

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

THE RUSSIAN BEAR AWAKENS

Russia Says It's 'Not Bluffing' and Warns of Large-Scale Conflict in Europe

December 29, 2021 -- *PJMedia.com* reports: “Russian President Vladimir Putin’s government says he’s ‘not bluffing’ when he issued demands that he knows can’t be accepted by NATO — unless they’re willing to surrender.

The demands are simple: NATO must erase the previous 25 years and pull back to its 1997 borders. That includes kicking out Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, who joined the alliance in 1999; Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia (2004); Albania and Croatia (2009); Montenegro (2017); and North Macedonia (2020).

Currently, Ukraine is begging to join the alliance to maintain its independence. But Putin has made it crystal clear that any attempt by NATO to court Ukraine for membership would start a general conflict — and perhaps a world war...” **(The retaliation has to do with millions dying via missiles loaded with nuclear bombs released by Russia and China –Revelation 9:14 – 18; Psalms 97:3; Isaiah 66:15; Ezekiel 20:47; Joel 2:3, 30; Zephaniah 1:18; Malachi 4:1; and Revelation 8:7. See the next three**

Biden: 'Distinct Possibility' Russia Will Invade Ukraine

January 28, 2022 -- *Voice of America News* reports: “U.S. President Joe Biden warned Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Thursday there is a ‘distinct possibility’ that Russia could invade Ukraine next month, according to a White House statement.

‘President Biden said that there is a distinct possibility that the Russians could invade Ukraine in February,’ Emily Horne, the White House National Security Council spokesperson said. ‘He has said this publicly, and we have been warning about this for months.’

Russia said Thursday there was ‘little ground for optimism’ that tensions would ease in Eastern Europe after the United States rejected its demand that Ukraine be banned from NATO membership and that the West pull back its troop deployment and weaponry from countries bordering Russia...”

Russia Rejects Biden Warning of 'Severe' Actions if it Invades Ukraine

January 26, 2022 -- *Voice of America News* reports: “Russia on Wednesday rejected the prospect of U.S. sanctions against President Vladimir Putin, one of several proposed responses

if Russian forces were to invade neighboring Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that such sanctions would not be politically painful, but would be ‘destructive.’

U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday warned of ‘severe’ and ‘enormous’ consequences for Putin — including personal sanctions against Putin himself — if the Russian leader mobilizes the estimated 127,000 troops who stand ready to strike along the Ukrainian border...”

Europe at greatest risk of war in 30 years, Poland warns

January 13, 2022 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: “Europe is nearer war than it has been in 30 years, Poland’s foreign minister warned during the third round of diplomacy this week aimed at defusing tensions over Russia’s demand that Ukraine never be allowed to join NATO.

Addressing envoys from the 57 members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Zbigniew Rau did not name Russia, but listed a string of conflicts in which Moscow’s involvement has been alleged.

‘It seems that the risk of war in the OSCE area is now greater than ever

before in the last 30 years,' Rau said in a speech outlining his country's priorities as it holds the OSCE's rotating chairmanship this year.

'For several weeks we have been faced with the prospect of a major military escalation in Eastern Europe.'

Poland is among the NATO members that are most hawkish in confronting what it sees as Russia's revisionist ambitions in Eastern Europe..."

Russia to hold naval drills in Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic, Mediterranean

January 21, 2022 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "Russia announced Thursday it will hold huge naval drills in the Atlantic, Arctic, Pacific and Mediterranean this month and February, at a time of heightened tensions with Western nations.

The war games will involve 'more than 140 warships and support vessels, more than 60 aircraft, 1,000 pieces of military equipment, and about 10,000 servicemen,' the defence ministry said in a statement carried by Russian news agencies.

The announcement comes one day ahead of a meeting in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, aimed at defusing tensions between the Kremlin and the West over Ukraine.

The West has accused Russia of massing some 100,000 troops around the borders of its ex-Soviet ally and says Moscow is preparing an invasion. Russia denies the claims and has demanded that NATO limit its presence in Europe and not admit Ukraine as a member of the security bloc..."

(Russia will head up World War III – Armageddon – Revelation 16:16. Russia is described in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, and China in

Revelation 16:12. Also Daniel 12:4 predicts the impact of advanced knowledge, undoubtedly for the weapons for warfare near the hour for Christ's return. See the next four reports.)

Russia launches new military drills in south, Crimea

January 26, 2022 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "The Russian military said Tuesday it had launched exercises involving some 6,000 troops and at least 60 fighter jets in southern Russia near Ukraine and in Moscow-annexed Crimea.

The southern military district described the live-fire drills as a combat readiness check, as tensions rage between Moscow and the West over Crimea.

'Units will practice carrying out a wide range of tasks, including the organisation of comprehensive support for tactical exercises,' the defence ministry said in a statement.

'Combat firing exercises will also be held using all types of aviation, missile divisions and ship groups of the Black Sea Fleet and the Caspian Flotilla.'

Fighter jets and bombers will practise carrying out air strikes 'against targets at the maximum distance', among other tasks, Russian news agencies said, quoting the defence ministry..."

NATO Members Send Ships, Jets to Eastern Europe as Ukraine Tensions Mount

January 24, 2022 -- *Voice of America News* reports: "The North Atlantic Treaty Organization said Monday its members are sending more ships and fighter jets to eastern Europe in response to Russia's military buildup along its border with Ukraine.

A NATO statement noted announced deployments or considerations for sending additional troops and equipment from multiple nations, including Denmark, Spain, France, the Netherlands and the United States.

'NATO will continue to take all necessary measures to protect and defend all allies, including by reinforcing the eastern part of the alliance,' NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said. 'We will always respond to any deterioration of our security environment, including through strengthening our collective defense.'

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov accused the United States and its NATO allies of escalating tensions.

The United States and Britain also announced orders for their embassy staff and family members in Kyiv to leave Ukraine, citing the potential for Russian military action..."

Ukrainians prepare for war with Russia as military aid arrives

January 26, 2022 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Ukraine was preparing for war on Tuesday as the U.S. sent a plane carrying military equipment and munitions to the capital, Kyiv. The third shipment of a \$200 million security package is intended to help Ukraine amid the looming threat of a Russian military incursion.

'Our partners are increasing the amount of military assistance, and today we are meeting the third aircraft from the United States government as part of this assistance,' Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov told reporters before the plane landed.

People in Kyiv said they were nervous about a possible war but were not panicking.

Ukraine Deputy Prime Minister Olha Stefanishyna said the country was more organized today than in 2014, the last time Russia invaded it..."

THE KINGS OF THE EAST

China's Xi warns global confrontation 'invites catastrophic consequences'

January 18, 2022 -- SpaceWar.com reports: "Chinese President Xi Jinping warned on Monday that confrontation between major powers could have 'catastrophic consequences' in a speech to world leaders at an all-virtual Davos forum.

For the second year in a row the face-to-face gathering of political and corporate power players in the Swiss Alps has had to go online thanks to a coronavirus pandemic that shows no sign of abating.

Xi opened proceedings with a speech much like the one he delivered virtually last year.

He touted China — where the coronavirus first emerged in late 2019 — as a rare pandemic success story and the only major economy to continue posting strong growth.

He presented himself as the defender of multilateralism and also gave sober warnings for the future as relations between major powers plunge..." **(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. See the next report.)**

China Eyes Risks and Rewards of U.S.-Russia Standoff Over Ukraine

January 28, 2022 -- Voice of America News reports: "China is watching with growing interest as Russia and the West face off over Ukraine. With more than 100-thousand Russian troops deployed on the Ukrainian border, there

is growing concern among Western nations that the Kremlin is planning an imminent invasion. Moscow has denied any such plans.

Western nations have threatened unprecedented economic sanctions against Moscow if it invades Ukraine. If cut off by the West, could Russia look east, to China, for help? Professor Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, says Beijing is ready to step in.

'China under Xi Jinping has a clear policy of making the world safe for autocrats. And China under Xi Jinping also believes itself to be a leading socialist country now and it has a soft spot for former socialist countries. So, Russia under (President Vladimir) Putin ticks two boxes that make Russia very deserving of Chinese support.'

'The policy I think China is likely to take is to do whatever they can to help the Russians to face up to the economic sanctions that the U.S. and Europeans may impose on Russia. (However) I think economic links between Russia and China are not really strong enough to replace any break of economic links between Russia and Europe,' Tsang told *VOA*..."

China warns U.S. will 'face unbearable price' on Taiwan

December 30, 2021 -- SinoDaily.com reports: "China's foreign minister said Thursday the United States will 'face an unbearable price' over its actions towards the self-ruled island of Taiwan, in Beijing's latest threat over the flashpoint island.

Tensions between China and the U.S. have soared in recent years over issues including human rights, trade and technological competition, with Taiwan emerging as a major flashpoint.

China claims the democratic island of Taiwan as its own territory, and has vowed to seize it one day by force if necessary.

Although most countries have chosen to formally recognise Beijing over Taipei, many have retained strong unofficial links with the latter, which China bristles at.

In an interview with state broadcaster *CCTV* and official news agency *Xinhua* broadcast Thursday, Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned that Washington's interference could lead to a dangerous situation..." **(China will become a basic partner with Russia 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 two reports.)**

China flies 39 warplanes towards Taiwan as tensions with island rise

January 24, 2022 -- News.Sky.com reports: "China has flown dozens of warplanes towards Taiwan in its largest display of power of the new year, continuing a pattern that caused the island to scramble its own jets in response.

The formation of 39 jets on Sunday

night included 24 J-16 fighter jets and 10 J-10 jets, among other support and electronic warfare aircraft, according to Taiwan's defence ministry.

Taiwan's air force tracked the People's Liberation Army planes on its air defence radar systems, it added..."

China's high-tech warplanes pose 'big new threat' to Taiwan

January 26, 2022 -- *SpaceDaily.com* reports: "China's deployment of J-16D jets into Taiwan's air defence zone this week marked the first sighting of the new high-tech warplanes, Taipei confirmed Tuesday, their electronic-jamming equipment posing a fresh threat to the island.

Taiwan lives under the constant spectre of invasion by China, which sees the self-ruled, democratic island as part of its territory to eventually be reclaimed — by force if necessary.

The final quarter of 2021 saw a massive spike of Chinese incursions into Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ), with the biggest single day coming on October 4, when 56 warplanes entered the zone.

Sunday and Monday saw a dramatic show of force as well, with 52 warplanes entering the zone over the two days, according to the island's defence ministry..."

China will continue to 'modernise' nuclear arsenal: foreign ministry

January 4, 2022 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "China Tuesday said it will continue to 'modernise' its nuclear arsenal and called on the United States and Russia to reduce their stockpiles a day after global powers pledged to prevent such weapons spreading.

In a rare joint statement setting aside rising West-East tensions, the United States, China, Russia, Britain and France reaffirmed their goal of creating a world free of atomic weapons and avoiding a nuclear conflict.

The five nuclear powers also committed to full future disarmament from atomic weapons, which have only been used in

conflict in the U.S. bombings of Japan at the end of World War II.

But squaring that rhetoric with reality will not be easy at a time of heightened tension between those same global powers..." (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 says it warned away U.S. warship in South China Sea

January 20, 2022 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Chinese forces followed and warned away a U.S. warship that entered waters near the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, the country's military said on Thursday, in the latest uptick in tensions in the disputed waterway.

The Southern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army said the USS Benfold 'illegally' sailed into Chinese territorial waters without permission, violating the country's sovereignty, and that Chinese naval and air forces tracked the ship.

'We solemnly demand that the U.S. side immediately stop such provocative actions, otherwise it will bear the serious consequences of unforeseen events,' it added.

The U.S. Navy said it was working on a statement..." (A **March 19, 2021 article in *The New York Times* – Tense Talks With China Left U.S. 'Cleareyed' About Beijing's Intentions, Officials Say <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/19/world/asia/china-us-alaska.html> states: "Just as Washington's views on China have shifted after years of encouraging the country's economic integration, so have Beijing's perceptions of the United States and the privileged place in the world that it has long held. The Americans, in their view, no longer have an overwhelming reservoir of global influence, nor the power to wield it against China.**

That has made China more confident in pursuing its aims openly and unabashedly — from human rights issues in Hong Kong and Xinjiang to territorial disputes with India and Japan and others in the South China Sea to, most contentiously of all, the fate of Taiwan, the self-governing democracy that China claims as its own.

While China still faces enormous challenges at home and around the world, its leaders now act as if history is on their side." See the next report.)

Former Top U.S. Commander in Korea Urges Allies to Include China in War Plans

January 11, 2022 -- *Voice of America News* reports: "When developing a new war plan, the United States and South Korea should consider ways to counter China's increasingly aggressive stance in Northeast Asia, a former commander of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) said.

General Robert Abrams, the commander of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) from 2018 to 2021, said in addition to threats from North Korea, Washington and Seoul should develop new operational war plans (OPLANs) that account for military aggression by Beijing, whose presence has 'significantly increased' in the region since 2010..."

Two U.S. carriers enter South China Sea, to 'counter malign influence'

January 24, 2022 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Two U.S. aircraft carrier groups have entered the disputed South China Sea for training, the Department of Defense said on Monday as Taiwan reported a new Chinese air force incursion at the top of the waterway including a fearsome new electronic warfare jet.

The South China Sea and self-governing Taiwan are two of China's most sensitive territorial issues and both are frequent areas of tension between the United States and China.

U.S. Navy ships routinely sail close to Chinese-occupied islands in the South China Sea to challenge Chinese sovereignty claims, as well as through the Taiwan Strait, to Beijing's anger..."

(God help America. Revelation 9: 14 – 18 is the prophecy describing Armageddon: ...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.) The good news is that Dr. Van Impe dogmatically believed that this battle is fought after the Rapture: "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth – Revelation 3:10; ...I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was

as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter – Revelation 4:1; ...the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord – I Thessalonians 4:16 – 18. Rest upon God's Word: Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ – Titus 2:13. See the next three reports.)

Sounding alarm on China, Japan and U.S. vow to collaborate more on defense

January 7, 2022 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "The United States and Japan on Friday voiced strong concern about China's growing might in unambiguous terms and pledged to work together against attempts to destabilize the region.

The comments from the two allies, in a joint statement that followed a virtual meeting of their foreign and defense ministers, highlight how deepening alarm about China – and growing tension over Taiwan – have put Japan's security role in focus.

The ministers expressed concerns that China's efforts 'to undermine the rules-based order' presented 'political, economic, military and technological challenges to the region and the world', according to their statement.

'They resolved to work together to deter and, if necessary, respond to destabilizing activities in the region,' it said..."

Japan extends U.S. military support amid China, North Korea 'challenges'

January 10, 2022 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "Japan moved ahead with an expansion of support to U.S. troops as the allies held top-level talks on Friday over tensions with

China and North Korea.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the two nations were signing a five-year extension of the support package provided by Japan for the hosting of around 50,000 U.S. troops on its soil.

The new agreement 'will invest greater resources to deepen our military readiness and interoperability', Blinken said at the opening of four-way virtual talks between the allies' foreign and defence chiefs.

'Our allies must not only strengthen the tools we have but also develop new ones,' Blinken said Thursday in Washington..."

Japan, Australia sign defence treaty with eyes on China

January 6, 2022 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "Japan and Australia on Thursday signed a 'landmark' treaty to strengthen defence ties, saying the accord would contribute to regional stability, as China expands its military and economic clout.

While Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison did not mention Beijing directly in a statement released ahead of the signing, the agreement is seen as another step by the regional allies to signal their concern over China's military expansion.

Ahead of Thursday's online summit with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, Morrison called the agreement 'a statement of two nations' commitment to work together in meeting the shared strategic security challenges we face and to contribute to a secure and stable Indo-Pacific'.

'This landmark treaty will... for the first time provide a clear framework for enhanced inter-operability and cooperation between our two forces,' Morrison said..."

North Korea Fires Two More Missiles, Continuing Dizzying Pace of Launches

January 25, 2022 -- *Voice of America News* reports: "North Korea launched a pair of cruise missiles early Tuesday,

according to South Korea’s military, Pyongyang’s fifth missile test of the new year.

The missiles were fired from an inland area and landed in the sea off Korea’s east coast, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported.

South Korea’s military confirmed the launch in a message to *VOA*, saying authorities are still conducting a detailed analysis.

So far this year, North Korea has fired eight missiles during five separate

launch events. Last week, North Korea also threatened to resume long-range missile and nuclear tests.

North Korea is prohibited from any ballistic missile activity, including launches of any range, by a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions. The resolutions, however, do not prohibit cruise missile tests...” 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.)

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

YouTube Removes John MacArthur’s Latest Sermon on Biblical Sexuality, Labels It ‘Hate Speech’

January 21, 2022 – *ChristianHeadlines.com* reports: “YouTube has removed a recent sermon by Pastor John MacArthur in which he talks about biblical sexuality and asserts that God made humans as ‘male and female.’

According to *CBN News*, MacArthur, who leads Grace Community Church in Los Angeles, CA, preached a sermon as part of a nationwide protest against a new Canadian law banning conversion therapy.

‘There is no such thing as transgender,’ MacArthur said at the pulpit on Sunday. You are either XX or XY, that’s it. God made man male and female. That is determined genetically, that is physiology, that is science, that is reality.’

‘On the one hand, the reality of that lie and deception is so damaging, so destructive, so isolating, so corrupting that it needs to be confronted, but on the other hand, that confrontation can’t exaggerate what already exists, which is a sense of feeling isolated in relationships,’ he added.

Pastors and church leaders expressed concern that the broad language in Canada’s C-4 Bill, which went into effect on January 8, could lead to the

prohibition of sermons on biblical sexuality...” (*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! – Isaiah 5:20. This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away – II Timothy 3:1-5. See the next report.)*

UK MPs concerned for Finnish Christian politician on trial for sexuality beliefs

January 21, 2022 – *ChristianToday.com* reports: “Three Christian MPs have launched a motion in the House of Commons in support of Päivi Räsänen, the Finnish politician facing trial next week for her belief in traditional marriage.

Democratic Unionist MPs Gregory Campbell, Paul Girvan and Jim Shannon, representing constituencies in Northern Ireland, are behind the Early Day Motion (EDM), which they tabled this week to attract signatures

from fellow MPs.

The motion highlights Räsänen’s ‘quoted and reported comments before the court case that she will not back down from her views and will not be intimidated into hiding her faith, and the more Christians keep silent on controversial themes, the narrower the space for freedom of speech gets’.

It expresses concern ‘at the potential implications of that case for other countries’ and ‘further notes the range of non-Christian groups and individuals who have criticised the decision to prosecute’.

Finland’s Prosecutor General has brought three criminal charges against Christian Democrat MP Räsänen over a pamphlet she wrote on marriage and sexuality in 2004, for engaging in a debate on a 2019 radio show, and for a tweet picturing Bible verses she directed at her Lutheran church leadership over its support for a Pride march...”

Afghanistan replaces North Korea as most dangerous place to be a Christian

January 20, 2022 – *ChristianToday.com* reports: “Afghanistan has topped the Open Doors 2022 World Watch List of the 50 countries where Christians face the worst persecution.

North Korea was number one on the list for 20 years but the devastating fallout

from the Taliban takeover has pushed Afghanistan to the top spot.

Open Doors warned of Christian men ‘facing almost certain death’ if their faith is discovered. For women and girls, the price of their faith is being married to young Taliban fighters as the ‘spoils of war’, or being trafficked.

The Taliban are using existing intelligence to actively track down Christians, going door-to-door to find them. Once discovered, they are often detained in order to identify more Christians. Then they are killed, Open Doors said.

Much of the tiny, hidden Christian population of Afghanistan has now fled to rural regions or refugee camps in neighbouring countries, according to the human rights group, but many of these countries are also hostile to Christians...” *(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 have 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 your also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the*

synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me – John 15:18 – 24; 16:1 – 3.)

Islamic Rage Against the Christian Cross

December 28, 2021 -- PJMedia.com reports: “Christian elementary school students in an Egyptian school were recently ‘beaten up by teachers and fellow students after the headmaster ordered all Christian students to remove any jewelry bearing a cross [and they refused],’ to quote from a Nov. 21, 2021 report. In one incident, a female teacher ‘attacked a Christian student, then encouraged other students to do the same, take his cross pendant from him and destroy the cross.’

At least these latest bouts of anti-cross rage were not fatal, as others in Egypt were. In 2011, 17-year-old Ayman, a Christian student, was strangled and beaten to death by his Muslim teacher and fellow students for refusing to obey the teacher’s demand that he cover his cross. When the school’s principal was informed of the attack, he ignored it and ‘continued to sip his tea.’...

What is it about the crucifix that makes some Muslims react violently? For starters, not only is it the symbol of Christianity for all denominations; it also symbolizes the fundamental disagreement between Christians and Muslims. As Historian Sidney Griffith explains, ‘[t]he cross ... publicly declared those very points of Christian faith which the Koran, in the Muslim view, explicitly denied: that Christ was the Son of God and that he died on the cross.’ Accordingly, the cross ‘often aroused the disdain of

so that from the start of the seventh-century Muslim conquests of Christian lands there was an ongoing ‘campaign to erase the public symbols of Christianity, especially the previously ubiquitous sign of the cross.’...” **(The clash between the Cross and the Crescent has been in existence for centuries. Dr. Erwin Lutzer wrote in his book *The Cross in the Shadow of the Crescent*: “We should note that Muslims were destroying crosses long before the Crusades... When Muslim invaders entered Jerusalem in 637, they did away with all crosses and would not allow them to be displayed. The symbol that lies at the heart of the Christian faith was utterly abolished. And that’s the way it has been ever since.” See the next report.)**

Islamic Raiders Kill 28 Christians in South Sudan

January 14, 2022 -- Breitbart.com reports: “Islamist extremists raided the Christian community of Yin Pabol in South Sudan, killing at least 28 residents and torching 57 houses in early January, the Barnabas Fund reported this week.

Bishop Joseph Mamer Manot of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS) said that the attack caused ‘massive displacement,’ adding that ‘the humanitarian situation is alarming as food and other property have been burned down into ashes, leaving survivors with no shelters, no food and no safe drinking water.’

In its report, the Barnabas Fund said the attack is the latest example of violent assaults on South Sudanese Christians by Muslim Massiriya tribesmen from the Republic of Sudan, along the disputed border separating the two countries...”

NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Hamas leader: Israel has no future in Palestine

January 10, 2022 -- Israel National News reports: “Ismail Haniyeh,

the leader of the Hamas terrorist organization, said in an interview with *Al-Jazeera* on Sunday that ‘there is no way other than the return of the

Palestinians to their homeland and the villages from which they were expelled.’ Haniyeh described Hamas as a ‘national liberation movement that respects those

who believe in national unity and relies on the concept of partnership in which all organizations participate in the political game and in the fighting.’

‘The issue of the release of security prisoners is a clear national matter and Hamas is always discussing ways to bring about their release from the Israeli prison,’ he stated...” **(930 times God promises Jerusalem forever to the Jews. Ours was the first nation to recognize the sovereign state of Israel in 1948, but we have moved further and further away. God promised to Abraham: “...I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of**

the earth be blessed” – Genesis 12:2, 3. Soon all Hell will break loose in the Middle East. Joel 3:2 warns today’s politicians that World War III occurs because of parting God’s land. It won’t succeed. Christ will return, stop the horrendous war and reign over the world from the Throne of David in Jerusalem forever – Revelation 11:18; Luke 1:32, 33. See the next report.)

Iran reveals ‘untold story’ of arming Palestinians in Gaza

January 11, 2022 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: “Iranian media, to mark the anniversary of the death of Qasem Soleimani, have provided unique new details about Iran’s support for Palestinian groups.

In a recent article from the *Tasnim News* branch located in Damascus, a report claims to provide new details on the ‘untold’ story of how the Islamic Republic ran guns and technology to Palestinian groups. The report says that Soleimani, the Quds Force commander in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, worked for more than two decades to make Iran the ‘most relevant to different groups in Palestine’ that were established.

Iran’s media says that Soleimani’s strategy was to ‘work closely with all these groups, regardless of their religious or political tastes, and this strategy was able to multiply the power of the resistance against the Zionist regime in Palestine.’...”

PLAGUES AND PESTILENCES

Scientists worry an avian flu killing thousands of cranes in Israel could spread to humans

December 31, 2021 -- *Israel National News* reports: “As the Omicron variant of the coronavirus spreads across Israel, scientists in the country are worried about a new infectious disease threat: an avian flu that has killed thousands of wild birds migrating through Israel in the past month and has already spread to Israeli poultry farms.

Thousands of crane carcasses from birds infected with the disease have been found at the Hula Lake Reserve in the north of Israel, which becomes a major site for migrating birds to feed as they fly through the country twice each year.

The Israeli government is now killing off thousands of chickens in an effort to stop the flu from spreading unchecked through poultry farms and to reduce the chances of the flu jumping from birds to humans.

Israel’s Environmental Protection Minister Tamar Zandberg said the flu caused ‘the worst blow to wildlife in the country’s history,’ according to *The*

Times of Israel. More than half a million chickens from Israeli farms have been killed thus far...” (Jesus predicted ‘pestilences’ would inundate the globe just preceding His return to set up His Kingdom. – “*For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places*” – Matthew 24:7; “*And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven*” – Luke 21:11; “*And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth*” – Revelation 6:7, 8. See the next report.)

Five human cases of H5N6 bird flu reported in China

January 18, 2022 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: “Five human cases of the H5N6 strain of avian influenza

have been reported in China in recent weeks, the Center for Health Protection (CHP) of the Hong Kong Department of Health reported on Thursday. Two of the patients have died.

Four out of the five cases had confirmed exposure to poultry, although it is as of yet unclear how the fifth case got infected, according to the Department of Health. All the cases were infected in December.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported on Friday that all the cases had a history of exposure to poultry prior to infection and that none of their family members had developed symptoms. No epidemiological links were found between the five cases.

Additionally, between January 7 and 13, four new cases of human infections of the H9N2 strain of bird flu were reported in China. All four are in mild condition and have already recovered. All had a history of poultry exposure and no epidemiological links were found between the four cases. 24 cases of H9N2 were reported in China in 2021...”