

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

## SANCTITY OF LIFE

### **Abortion is leading cause of death worldwide for fourth year in a row**

**Jan. 5, 2023** -- *ChristianPost.com* reports: “Statistics reveal that abortion was the leading cause of death worldwide for the fourth year in a row, as the number of abortions nearly quadrupled the number of deaths from infectious diseases in 2022.

Worldometer, a database that keeps track of statistics about health, the global population and other metrics in real-time, continuously compiles information about the number of abortions worldwide. The last available snapshot of the Worldometer from 2022, captured on Dec. 31 by the internet archiving tool The Wayback Machine, shows that more than 44 million abortions took place last year.

While Worldometer cites a fact sheet from the World Health Organization as the source for its abortion statistics,

the WHO maintains that ‘around 73 million induced abortions take place worldwide each year.’ The global organization characterizes abortion as an essential health service.

The second leading cause of death in 2022, as identified by the Worldometer, was communicable diseases, causing nearly 13 million casualties. The deaths attributed to infectious diseases, as well as the more than 8 million deaths caused by cancer, the approximately 5 million fatalities triggered by smoking, the roughly 2.5 million alcohol-related deaths and the nearly 2 million deaths caused by AIDS this year combined add up to less than the number of lives lost to abortion in 2022...” (According to the Guttmacher Institute: “During 2010–2014, an estimated 56 million induced abortions occurred each year worldwide. This number represents an increase from 50 million annually during 1990–1994, mainly because of population growth.” Keeping it at

that estimate, there have been over 448 million induced abortions worldwide since 2010. The population of the United States in 2022 was 334,233,854.

*These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren”-- Proverbs 6:16-19 [emphasis mine].*

Abortionists break God’s sixth commandment ‘Thou shalt not kill’ – Exodus 20:13. Those who take lives are regarded as murderers and miss an eternal existence with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. If repentance occurs, and the sins of abortion are confessed and repented of, one is pardoned and sins are forgiven and forgotten – I John 1:9; Hebrews 8:12.)

## CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

### **Fears for Christians as Pakistan moves to tighten blasphemy laws**

**Jan. 24, 2023** – *ChristianToday.com* reports: “A Bill passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan earlier this month has led to increased fears for the country’s

persecuted Christian minority.

The Criminal Laws (Amendment Bill) was passed unanimously by the assembly on 17 January and increases the penalty for insulting the Prophet Muhammad’s companions, wives and family members from three years to 10

years in prison.

The crime also carries a one million rupee fine (around £3,500).

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) said the new Bill makes Pakistan’s existing blasphemy laws ‘more stringent’ and has sparked ‘alarm’

within minority communities who fear the change will fuel human rights abuses and make them even more of a target for harassment.

Christian human rights groups have long warned that Pakistan's blasphemy laws are being routinely misused as a pretext for mob violence and to settle grudges and personal scores against religious minorities..." *(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. 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* – John 15:18-24. See the next report.)

**North Korea ranks as worst persecutor of Christians after enacting 'anti-reactionary thought law'**

Jan. 18, 2023 -- *ChristianPost.com* reports: "North Korea has reclaimed its position as the world's worst persecutor of Christians, according to the latest World Watch List report prepared by the religious persecution watchdog Open Doors U.S.

Open Doors U.S. released its 2023 World Watch List on Tuesday. The document, released annually since 1993, ranks the countries of the world based on the severity of the persecution and discrimination Christians are subjected

to. While Afghanistan took the top spot in 2022, North Korea regained its status as the world's worst persecutor of Christians in 2023. Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Sudan round out the top-10 worst persecutors of Christians on this year's World Watch List.

In a statement announcing the findings of the 2023 World Watch List, Open Doors U.S. cited an 'anti-reactionary thought law' implemented in North Korea as a particularly troubling development. Open Doors U.S. Interim CEO Lisa Pearce told *The Christian Post* in an interview that the law was enacted in 2020.

Pearce described the 'anti-reactionary thought law' as a 'way to legitimize persecuting anybody who has any literature, anything of Western influence,' including the Bible..."

**'Trans people are divine': So-called 'Christian' pastor says 'transphobia is a sin'**

January 18, 2023 -- *WND.com* reports: "A pastor and his wife said people who identify as transgender are 'divine' in a Facebook post over the weekend and called for Christians to join a campaign condemning transphobia.

The Rev. Chris Bruesehoff is a pastor at St. Michael's Lutheran Church and his wife, Jamie, who describes herself as a 'queer' 'clergy spouse,' wrote that they were joining a campaign to combat transphobia in the church, according to a Facebook post. On Jamie Bruesehoff's social media account, Chris Bruesehoff can be seen inside his church holding a sign stating 'Transphobia is a Sin,' while his wife captioned the post 'trans people are divine.'

Jamie Bruesehoff stated that her husband's activism is 'critical' as a 'leader in the church.'

'It is critical that we both, as people of Christian faith committed to justice and who love and care for transgender people,

declare that not only is transphobia a sin, but transgender people are whole and holy,' Jamie Bruesehoff wrote..." *(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.)*

**Top U.S. medical school says INFANTS can be 'queer,' 'asexual'**

January 12, 2023 -- *WND.com* reports: "Did you know a newborn baby could be 'queer' right out of the womb? How about 'asexual' or 'transgender'?"

A new College Fix report uncovers a recurring Harvard Medical School course that offers 'clinical exposure and education' focusing on 'serving gender and sexual minority people across the lifespan, from infants to older adults.'

The course is offered at Massachusetts General Hospital, which offers 'gender-affirming surgical procedures' for ages 18 and up, according to the report. Translation: MGH performs transgender operations such as removing the healthy breasts of women who seek such mutilating 'surgeries' as part of their quest to live as 'men,' i.e., to match their perceived 'gender identity.'

'This elective is a four-week multidisciplinary clinical-and-scholarly experience that trains students to provide high-quality, culturally responsive care for patients with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and sex development,' reads the course description..."

# TEMPLE MOUNT TROUBLES

## **Ben-Gvir visits Temple Mount: 'Israel will not give in to Hamas threats'**

**January 3, 2023** -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Israel's new government 'will not give in to threats from Hamas,' National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said as he arrived at the Temple Mount on Tuesday morning for his planned pilgrimage to the Jerusalem holy site.

'The Temple Mount is the most important place for the Jewish people,' the minister said in a statement made following his visit to the religious site. 'We [will] maintain freedom of movement for Muslims and Christians,' Ben-Gvir stressed, adding that 'Jews will climb the mountain.'

'Those who make threats will be dealt with an iron fist,' the minister further warned.

Opposition head and former prime minister Yair Lapid had previously warned that such a visit by Ben-Gvir would spark tensions in Jerusalem and the West Bank, saying that 'as weak as Bibi is, he must this time stand up and tell [Ben-Gvir] not to visit the Temple Mount, since people will die,' Lapid said..." **(In Genesis 22:1-14 God commanded Abraham to bring his son Isaac to the land of Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice there. As he was about to complete the sacrifice, God stopped him and provided a ram as a substitutionary sacrifice. In I Chronicles 21:18 – 26, King David purchased this mount so he could build an altar to offer a sacrifice when he confessed his sin. This was the location where the angel of the Lord was commanded to stop the destruction of Jerusalem [I Chronicles 21:15]. In II Chronicles 3:1, King Solomon built the First Temple on Mount Moriah, this was started in 966 BC. This Temple stood until 586 BC when it was destroyed by the Babylonians. The Second Temple was built in 516 BC and enlarged by Herod the Great in 12 BC. It stood until it was destroyed**

**by the Romans in AD 70. The Dome of the Rock was built in AD 692, and the Al Aqsa Mosque was not built until AD 705. It is obvious who has the rightful claim to the Temple Mount. See the next four reports.)**

## **Israel and Palestinians in holy site war of words**

**January 6, 2023** -- *BBC.com* reports: "Israeli and Palestinian envoys have traded accusations at a UN meeting over an Israeli minister's visit to a contested holy site in Jerusalem.

The Palestinian ambassador said Israel displayed 'absolute contempt' for the international community, and demanded the UN take action.

His Israeli counterpart accused the Palestinians of mounting 'a poisonous campaign' to erase Jewish history.

The minister's visit on Tuesday was seen by Palestinians as provocative.

It was made by Israel's new National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, a far-right political leader known for past anti-Arab statements and once convicted of incitement to racism.

Mr Ben-Gvir's visit was his first public act since the government, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was sworn in five days earlier.

The hilltop site is the most sacred place in Judaism and the third holiest in Islam. It is known to Jews as the Temple Mount, site of two Biblical temples, and to Muslims as Haram al-Sharif, the site of Muhammad's ascent to Heaven. The entire compound is considered to be al-Aqsa Mosque by Muslims..."

## **Palestinians: Changing status quo at Temple Mount a 'declaration of war'**

**January 2, 2023** -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "The Palestinian Authority on Monday warned that any attempt by Israel to change the status quo at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound (Temple Mount) or 'annex' parts of the West Bank would be considered as a declaration of war.

Palestinian officials warned that

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's intention to visit the Temple Mount would lead to violence.

PA presidential spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudaineh said that 'the repeated Israeli threats to change the historical status quo in the al-Aqsa Mosque would have serious consequences for everyone.'

He reiterated the Palestinians' opposition to allowing Jews to pray at the site.

Abu Rudaineh warned that settlement activities in the West Bank and the ongoing 'daily killings' of Palestinians would also have serious repercussions..."

## **EU diplomats visit Temple Mount, express support for Jordan custodianship**

**January 18, 2023** -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "European Union diplomats who toured the al-Aqsa Mosque compound (Temple Mount) on Wednesday expressed support for the Jordanian custodianship over the holy site, Azzam al-Khatib, Director-General of the Jordanian-controlled Waqf Department in Jerusalem, said.

'This was a successful visit,' Khatib told reporters. 'We waited for this visit for a long time.'

He said the European delegation came to the site carrying two messages.

'The first message expressed support for His Majesty's custodianship over the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, especially the al-Aqsa Mosque,' Khatib said. 'The second message expressed support for the Waqf Department, which implements His Majesty's custodianship over the Islamic sites, especially the al-Aqsa Mosque.'

Khatib voiced deep appreciation for the EU's support for the Palestinians and the two-state solution..."

## **Jordanian lawmaker says 'Jordanians will become suicide bombers for Al-Aqsa'**

**January 5, 2023** -- *YnetNews.com* reports: "A member of Jordan's parliament on Wednesday said that

Jordanians would become ‘suicide bombers’ for the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in response to the previous day’s visit to the Temple Mount by National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir.

Using an antisemitic reference to Jews as ‘the sons of monkeys and pigs,’

MP Yanal Abd al-Salam Nour al-Din al-Fraihat said in a speech at Jordan’s national assembly in the capital Amman that ‘the response of the Palestinian and Jordanian people at the moment is only talk, but this is a volcano and soon the response will be with lead bullets.’

Al-Fraihat said that ‘as soon as the

Al-Aqsa Mosque is involved, this is a real red line and all Jordanians will become fighters and suicide bombers for Palestine and for Al-Aqsa.’

The lawmaker has previously supported terrorism against Israel and called for Jordan to renew relations with the Gaza-based terrorist group Hamas...”

# NEWS FROM ISRAEL

## **UN condemned Israel more than all other countries combined in 2022**

**January 3, 2023** -- *The Times of Israel* reports: “The United Nations General Assembly passed more resolutions critical of Israel than against all other nations combined in 2022, contributing to what observers call an ongoing lopsided focus on the Jewish state at the world body.

The General Assembly approved 15 anti-Israel resolutions last year, versus 13 resolutions criticizing other countries, according to a tally by the pro-Israel monitoring group UN Watch. Russia was the focus of six resolutions condemning its invasion of Ukraine. North Korea, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Iran and the U.S. were hit with one resolution each.

Saudi Arabia, China, Lebanon, Turkey, Venezuela and Qatar, which have poor human rights records or were involved in regional conflicts, were not dinged by any resolutions criticizing them.

Since 2015, the General Assembly has adopted 140 resolutions criticizing Israel, mainly over its treatment of the Palestinians, its relationships with neighboring countries and other alleged wrongdoings. Over the same period, it has passed 68 resolutions against all other countries, UN Watch said...” *(Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then*

*shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him. – Psalm 2:1-12. See the next report.)*

## **U.S. warns Israeli sanctions against PA will ‘exacerbate tensions’**

**January 10, 2023** -- *The Times of Israel* reports: “U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price on Monday condemned the sanctions approved by the Israeli government against the Palestinian Authority over Ramallah’s successful effort to have the International Court of Justice weigh in on Israel’s conduct in the Palestinian territories.

Price referred to the sanctions imposed by Israel as a ‘unilateral response’ that will ‘exacerbate tensions,’ while noting that they were no less problematic in Washington’s eyes than the PA’s pursuit of an ICJ advisory opinion at the UN last month.

‘This is part of the reason why we’ve opposed the Palestinian move when it comes to the ICJ, knowing that it would potentially only serve to increase tensions,’ Price said, after being probed

on the topic during the daily press briefing. ‘We believe [the Palestinian effort at the UN] was counterproductive, only taking the parties further away from the objective of a negotiated two-state solution.’

He added that Biden administration officials were discussing the issue with both Israeli and Palestinian officials privately...”

## **Netanyahu: Whoever needs a reminder of our red lines will get it**

**January 11, 2023** -- *Israel National News* reports: “Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, this afternoon (Tuesday), at IDF Northern Command headquarters, held a security assessment in which they were briefed on intelligence, operational activity and the challenges in the northern sector. They discussed the threats along the borders with Lebanon and Syria and the ability of the IDF and the security forces to deal with them.

National Security Council Director Tzachi Hanegbi, IDF Deputy Chief-of-Staff Maj.-Gen. Amir Baram, GOC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Ori Gordin, Prime Minister’s Military Secretary Maj.-Gen. Avi Gil and other senior officers also participated in the assessment.

Prime Minister Netanyahu said before the assessment: ‘I am here visiting IDF Northern Command with the Defense Minister and the commanders. The main enemy that we face is the terrorist regime in Iran and its proxies in Syria and Lebanon. We are determined to fight Iran’s attempts to develop a nuclear arsenal. We are determined to fight any attempt by Iran to entrench militarily

in Syria on our northern border. We are determined to fight any attempt by Hezbollah to show aggression against us in Lebanon. Whoever needs a reminder about our red lines on this matter will receive it.'...' (They may threaten Israel, but Psalm 121 states: *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.* Notice especially verse 4 – *Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. During his confrontation with the prophets of*

**Baal, Elijah mocked the prophets after they were unable to get a response from Baal. I Kings 18:27 states: *And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. God does not sleep, and He will preserve Israel.***

***'If Israel is abandoned, Netanyahu will bomb Iran's nuclear facilities'***

**January 16, 2023 --** *Israel National News* reports: "Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is prepared to use military force to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities, the head of Israel's National Security Council said Monday.

Speaking with *Channel 12* during the ceremony Monday marking the transfer of control of the IDF from outgoing chief of staff Aviv Kochavi to his successor, Herzi Halevi, National Security Council chief Tzachi Hanegbi said that should Israel find itself isolated

and without alternatives vis-à-vis Iran's nuclear program, Netanyahu would undoubtedly use force to prevent Tehran from realizing its atomic ambitions.

'If we are abandoned, Prime Minister Netanyahu will attack Iran's nuclear facilities.'

Hanegbi, a long-time ally of Netanyahu who thrice served as minister in the prime minister's office and also served as acting prime minister in Netanyahu's stead, said Israel has been preparing for a scenario in which it must act alone against Iran...' (According to ***GlobalFirepower.com***, the United States has the highest Military Strength Rating, Israel is number 15, and Iran is number 21. Even if Iran were more powerful than Israel, history has shown us that when Israel is attacked by superior forces, the result is that Israel gets a new national holiday. **Yahweh God has promised: ...I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off – Isaiah 56:5.**)

## NEWS FROM RUSSIA

***Russia to modernize nuclear forces in 2023, add more multi-warhead nukes***

**January 4, 2023 --** *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Russia is bolstering its strategic nuclear forces in 2023 with further deployment of multi-warhead nuclear missiles and further modernization of its long-range strategic bomber division, the Russian Defense Ministry announced this week.

The Strategic Rocket Forces branch of the Russian military is set to complete the replacement of the older Topol-M missile system with the RS-24 Yars among its mobile grouping, the ministry said on Tuesday.

The Yars mobile ground missile system is a multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle (MIRV), which contains several thermonuclear warheads, each of which can hit different targets.

The Defense Ministry also said on Monday that the main tasks of the Long-Range Aviation division (ADD), which is tasked with Russia's nuclear-capable

strategic bombers, would be training, servicing, modernizing and adopting new equipment as it takes part in the Ukraine war...' (Russia in Bible prophecy is the main instigator of death and suffering during Armageddon – **Revelation 16:16. Ezekiel chapters 38 & 39, which Dr. Van Impe has proclaimed for sixty years, aided by Oriental and Islamic nations, bring total chaos and atomic devastation upon the world. Worse yes, it's just ahead of us. Every nation he included in World War III is forming exactly as taught this global blood bath six decades ago. The only good news is that the Rapture precedes Armageddon – "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. Then our deliverance as believers – Revelation 4:1 and our joy because of missing Armageddon. See the next two reports.)**

***Russia produces first nuclear warheads for Poseidon super torpedo***

**January 16, 2023 --** *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Russia has produced the first nuclear warheads for the Poseidon super torpedoes to be deployed on the Belgorod nuclear submarine, *TASS* reported on Monday, citing an unidentified defense source.

'The first Poseidon ammunition loads have been manufactured, and the Belgorod submarine will receive them in the near future,' *TASS* quoted the source as saying.

President Vladimir Putin first announced what would become known as Poseidon in 2018, saying it was a fundamentally new type of strategic nuclear weapon with its own nuclear power source.

In the 2018 speech, Putin said the range of the torpedo would be unlimited and that it could operate at extreme depths at a speed many times that of any submarine or other torpedoes.

'They are very low noise, have high

maneuverability and are practically indestructible for the enemy. There is no weapon that can counter them in the world today,' Putin said..."

**Medvedev threatens U.S. with hypersonic cruise missiles, likens U.S. to Nazis**

**January 6, 2023** -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev threatened the United States of America with hypersonic cruise missiles and compared the American government's policies to that of Nazis in a Thursday Telegram post in response to a U.S. embassy appeal to Russian citizens for peace.

'The main gift of the New Year was the arsenal of Zircon missiles that went yesterday to the shores of NATO countries,' said Medvedev, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin who currently serves as Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council.

The nuclear warhead-capable Zircon missiles were reported by *Reuters* Wednesday to have been placed on the frigate Admiral Gorshkov to be deployed to the Indian and Atlantic oceans.

'1000 km range with hypersonic Mach 9 and the ability to use any payload with a guarantee overcome any missile defense,' threatened Medvedev. 'Let it [Gorshkov] stand somewhere 100 miles from the coast, closer to the Potomac River.'

The Potomac flows through Washington DC, the capital of the United States..."

**Putin ally Medvedev warns NATO of nuclear war if Russia defeated in Ukraine**

**January 19, 2023** -- *Reuters* reports: "Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, an ally of Kremlin chief Vladimir Putin, warned NATO on Thursday that the defeat of Russia in Ukraine could trigger a nuclear war.

Striking a similar tone at what he described as an anxious time for the country, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church said trying to destroy Russia would mean the end of the world. Since Russia invaded Ukraine, Medvedev has repeatedly raised the

threat of a nuclear apocalypse, but his admission now of the possibility of Russia's defeat indicates the level of Moscow's concern over increased Western weapons deliveries to Ukraine..." (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. See the next three reports.)*

**Russia rolls out more threats against the West**

**January 23, 2023** -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Russia, which invaded Ukraine almost a year ago, continues to use threatening rhetoric to try to dissuade the West from increasing its military support for Kyiv. Western countries want to send more air defenses and armored vehicles to Ukraine this year, beefing up Ukraine's ability to defend itself and go on the offensive. For Moscow, this presents another problem because Russia continues to be frustrated by its inability to achieve any semblance of victory in Ukraine.

Every time Russia feels it is failing it tries to roll out new threats, mostly aimed at convincing western media that Moscow might use nuclear weapons or escalate the war in some way. The latest comments are by State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin. He gave new warnings on Sunday that 'Weapons supplies to Ukraine by the United States

and NATO for attacks on Russia would lead to retaliatory use of more powerful armaments,' Russia's state media TASS reported..."

**Kremlin warns of escalation if West gives Ukraine longer range weapons**

**January 20, 2023** -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "The Kremlin on Thursday warned of escalation in Ukraine if the West gives the pro-Western country more weapons capable of striking Russia.

'Potentially, this is extremely dangerous, it will mean bringing the conflict to a whole new level, which, of course, will not bode well from the point of view of global and pan-European security,' Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The warning comes on the eve of a key donor meeting as Western countries consider sending more powerful weapons to Ukraine.

On Friday, the United States will gather its allies at its airbase in Ramstein for a new round of talks on backing Ukraine militarily.

Peskov spoke after Moscow's ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov said Russia would retaliate if Ukraine uses Western-supplied weapons to target Russia or the Crimea peninsula, annexed from Ukraine in 2014..."

**NATO, EU eye 'next level' partnership in face of Russia threat**

**January 10, 2023** -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "NATO and the EU are seeking to ramp up cooperation after Russia's invasion of Ukraine upended the European security order, a joint declaration seen by *AFP* on Monday said.

The two Brussels-based organisations have been looking to improve coordination for years, despite fears in some quarters that efforts to bolster the EU's role in defence could undermine the U.S.-led alliance.

The invasion of Ukraine has spurred calls to better harness the combined clout of Europe's economic muscle and U.S. military might to better protect the

one billion citizens living in member states.

‘This is a key juncture for Euro-Atlantic

security and stability, more than ever demonstrating the importance of the transatlantic bond, calling for closer

EU-NATO cooperation,’ said the statement, which is to be released by top NATO and EU officials on Tuesday...”

# THE KINGS OF THE EAST

## **China Issues Veiled Warning to U.S. Over Taiwan**

**January 23, 2023 --** *Voice of America News* reports: “Chinese President Xi Jinping issued a veiled warning to the United States in his new year message to the country, stressing that China will be engaged in ‘serious struggles’ against separatism and interference in its relations with Taiwan, state media, *CCTV* and the *Xinhua* news agency reported Friday.

In a Lunar New Year reception in the Great Hall of the People attended by top party leaders in the Politburo, Xi said in a speech to the Chinese people that his party and the military have in the past year risen to the challenge of ‘high winds and choppy waters in the international situation,’ a reference he also made in his speech at the 20th Party Congress in a warning about what he saw as a hostile international environment.

In a subtle message that referred to the United States and its relations with Taiwan, Xi vowed to ‘resolutely carry out major struggles against separatism and interference’ and ‘firmly grasp the initiative in cross-strait relations,’ state television, *CCTV* and *Xinhua* reported.

He also pledged to ‘make more friends’ in the international arena and to actively engage in ‘major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics’ to ensure stability in a ‘turbulent international environment.’

In recent years, the leadership has increasingly emphasized the importance of asserting a China-centered diplomatic and historical narrative and a determination to shift away from a Western-dominated world order...”

**(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 four reports.)**

## **China Holds Large-Scale Joint Strike Drills Aimed at Taiwan**

**January 9, 2023 --** *Voice of America News* reports: “The Chinese military held large-scale joint combat strike drills starting Sunday, sending war planes and navy vessels toward Taiwan, both the Chinese and Taiwanese defense ministries said.

The exercises coincided with the visit of a group of German lawmakers who landed in Taiwan on Monday morning. Leading the delegation is the Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, who leads the German Parliament’s Defense Committee.

The German lawmakers will meet with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, as well as Taiwan’s National Security Council head and the Mainland Affairs Council, which handles issues related to China.

China has stepped up its pressure on Taiwan’s military in recent years by sending warplanes or navy vessels on an almost-daily basis toward the self-ruled island. China claims sovereignty over the island, which split from the mainland in 1949 after a civil war...”

## **China’s air incursions into Taiwan zone doubled in 2022**

**January 2, 2023 --** *SinoDaily.com* reports: “China’s warplane incursions into Taiwan’s air defence zone nearly doubled in 2022, with a surge in fighter jet and bomber sorties as Beijing intensified threats towards the island democracy.

Self-ruled Taiwan lives under constant threat of invasion. Communist Party rulers claim the island as part of China’s territory and have vowed to seize it one day.

Relations have been icy for years under President Xi Jinping, China’s most assertive leader in a generation.

But 2022 saw a deeper deterioration, as Xi’s military ramped up incursions and launched the largest war games in decades to protest against a visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in August.

China sent 1,727 planes into Taiwan’s air defence identification zone (ADIZ) in 2022, according to an *AFP* database based on daily updates released by Taipei’s defence ministry.

That compares with around 960 incursions in 2021 and 380 in 2020.

Fighter jet sorties more than doubled from 538 in 2021 to 1,241 while incursions by bombers, including the nuclear-capable H6, went from 60 to 101...”

## **U.S. Warship Sails Through Taiwan Strait, Angers China**

**January 6, 2023 --** *Voice of America News* reports: “A U.S. warship sailed through the Taiwan Strait on Thursday, part of what the U.S. military calls routine activity but which China calls provocative.

In recent years, U.S. warships, and on occasion those from allied nations such as Britain and Canada, have sailed through the strait, drawing the ire of China, which claims Taiwan against the

objections of its democratically elected government.

In a statement, the U.S. military said the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *Chung-Hoon* carried out the transit.

‘*Chung-Hoon*’s transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the United States’ commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific,’ the statement added.

In a statement, Liu Pengyu, spokesman for China’s embassy in Washington, said China firmly opposed the move and urged the United States to ‘immediately stop provoking troubles, escalating tensions and undermining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.’

‘U.S. warships frequently flex muscles in the name of exercising freedom of navigation. This is not about keeping the region free and open,’ the statement said...’

### **U.S. vows to defend space with Japan, deploy mobile Marines as China worries grow**

**Jan. 12, 2023** -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: “The United States said Wednesday that attacks in space would invoke its defense treaty with Japan and announced the deployment of a more agile Marine unit on its ally’s soil as alarm grows over China.

Weeks after unveiling plans to ramp up security spending, Japan sent its defense and foreign ministers to Washington where the two countries

issued a statement vowing to ‘modernize the alliance in order to address the increasingly severe security environment.’

The talks come two days before a visit by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who is touring Group of Seven nations to kick off Japan’s leadership year of the elite club and earlier Wednesday in London also boosted defense ties with Britain.

As China makes rapid advances in satellites, the United States and Japan warned in their statement that ‘attacks to, from or within space present a clear challenge to the security of the alliance’ that could invoke Article Five of their mutual defense treaty, which considers an attack on one an attack on both.

The talks finalized a plan by the United States to send a so-called Marine Littoral Regiment, a more agile unit that can operate defenses both by sea and air, to Okinawa, the southern Japanese island strategically close to Taiwan...’

### **Kim calls for ‘exponential increase’ of North Korea’s nuclear arsenal**

**January 2, 2023** -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: “Kim Jong Un has called for an ‘exponential’ increase in North Korea’s nuclear arsenal, including mass producing tactical nuclear weapons and developing new missiles for nuclear counterstrikes, state media said Sunday.

In a report at the end of a key party meeting in Pyongyang, Kim said the country must ‘overwhelmingly beef up the military muscle’ in 2023 in response to what it called U.S. and South Korean hostility, the official *KCNA* reported.

Claiming that Washington and Seoul were set on ‘isolating and stifling’ the North, Kim said his country would focus on the ‘mass-producing of tactical nuclear weapons’ and develop ‘another ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missile) system whose main mission is quick nuclear counterstrike’.

Such goals form the ‘main orientation’ of the 2023 nuclear and defence strategy, the report said.

Military tensions on the Korean peninsula rose sharply in 2022 as the North conducted sanctions-busting weapons tests nearly every month, including firing its most advanced ICBM ever...’ (**North Korea marches with Russia and China for the war of the latter years and latter days – Ezekiel 38:8, 16. Atomic bombs will produce global incineration – Psalms 97:3; Isaiah 66:15; Joel 2:3, 30; Zephaniah 1:18; Malachi 4:1; Revelation 8:7 and 9:18.**)

## **SIGNS IN THE SUN, MOON AND STARS**

### **NOAA: U.S. weathered 18 billion-dollar disasters in 2022**

**January 13, 2023** -- *TerraDaily.com* reports: “The United States experienced 18 billion-dollar weather-related disasters in 2022, as climate change continues to cause severe weather events, according to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration report released Tuesday.

The 18 disasters are tied for third-most in a year, behind only 2021 and 2020. The total damages for the 18 events reached about \$165 billion, with Hurricane Ian

accounting for \$112.9 billion.

Other hurricanes brought vast damage, as well. Hurricane Fiona delivered 12-18 inches of rain to Puerto Rico, while Hurricane Ian brought 150-mph winds to southwest Florida. Hurricane Nicole was the first hurricane to hit the United States during November in nearly 40 years.

According to NOAA, 2022 was also an above-average tornado year...’ (**Jesus said: 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. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh— Luke 21:25 – 28.*)