threatened ‘Christmas gift’ from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that would reignite global tensions over its nuclear programme.

Kim has promised the unidentified ‘gift’, which analysts and American officials believe could be a provocative missile test, if the United States does not act to make concessions in their nuclear talks by the end of the year.

The gathering in Chengdu will also feature the first one-on-one meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-in for 15 months.

Ties between their two nations have hit rock bottom in recent months over trade issues and other disputes related to decades of bitter wrangling over Japan’s 1910-45 occupation of the Korean peninsula...” **(A huge nuclear war is prophesied multiplied times in God’s Word. Revelation 9:14 – 18 depicts Armageddon: “Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I**

**saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.”** And Revelation 16:16 tells of the longest and final battle of the ages.)

### **China, South Korea and Japan leaders to discuss North Korea tensions**

**December 19, 2019 --** *SpaceDaily.com* reports: “Chinese, Japanese and South Korean leaders will discuss a potential free-trade deal and tensions over the North Korean nuclear issue when they meet in southern China next week, officials said Thursday.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang will host South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for the meeting in Chengdu on Tuesday.

The visiting leaders will also hold separate talks with President Xi Jinping, Chinese vice foreign minister Luo Zhaohui told reporters at a briefing.

The meeting of regional powers comes as tensions have risen between Washington and Pyongyang after North Korea carried out a series of rocket launches.

Nuclear talks between the North and the United States have been largely stalled since the collapse of a February summit in Hanoi between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Pyongyang has issued a year-end ultimatum, promising an ominous ‘Christmas gift’ if Washington does not come up with some concessions...” **(Even if North Korea gives up its nuclear weapons, there are enough remaining in the world to create havoc. Nuclear war is part of the battle of the ages – see Revelation 9:18. Other prophesied texts are predicted**

in Psalm 97:3; Isaiah 66:15; Ezekiel 20:47: “...Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched...” Study also Zephaniah 1:8; Malachi 4:1; and Revelation 8:7. See the next two reports.)

**Russia, China make UN proposal to ease North Korea sanctions**

December 17, 2019 -- *SpaceDaily.com* reports: “Russia and China on Monday proposed easing sanctions against nuclear-armed North Korea, in response to steps the North takes towards denuclearization.

The proposal, in a draft resolution which surprised several diplomatic missions, came the same day Washington’s top representative in talks with North Korea criticized Pyongyang’s ‘hostile’ statements.

The North is under heavy U.S. and United Nations sanctions over its nuclear program, but it has been frustrated at the lack of relief after it declared a moratorium on nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests.

The draft text said the Council ‘shall adjust the sanction measures towards the DPRK as may be needed in light of the DPRK’s compliance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions.’

It also underlined the necessity of having ‘the most favorable approach towards requests for exemptions from existing UN sanctions against the DPRK for humanitarian and livelihood

purposes.’  
The Russian and Chinese proposal did not detail exactly what North Korea will have to do in exchange for an easing of sanctions...”

**New Construction Seen at Missile-Related Site in North Korea**

December 23, 2019 -- *Voice of America News* reports: “A new satellite image of a factory where North Korea makes military equipment used to launch long-range missiles shows the construction of a new structure.

The release of several images from Planet Labs comes amid concern that North Korea could launch a rocket or missile as it seeks concessions in stalled nuclear negotiations with the United States.

North Korea has warned that what ‘Christmas gift’ it gives the U.S. depends on what action Washington takes.

One of the new satellite images taken Dec. 19 shows the March 16 Factory near Pyongyang, where North Korea manufactures trucks used as mobile launchers for its long-range missiles.

Jeffrey Lewis, director of the East Asia nonproliferation program at the Middlebury Institute, tweeted that the construction appeared to be an expansion of the factory...”

**Second China Aircraft Carrier Enters Service**

December 17, 2019 -- *Voice of America News* reports: “China’s second aircraft carrier entered service on Tuesday, adding major firepower to its military

ambitions as it faces tensions with self-ruled Taiwan as well as the U.S. and regional neighbors around the disputed South China Sea.

The commissioning of the warship, named the Shandong, puts China in a small club of nations with multiple aircraft carriers, and the country is reportedly building a third.

China’s first domestically built carrier was delivered to the People’s Liberation Army navy in Sanya, on the southern island of Hainan, at a ceremony attended by President Xi Jinping, state media said.

China has one other carrier — the Liaoning — a repurposed Soviet vessel bought from Ukraine that went into service in 2012.

Around 5,000 people attended Tuesday’s ceremony, singing the national anthem as the national flag was raised, state broadcaster *CCTV* said.

Xi inspected an honor guard during the ceremony and met with service personnel on board the warship...”

**(China and North Korea are prophesied to be top contenders and bloody warriors during the battle of Armageddon – Revelation 16:16. Revelation 16:12 pictures Kings coming to the Middle East, primarily China and North Korea to slay a third-part of mankind in atomic warfare. Revelation 9:14 – 18 the Oriental nations from the East join with Russia – the leader from the North – Daniel 11:44 – for the most horrendous war in history.)**

# CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

**Report: Islamic Persecution of Christians ‘Gaining Traction’ in Africa**

December 12, 2019 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “Christians are experiencing ‘genocidal, religious-based violence’ in many parts of Africa as Islamic

terror groups gain greater traction on the continent, according to Save the Persecuted Christians, a U.S.-based charity.

The West needs to come to terms with the fact that what is going on in Africa is ‘genocidal, religious-based violence, enacted against Christians by Sharia

supremacist extremist groups,’ said Dede Laugesen, executive director of Save the Persecuted Christians, in an interview published Wednesday with *Crux*, an international Catholic news outlet.

‘They must also come to terms with the fact that the Islamic State has not been

defeated, but has merely moved to new territory in Africa and is a growing threat not only there but, if allowed to flourish, to the interests of the United States, Europe and the world,' Mr. Laugesen said.

Several factors are contributing to the increase of Christian persecution in Africa, he said, not least of which is the steady growth of Christianity itself... (Great persecution will soon overtake most Christians in a majority of the world. "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." – Matthew 5:10 – 12; "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember

*the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."* – John 15:18 – 21; "...When he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held." — Revelation 6:9; "...I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." – Revelation 20:4; and "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." – Revelation 2:10. See the next report.)

## **Boko Haram Jihadis Kill Seven in Nigeria on Christmas Eve**

**December 27, 2019 --** *Breitbart.com* reports: "Islamist terror group Boko Haram, an affiliate of the Islamic State, attacked a largely Christian village near Chibok in northeastern Nigeria on Christmas Eve and killed seven people. A teenage girl was also reportedly abducted from the village.

*AFP* quoted locals who said the jihadis emerged from Sambisa Forest, an area covering over 20,000 square miles where Boko Haram hides most of its forces. The attackers arrived in trucks and riding motorcycles.

Bloodshed was minimized by a timely warning to villagers from people new Sambisa who saw the attack force closing in. The jihadis are said to have stolen food from the village and burned a number of homes before returning to the forest with their captive.

The governor of Nigeria's Borno state, Babagana Zulum, confirmed the attack on Thursday and said there may have been two kidnapping victims. Zulum put the casualty count at six dead plus three injured..."

# SUFFER THE CHILDREN

## **Refugee Camp ISIS Child Tells UK Reporter 'We Will Slaughter You'**

**December 16, 2019 --** *Breitbart.com* reports: "Children of Islamic State fighters and their brides in Syrian holding camps may represent a grave threat to the West, with one telling a British reporter: 'We will slaughter you.'

'In Arabic, he first quoted a verse from the Koran: 'God says, 'Turn to Allah with sincere repentance in the hope that your Lord will remove you from your ills,'" recalled *Sky News* correspondent Mark Stone of an encounter with a jihadist 'cub' in the Al Hol camp in Syria, which holds some 70,000 Islamic State women and children, 10,000 of

whom are foreigners.

'He was asking us to repent our sins,' Stone continued.

'And then, calmly, he said: 'We're going to kill you by slaughtering you. We will slaughter you.'

Many Western countries are currently seeking to repatriate children born in the shattered caliphate to women who hold (or held) citizenship in Western countries..." (Proverbs 22:6 states: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This is seen in the New Testament in the life of Timothy. Paul writes in II Timothy 1:5: "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which first dwelt in thy grandmother Lois, and thy

*mother Eunice; and I am persuaded in thee also."* Islam also believes in training up a child – but not to follow the Lord. The Islamic State refers to them as "Cubs of the Caliphate" and has released training videos showing them murdering helpless prisoners. How warped can these barbarians be? Jesus said in Matthew 19:14: "...Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." And in Matthew 18:6 He stated: "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.")

# NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

## **Hamas, Islamic Jihad agree to stand together in future fight with Israel**

**December 19, 2019** -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: “Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and Hamas will join forces in the next round of fighting with Israel, PIJ Secretary-General Ziyad al-Nakhalah said on Thursday.

During the last flare-up between PIJ and Israel, Hamas mostly stayed out of the fighting in a move that drew criticism from several Palestinian factions and some PIJ officials.

The violence erupted after Israel assassinated senior PIJ military commander Baha Abu al-Ata on November 12.

Nakhalah, who is based in Lebanon, said that his group has reached agreement with Hamas ‘to jointly respond to any [Israeli] aggression.’ He warned that any Israeli military strike against the Gaza Strip won’t pass without a response.

Nakhalah repeated PIJ’s commitment to the ‘path of jihad (holy war) notwithstanding the challenges and sacrifices.’

Hamas and PIJ leaders met in Cairo recently as part of Egypt’s effort to secure a long-term ceasefire between the Gaza-based factions and Israel...” **(The nations may say: “...Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance” – Psalm 83:4. It won’t work. God declares: “... I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off” – Isaiah 56:5. See the next report.)**

## **Abbas spokesman: The pressure on Israel will continue**

**December 27, 2019** -- *Israel National News* reports: “The Palestinian Authority (PA) will continue its efforts to work with international parties to pressure Israel to allow holding the Palestinian elections in eastern Jerusalem, a senior official said on Thursday.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, a spokesman for PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas, said in an official statement quoted by *Xinhua* that ‘the pressure on Israel will go on until it accepts the participation of our people in Jerusalem in the elections.’

‘President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian leadership insist that there will be no elections without holding it in East Jerusalem no matter what the pressure will be like on the Palestinian side,’ said Abu Rudeineh...”

## **Hamas official: The goal is ‘liberation of Palestine’**

**December 16, 2019** -- *Israel National News* reports: “Senior Hamas leader Mahmoud al-Zahar said on Sunday that Hamas does not see the parliamentary and presidential elections in the Palestinian Authority (PA) as a goal in itself, but rather as a means of strengthening the plan of resistance against Israel.

In an interview with *Al-Aqsa TV*, Zahar said Hamas would accept any outcome of the elections in accordance with the wishes of the Palestinian public.

The alternative to the plan to fighting Israel is ‘destruction, settlements, theft of land and Judaization of territory,’ he added.

In a direct appeal to the Fatah movement headed by PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas, Zahar said that Fatah must agree to the minimum requirements which include the cessation of the security coordination with Israel and the strengthening of the Palestinian resistance organizations...” **(Genesis 15:18 states: “In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates” and in Joshua 1:4 we read: “From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.” These verses**

**encompass all of the land modern Israel currently possesses, plus all of the land of the Palestinians (the West Bank and Gaza), plus some of Egypt and Syria, plus all of Jordan, plus some of Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Israel currently possesses only a fraction of the land God has promised. See the next two reports.)**

## **‘Jerusalem is ours and will only be Islamic-Christian’**

**December 3, 2019** -- *Israel National News* reports: “PLO Supreme Council for Youth and Sports head Jibril Rajoub wrote on his Facebook page: ‘Our brothers are here – and foremost among them His Honor [PA] Prime Minister [Muhammad Shtayyeh], government ministers, members of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee, commanders of the PA Security Forces, and pillars of the private sector... in order to say to this fascist and Nazi occupation that Jerusalem is ours, and that Jerusalem will only be Islamic-Christian.’ This from Palestinian Media Watch (PMW). Rajoub gave this speech in front of PA Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayyeh, government ministers, members of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee, commanders of the PA Security Forces, and leaders of the private sector at a dinner hosted by the PA presidential institution in honor of the visiting Saudi Arabian national football team...”

## **Luxembourg said pushing for EU states to recognize Palestine**

**December 9, 2019** -- *The Times of Israel* reports: “Luxembourg is pushing its fellow European Union states to recognize Palestine, in response to the recent U.S. declaration that it no longer views Israeli settlements in the West Bank as illegal under international law, *Channel 13* news reported Sunday.

The report said Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn sent a letter

to new EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and to EU foreign ministers, saying the only way to save the two-state solution was to create ‘a more equitable situation’ between Israel and the Palestinians.

‘It is time to start a debate within the European Union on the opportunity of a recognition of the State of Palestine by all its Member States,’ *Channel 13* quoted him as writing.

‘The recognition of Palestine as a State would neither be a favour, nor a blank check, but a simple recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to their own State,’ he wrote. ‘In no way would it be directed against Israel?...’

### **Iranian official threatens to ‘flatten’ Tel Aviv**

**December 10, 2019** -- *Israel National News* reports: “Morteza Ghorbani, a senior adviser to Iranian Revolutionary Guards Commander Hossein Salami, threatened Israel on Monday in response to Foreign Minister Yisrael Katz’s statement that an Israeli attack on Iran is a possibility.

‘If Israel makes a mistake, even if it is the smallest one, against Iran, we will flatten Tel Aviv into dirt from Lebanon,’ Ghorbani told Iranian media, as quoted by *Yediot Aharonot*.

‘Iran does not aspire to possess nuclear weapons, and Israel is too small to make a mistake with us,’ he added.

‘Our fighters’ fingers are on the trigger on the order of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. If the Leader gives an order to attack Israel with missiles – the Zionists will raise their hands and surrender,’ claimed Ghorbani.

The comments come after Katz told the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* that ‘an Israeli attack on Iran is an existing possibility that is under discussion.’

‘We will not allow Iranians to acquire nuclear weapons and if we are forced into a situation of no other choice – we will also respond with military force,’ Katz said...” **(Almighty God has**

**stated: “...I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off” – Isaiah 56:5. Everlasting means everlasting. God promised to Abraham in Genesis 22:17: “... in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore...” “And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt; To drive out nations from before thee greater and mightier than thou art, to bring thee in, to give thee their land for an inheritance, as it is this day. Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else. Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, for ever” – Deuteronomy 4:37 – 40. See the next three reports.)**

### **IDF preparing for confrontation with Iran – Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi**

**December 26, 2019** -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: “The IDF is preparing for a limited confrontation with the Islamic Republic as Israel continues to act against Iranian entrenchment, IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kochavi warned on Wednesday.

‘There is a possibility that we will face a limited confrontation with Iran and we are preparing for it,’ Kochavi said at a conference in honor of former IDF chief of staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak at the IDC Interdisciplinary Center in Herzilya.

‘We will continue to act and responsibly,’ Israel’s top military officer said, adding it would have been better had Israel not been the only one engaged in the effort to stop Iran.

The IDF, he said, is carrying out

operations both publicly and below-the-radar to prevent the enemy from obtaining precision missiles, even if those operations bring about a confrontation...”

### **Iran working on nuclear-capable missiles: European powers**

**December 6, 2019** -- *SpaceDaily.com* reports: “Britain, France and Germany have accused Iran of developing nuclear-capable ballistic missiles in a letter dismissed by Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif on Thursday as ‘a desperate falsehood’.

UN ambassadors for the three countries said in the letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres that Iran’s actions were ‘inconsistent’ with the UN resolution enshrining a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran.

But Zarif on Twitter said the Europeans were covering up their own ‘miserable incompetence’ at abiding by the nuclear deal and were ‘bowing to U.S. bullying’.

The letter referred to footage shared on social media in April this year of the test flight of a new Shabab-3 medium range ballistic missile variant that was ‘technically capable of delivering a nuclear weapon’.

The European powers also pointed to three other launches this year, including that of the Borkan-3, a new medium-range ballistic missile tested by Iranian-backed Houthi forces in Yemen on August 2...”

### **Report: Iran stashing missiles in Iraq that can reach Israel**

**December 6, 2019** -- *Israel National News* reports: “Iran is stockpiling short-range ballistic missiles in Iraq that can reach Israel, according to a *New York Times* report that cited American intelligence and military officials.

The hidden rockets are part of a larger effort by Iran to intimidate countries in the region and assert its power, the *Times* reported. Short-range missiles generally have a range of just over 600 miles, so one fired from just outside of

Baghdad could reach Jerusalem. Iran's effort to build up its arsenal comes as the United States has sent

thousands of troops to the region with plans to send more. The arms in Iraq are reportedly intended to dissuade the

United States, Israel and Saudi Arabia from attacking Iran..."

# WEAPONS OF WARFARE

## **Pentagon Tests Long-banned Ballistic Missile over Pacific**

**December 13, 2019** -- *Voice of America News* reports: "The Pentagon on Thursday flight-tested a missile that had been banned under a treaty that the United States and Russia abandoned last summer. Some U.S. arms control advocates said the test risks an unnecessary arms race with Moscow.

The prototype missile was configured to be armed with a non-nuclear warhead. The Pentagon declined to disclose specifics beyond saying the missile was launched from a 'static launch stand' at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and landed in the open ocean. The Defense Department said the ballistic missile flew more than 500 miles.

The test comes amid growing uncertainty about the future of arms control. The last remaining treaty limitation on U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons — the New Start treaty of 2010 — is scheduled to expire in February 2021. That treaty can be extended for as long as five years without requiring a renegotiation of its main terms. The Trump administration has indicated little interest in doing so..." **(Jesus said discussing events to occur just preceding His return to earth to set up His Kingdom of peace that: "there shall be great tribulation such as never was since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor never shall be again;" – Matthew 24:21. "Come quickly Lord Jesus" – Revelation 22:21. See the next three reports.)**

## **Russia Raises Concerns Over new U.S. Ballistic Missile Test**

**December 13, 2019** -- *Voice of America News* reports: "Russia said on Friday it was alarmed after the United States tested a ground-launched ballistic missile that would have been prohibited under the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the *RIA* news agency reported.

The United States carried out the test on Thursday. Washington formally withdrew from the 1987 INF pact with Russia in August after determining that Moscow was violating the treaty, an accusation the Kremlin has denied.

'It alarms us. Of course we will take this into account,' said Vladimir Ermakov, head of the foreign ministry's arms control and non-proliferation department..."

## **Russia's Avangard hypersonic missile system has entered service**

**December 30, 2019** -- *SpaceDaily.com* reports: "The Avangard is one of half-a-dozen new defence systems unveiled by Moscow in early 2018 as a means of restoring the global strategic nuclear balance amid NATO efforts to press up against Russia's borders and create elements of a ground-based missile shield in Romania and Poland.

The first Strategic Missile Forces regiment to be armed with the nuclear-capable Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle has entered combat duty, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu has confirmed.

'I would like to congratulate every one of us and especially the Strategic Missile Forces. The Avangard strategic missile has been put on combat duty. On behalf of all of us, I congratulate

everyone with this significant event for our country and for its armed forces,' Shoigu said, speaking in a conference call with President Vladimir Putin on Friday.

Russian Strategic Missile Forces commander Col-Gen Sergei Karakaev confirmed that the first Avangard-armed missile regiment has been stationed at the Yasnensky missile compound in Orenburg region, about 1,200 km southeast of Moscow..."

## **Innovative laser system to intercept incendiary balloons**

**December 26, 2019** -- *Israel National News* reports: "Police have developed a laser-based defense system, similar in essence to the Iron Dome system and intended to thwart incendiary balloons and drones launched from Gaza toward Israel, *Yisrael Hayom* reported.

The laser system is known as the 'Light Blade', and police say it is the first in the world to demonstrate operational capability to blast balloons and drones.

The balloons and kite threat from Gaza that sparked fires in the south and hilly localities and that have the capability to carry payloads and other explosive devices, led the Border Patrol and the Police Means Development Department – in collaboration with the Optidefence company to develop this system that recently demonstrated operational ability to intercept..."