

# The Blessed Hope!

**“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” –(Titus 2:13)**

*Diamond & Nugget #102*

The headlines of London's 'Daily Mail' for Orthodox Easter Sunday are a reminder that everyone loses in a war and especially one that is being orchestrated by NATO and the U.S. from thousands of miles away.

**Putin's mighty war machine on the SCRAPHEAP: After two months of fighting, Russia has now lost 873 tanks, 179 aircraft, 21,800 troops... and the pride of its navy is lying on the bottom of the Black Sea**

- **Ukraine's land forces released new figures today, suggesting more than 21,000 Russian troops have died**
- **A total of 873 tanks are said to have been destroyed, along with 2,238 armored vehicles and 333 aircraft**
- **The flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet - the Moskva - sank last week after being hit by a Ukrainian missile**
- **Putin's troops pulled back from Kyiv in late March, suffering low morale amid stiff resistance and heavy losses**
- **Russia has now launched an assault designed to seize territory in the Donbas region in the east of Ukraine**
- **But experts believe the war could go on for months or even years as Ukraine's military continues to defy the invaders, while Western allies continue to send financial aid and arms shipments to the defenders**

The scale of Russian troop losses in Ukraine has tipped 21,000 as Putin's war rumbles into its third month today.

The latest statistics, published by the Ukrainian Land Forces this morning, suggest 21,800 Russian fighters have been killed amid bitter resistance from Ukraine's armed forces and territorial defense units - though this figure could not be verified.

Meanwhile, the land forces claim to have dealt massive damage to Russia's military equipment and machinery.

A total of 873 tanks are said to have been destroyed, along with 2,238 armored vehicles, 179 planes, 154 helicopters and 408 artillery systems.

Putin's forces rolled across the border on February 24 from the north, east and south, and quickly made a beeline for Kyiv.

But they were forced to withdraw from the outskirts of the capital in late March and refocus their efforts on a targeted offensive in the eastern Donbas region after Ukraine successfully repelled their advances, inflicting heavy losses.

Russia's vast troop losses have been put down to poor tactical decisions by Russian military leaders and a considerable underestimation of the capabilities of Ukraine's armed forces.

At the start of the war, Russia's military dwarfed that of Ukraine and led many to believe that the invasion would be swift and effective.

On February 24, Russia's land army consisted of 280,000 full-time active soldiers compared with Ukraine's 125,600.

But the amount of Russian soldiers needed to seize the whole country and control the entire population would be close to 1 million, according to Michael Clarke, a visiting professor in King's College London's department of war studies - suggesting the Kremlin woefully underestimated the amount of force needed to force its neighbors into submission.

Elsewhere in Ukraine today:

- The war entered its third month as Russia continues to batter the port city of Mariupol and the Donbas
- Putin's forces called in more airstrikes on Mariupol's Azovstal steel plant - the city's last Ukrainian holdout
- The move ignored Ukrainian officials' calls for an 'Easter truce' to allow civilians trapped there to evacuate
- Russian forces intensified attacks in Popasna and Sieverodonetsk in Luhansk, and Kurakhiv in Donetsk
- Putin's forces also deployed mine-clearing vehicles to destroy Ukrainian armed forces holdouts in Rubizhne
- The attacks come as Ukrainians and Russians alike celebrate Orthodox Easter, two months since war began
- The Kremlin announced it will deploy its fearsome nuclear-capable 'Satan II' missile this autumn

**Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned on Monday that the risk of a third world war “cannot be underestimated,” and said the U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are adding to that risk by supplying weapons to Ukraine.**

## RUSSIAN ARMY LOSSES AGAINST UKRAINE



In contrast to the Russian asset losses, it should be noted that the Ukraine defense force has taken a beating that indicates it is not faring well against the Russian military and cannot survive without additional replenishment from NATO and the U.S.

Overall, the following Ukraine targets have been destroyed since the start of the special military operation by Russian military forces: 141 aircraft, 110 helicopters, 583 unmanned aerial vehicles, 269 surface-to-air missile systems, 2,576 tanks and other combat armored vehicles, 287 multiple launch rocket systems, 1,111 field artillery guns and mortars and also 2,392 special military motor vehicles.

When Russia began the special operation on February 24th, the Ukraine military had an estimated 18,300 tanks and armored vehicles of various types along with self-propelled artillery rocket projectors, of which today, Russian military forces have obliterated 6,366, which is one-third their total.

NATO member Britain announced it will send Ukraine a small number of armored vehicles, NATO member Poland announced it was sending an unspecified number of tanks to Ukraine, and NATO member Germany announced it will decide soon on whether to approve the delivery of 100 Marder infantry fighting vehicles to Ukraine—in factual reality, however, these are lunatic NATO announcements failing to “anticipate the unpredictability of warfare”, specifically because Ukraine doesn’t have an existing infrastructure of undamaged roads and intact bridges to transport any kind of armored vehicles on, thus leaving railways as they only means to transfer them—and is why the Ministry of Defense (MoD) reported this morning: *“Russian troops have destroyed six traction substations, – units that power the railways – which are being used for delivery of foreign weapons and military hardware to the Ukrainian forces in the Donbass”*.



Russian Ambassador Anatoly Antonov to the United States stated Monday, *“The United States wants to preserve the hotbed of instability in Europe, thereby uniting Western allies around itself in order to preserve American positions on the global arena...It is obvious that behind Washington’s actions an aspiration is hidden to prolong the Russian special operation by any means, trying to cause the utmost harm to Russia and to fight until the last Ukrainian...All of this makes one think that the Ukrainian conflict was intentionally provoked by the United States”*.

The noted losses are accurate from monitoring sources such as ‘*Janes Defense Weekly*’ and related military publications.



**A man rides his bicycle next to a destroyed Russian tank in Chernihiv, Ukraine, on Thursday, April 21, 2022.**

Ukraine's fighting force has grown dramatically thanks to the number of reservists who signed up in the weeks prior to the invasion, the influx of foreign fighters volunteering to fight for Ukraine, and the introduction of conscription.

Facing stiff resistance, morale among Russian troops is said to have tanked as they were shipped off to battle, underprepared, untrained and poorly equipped.

These issues have continued to plague the Russian invasion force, even as they pulled from Kyiv and other cities in order to concentrate on the seizure of the Donbas region.

*“Despite Russia making some territorial gains, Ukrainian resistance has been strong across all axes and inflicted significant cost on Russian forces,” the UK Ministry of Defense said.*

*“Poor Russian morale and limited time to reconstitute, re-equip and reorganize forces from prior offensives are likely hindering Russian combat effectiveness.”*

Experts say this 'second phase' of the war - Russia's attempt to seize territory in the Donbass region of Donetsk and Luhansk - is likely an outcome of its army's slow progress and massive losses of troops and equipment early in the war, which prompted a change in tactics.



**A man jumps from a Russian T-72 tank destroyed during Russia's invasion, in the village of Yahidne, Ukraine April 20, 2022.**

Director of the FMES strategic studies institute Pascal Ausseur said the Russian army, having failed in its initial shock-and-awe assault of Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities, may well be hoping to establish an axis from Kherson in the south to Izyum, cutting off huge swathes of territory in eastern Ukraine over the course of several grueling weeks or months.

*“They realized that the Blitzkrieg option didn't work out, so they returned to the traditional Soviet bulldozer model. If you can't break the will of your enemies, you grind them down,” Ausseur said.*



*“They will Mariupol-ise the operation,”* he added, in reference to the southern port city that has been subjected to relentless Russian bombardment over the past two months.

Colin Clarke, a senior research fellow at the Soufan Center think tank, concurred with Ausseur's analysis, stating: *“It looks like the Russian military is simply pursuing a scorched earth approach, attempting to break the will of the Ukrainian military through the use of overwhelming force and indiscriminate shelling to force remaining civilians to flee.”*



**This image, released by General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on April 3, 2022 shows the burning wreckage of a downed Russian fighter jet in the Kharkiv region.**

On Friday, Russian Major General Rustam Minnekaev was quoted as saying that 'one of the tasks of the Russian army is to establish full control over the Donbass and southern Ukraine', adding this would provide 'a land corridor to Crimea', the peninsula Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

But this ambition brings challenges, according to Michel Goya, a former French army colonel.

*“The deeper Russian forces go into Ukraine, the more vulnerable they are,”* he said on Twitter.

Russia has succeeded in controlling the overwhelming majority of Mariupol, with only a few hundred Ukrainian fighters thought to remain in the city, holed up in the Azovstal steel plant by the port city's harbor.



**Ukrainian sappers search for unexploded explosives at the burnt remains of a Russian helicopter destroyed during recent fighting between Russian and Ukrainian forces at the Antonov airport in Hostomel, outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, April 18, 2022.**

Mariupol's mayor Vadym Boychenko said earlier this month that 90% of Mariupol's infrastructure had been damaged, with 40% completely destroyed.

Odesa, another port city in southern Ukraine, also endured a rocket attack yesterday which killed at least eight civilians, including a three-month-old baby and her mother, sparking fears Russian commanders may order further air and missile strikes given the progress made in Mariupol.

Ausseau said Ukraine would need to orchestrate a robust air defense system, perhaps with the support of Western military aid packages, to defend itself from continued air attacks - Russia's most effective weapon in the war thus far.





**The wreckage of a downed Russian helicopter lies in a field near Kharkiv on April 16, 2022.**

But Putin's declaration that the city had been 'successfully liberated' earlier this week came only after it had endured constant bombing campaigns over the course of eight weeks, effectively reducing most of the city to rubble.



**An aerial view shows damaged buildings, amid Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, in Mariupol, Ukraine in this handout picture taken with a drone released April 24, 2022.**



*“They need a shield that makes the equation less favorable to the Russians,”* he said, adding that otherwise Russia could pursue air strikes indefinitely.

*“The emerging scenario is one of high-intensity bombings lasting several weeks, or maybe several months.”*

But experts no longer believe Russia has any designs on Kyiv, having sustained too many losses to continue pursuing control of the capital.



**A man walks near damaged buildings in the course of Ukraine-Russia conflict in the southern port city of Mariupol, Ukraine April 22, 2022.**

A steady stream of images and videos captured by Ukrainian armed forces personnel and regular citizens has provided constant evidence of Russian losses in Ukraine.

Footage obtained earlier this week from the 128th Mountain Assault Brigade - a formation of the Ukrainian Ground Forces - showed how a Russian tank was caught in an anti-tank missile system's crosshairs before the projectile soared through the air and blew it to smithereens.

The brigade titled the video (in Ukrainian): 'Stugna against T-72: attackers of the 128th brigade destroyed a Russian tank with a Ukrainian missile from a distance of 4.5 km'.

It comes as separate footage emerged of a Russian Ka-53 attack helicopter being blown out of the sky over Zaporizhzhia by another Ukrainian man-portable missile

system. The Stugna-P is a Ukrainian anti-tank guided missile system developed by the Luch Design Bureau, located in Kyiv.



**Russia has succeeded in controlling the overwhelming majority of Mariupol, with only a few hundred Ukrainian fighters still holed up in the Azovstal steel plant (pictured) by the port city's harbor. But Putin's declaration that the city had been 'successfully liberated' earlier this week came only after it had endured constant bombing campaigns over the course of eight weeks, effectively reducing most of the city to rubble.**

It can attack from both long range - up to three miles in the daytime, depending on the type of missile - and close range - 100 yards.

The brigade said that it took the missile just 21 seconds to travel almost three miles before obliterating the invaders' armor.

*“The missile from the Stugna anti-aircraft missile system flies at a speed of 200-220 meters per second, so the enemy tank was at a distance of about 4.5 kilometers,” the brigade’s statement read.*

*“(The tank) did not stand still, it moved, but this did not prevent the ATGM [anti-tank guided missile] operator from hitting him.”*

The brigade added: *“Neither the Swedish-British anti-tank complex NLAW, nor the American Javelin work at such long distances.”*



**Multiple videos from Odesa yesterday showed the missile strike, with a huge ball of fire and smoke erupting from the building. At least eight people are believed to have been killed, and a further 18 injured**

*“And our Stugna destroyed a moving tank 4.5 kilometers away,”*

NLAWs have a typical maximum firing range of roughly half a mile (800-1000m), while the Javelin is effective at distances of over a mile (2-2.5km).

The brigade did not specify where in Ukraine the strike took place. However, fighting has recently been most intense along a 300-mile front in the country's eastern Donbas region.

The T-72 referred to by the brigade is a family of Soviet main battle tanks that entered production in 1969. Russia has yet to deploy newer tanks such as the T-90.



The T-72 are currently operated by over 40 countries, including both Russia and Ukraine, though the latter has retired most in favor of the earlier T-64.

Meanwhile in Zaporizhzhia, drone footage showed a Russian attack helicopter blown out of the sky by a Ukrainian 9K38 Igla man portable air defense system (MANPADS).

**The program channel Unian and later distributed on Twitter, showed the Russian Ka-53 hovering over farmland and lakes, before the missile streaked through the air and engulfed the chopper in a huge fireball.**



**Footage from yet another video shows a Russian helicopter erupting into a fireball after being hit by a Ukrainian missile.**

The Igla, or 'needle', is a Soviet-era anti-aircraft missile launcher which was first deployed in the early 1980s, but has proven incredibly effective in Ukrainian hands against Russian choppers.

The footage, shared by Ukrainian telegram channel Unian and later distributed on Twitter, showed the Russian Ka-53 hovering over farmland and lakes, before the missile streaked through the air and engulfed the chopper in a huge fireball.

Though Russia's armed forces outnumber their Ukrainian counterparts and have more equipment and machinery at their disposal, poor tactical decisions have been preyed upon by Ukrainian fighters, who have used their anti-tank and anti-aircraft weaponry to great effect.

And despite most of the conflict in Ukraine being waged on the ground and with air and missile strikes, Russia has even lost 8 of its boats - including the flagship of its Black Sea Fleet, the Moskva, in an embarrassing moment for Putin's navy.



**A Ukrainian soldier gestures towards a destroyed Russian helicopter in the outskirts of the village of Malaya Rohan, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Kharkiv region, Ukraine, April 20, 2022. Picture taken April 20, 2022**

The flagship was severely damaged by Ukrainian missiles last week before it sank to the bottom of the Black Sea, yet Russian authorities took more than a week to recognize the ship had been lost.

The Kremlin reported that one serviceman died and 27 dozen others were missing after the ship sank, having previously stated that all members of the crew - believed to be roughly 500-strong - had been rescued. One report said 400 had died in the sinking of the Moskva.

The loss of the Moskva, one of three missile cruisers of its kind in Russia's fleet, was shrouded in mystery from the moment it was first reported early on April 14.

Ukraine said it hit the ship with two missiles, but the Russian Defense Ministry would not acknowledge an attack, saying only that a fire broke out on the vessel after ammunition detonated, causing serious damage.

Despite most of the conflict in Ukraine being waged on the ground and with air and missile strikes, Russia has even lost 8 of its boats - including the flagship of its Black Sea Fleet, the Moskva (pictured), in an embarrassing moment for Putin's navy.



**Images captured before the vessel sank appeared to show damage to the left-hand side of the vessel close to the water line, smoke and fire damage along its left-hand side, missing lifeboats and open helicopter bay doors - suggesting the aircraft had taken off.**

To avoid encirclement in the east amid Russia's latest assault on the Donbas, the defending Ukrainians may disperse into several fronts, Colin Clarke of the Soufan Center think tank said, in order to stretch Russian supply and communication lines. *"That strategy has been successful so far,"* he said.

Western aid has been boosted in recent days, notably with the announcement of an \$800-million military package by U.S. President Joe Biden, specifically aimed at the struggle in the Donbas.

But the clock is ticking. Armored personnel vehicles 'will take weeks or even months' to get to the Ukrainian army, according to Mark Cancian, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).



*“Even if the vehicles come out of stocks already in Europe, they will require some servicing before they are ready for shipping,” he said.*

NATO countries have started supplying Ukraine with - originally Soviet-developed - S300 missile systems but experts noted their deployment also takes time.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin traveled to Kyiv today to discuss with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy the kinds of weapons he needs to fight off Russia, after Biden's announcement of the mammoth \$800 million military support package. A *‘Wall Street Journal’* report stated that the U.S. embassy in the Ukraine would be reopened.



**On April 22, the U.S. Department of Defense published a “fact sheet on U.S. security assistance for Ukraine”. The document includes the list of weapons that have already been delivered and those that the United States is yet to transfer to Ukraine.**

As of April 22, the United States has now committed more than \$4 billion in security assistance to Ukraine since the beginning of the Biden Administration, including approximately \$3.4 billion since the beginning of Russia’s unprovoked invasion on February 24.

On April 21, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced the authorization of a Presidential Drawdown of security assistance valued at up to an additional \$800 million tailored to meet critical Ukrainian needs for today’s fight as Russian forces launch a renewed offensive in eastern Ukraine. This authorization is the eighth such drawdown of equipment from DoD inventories for Ukraine since August 2021. This drawdown has raised concern of active U.S. military forces at home.

## **THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RELEASED LIST OF WEAPONS TRANSFERRED TO UKRAINE**

As of April 22, United States security assistance committed to Ukraine includes:

- Over 1,400 Stinger anti-aircraft systems;
- Over 5,500 Javelin anti-armor systems;
- Over 14,000 other anti-armor systems;
- Over 700 Switchblade Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems;
- 90 155mm Howitzers and 183,000 155mm artillery rounds;
- 72 Tactical Vehicles to tow 155mm Howitzers;
- 16 Mi-17 helicopters;
- Hundreds of Armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles;
- 200 M113 Armored Personnel Carriers;
- Over 7,000 small arms;
- Over 50,000,000 rounds of ammunition;
- 75,000 sets of body armor and helmets;
- 121 Phoenix Ghost Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems;
- Laser-guided rocket systems;
- Puma Unmanned Aerial Systems;
- Unmanned Coastal Defense Vessels;
- 14 counter-artillery radars;
- Four counter-mortar radars;
- Two air surveillance radars;
- M18A1 Claymore anti-personnel munitions;
- C-4 explosives and demolition equipment for obstacle clearing;
- Tactical secure communications systems;
- Night vision devices, thermal imagery systems, optics, and laser rangefinders;
- Commercial satellite imagery services;
- Explosive ordnance disposal protective gear;
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear protective equipment;
- Medical supplies to include first aid kits.

The United States also continues to work with its Allies and partners to identify and provide Ukraine with additional capabilities; and to support Ukraine's Armed Forces in the face of Russian aggression.

With the war entering its third month and advancing troops are grinding down the men and equipment of both nations; this is not going unnoticed by Vladimir Putin. There are rumors that Putin is suffering from Parkinson's disease. Recent video footage shows Putin may be experiencing what might be symptoms of Parkinson's. Several rumors abound with concern for Putin's health over the past month.

That becomes a matter of great concern when it comes to his mental capacity to rationalize about his ability to direct the war to destroy the Ukraine Nazi militias. Keep in mind; potential successors are known to be more hard-liner war hawks in Russia.

Alexander Khramchikhin, of the Moscow-based Institute for Political and Military Analysis, said the fighting could even go on for years in light of the capabilities of Ukraine's armed forces, reinforced with Western aid packages and arms shipments. The U.S. Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Millie told the U.S. Congress the war how it could go on for up to ten years. That seems to be an exaggeration and I do not see Russia falling into that trap especially knowing that the U.S. and NATO are behind a plan to use the Ukraine as a client state to weaken Russia. The UN has estimated that 8 million Ukrainian refugees will need a new home this year alone. Five million have fled the Ukraine so far.

*"Russia has so far achieved none of its objectives, and it's not easy to see how it will achieve them in the future,"* he told AFP.

Russian troops invaded Ukraine on the 24th of February in what the Kremlin is calling a *"special military operation" to 'demilitarize and denazify'* the country.

The invasion has now lasted two months, with Russia *"most likely"* to intensify attacks in Ukraine before its May 9<sup>th</sup> Victory Day celebrations, according to UK intelligence. With over 5 million Ukrainians seeking safety outside the country, we can expect Putin to use heavy aerial bombing raids like the Allies conducted in Germany during World War II. In desperation we can expect Putin to use tactical nuclear weapons, and at that point the worst case scenario can be expected and all bets are off regarding the implications.

Israel was still arming Ukrainian Nazis and Putin is well aware of what is going on but do not assume Russia is going to ignore what Israel is doing along with the Biden administration giving billions of dollars of weapons to the Ukrainian military. He said recently, that Russia would respond not just to those firing weapons at the Russian army but that he would respond by hitting those in control of the decisions to attack the Russian army. It is Putin's statements that cause me to be think the Ezekiel 38/39 War is likewise imminent ahead.

In Blessed Hope #101, I pointed out that Putin will likely strike back, and that it could come as early as next week. I did not expect Putin to enlarge this war until the Russian Orthodox Church observed Easter for the troops on the ground. The above list of military weapons and supplies given to the Ukrainian defense forces is a formidable stockpile, enough to equip 2 or 3 full-size army divisions. There is concern here at home that the U.S. is drawing down stockpiles that could impede the U.S. military's ability to defend itself against China or Russia.

Furthermore, it has been no secret that a U.S. Navy P-8 took off from Italy and took up station on the Romanian Black Sea coast where it attempted to locate the position of the Russian Black Sea fleet.

Since the invasion of Ukraine, a range of NATO surveillance platforms and drones have been monitoring Russian movements from the Polish coast, along the Ukrainian border and down to the Black Sea.



The Moskva pictured leaving Sevastopol on April 10, was the main air defense asset in the Black Sea Fleet and served as the Russian Navy flagship. Moskva was the Russian Black Sea fleet's main radar platform, equipped with S-300 surface-to-air-missiles to protect from air attack. The Moskva sank as tugs attempted to tow the crippled warship back to Crimea for repairs.

The Neptun is an anti-ship missile that was recently developed by Ukraine and based on an earlier Soviet design. The launchers are mounted on trucks stationed near the coast, and, according to the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies, the missiles can hit targets up to 175 miles away. That would have put the Moskva within range, based on where the fire began.

According to *'The Times'*, the P-8 left U.S. Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily on April 13, hours before the attack.

Before reaching the Black Sea coastline, the Poseidon turned off its trackers, so it could no longer be followed online. The aircraft was 'hidden' for almost three hours before it returned to Flight Radar 24.

A Defense source added: *"In keeping with our support to NATO's eastern flank, we have been conducting some limited air patrols off the coast of Romania. But we will not speak to the details of operational matters."*

Just as Russia has now completed the test firing of its global ICBM "Sarmat" missile system -- which can reach any target anywhere in the world with a dizzying array of re-entry (nuclear) vehicles -- alarm bells are being sounded over America's rapid depletion of munitions due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The U.S. Pentagon has shipped thousands of Javelin anti-tank weapons to Ukraine, along with millions of rounds of ammunition, artillery shells, rockets, drones and troop transport vehicles leading to a sudden drop in the available stockpiles of such equipment should U.S. forces need to defend the homeland. *"General Mark Milley, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress that the West has delivered 60,000 antitank weapons and 25,000 anti-aircraft weapons to Kyiv. The Pentagon is now laying plans to rush additional artillery, coastal defense drones and other materiel to Ukraine,"* reported BloombergQuint.com: *"Pentagon officials say that Kyiv is blowing through a week's worth of deliveries of antitank munitions every day. It is also running short of usable aircraft as Russian airstrikes and combat losses take their toll. Ammunition has become scarce in Mariupol and other areas. This is presenting Western countries with a stark choice between pouring more supplies into Ukraine and husbanding finite capabilities they may need for their own defense."*

### **Russia is also watching America burn through its weapon systems**

Russia's take on all this is demonstrated by Sputnik News which recently published an article, "[US Running Out of Javelin Anti-Tank Missiles to Send to Ukraine: Report.](#)"

From that article: *The United States and its allies have sent up to 17,000 anti-tank weapons to Ukraine over the past month-and-a-half... Having transferred about a third of its inventory of Javelin missile systems to Ukraine, the Pentagon may be running out of stocks critical for the security of the homeland and possible US wars abroad, Center for Strategic and International Studies researcher Mark Cancian has calculated. That same report concludes that replacing those Javelin missiles will take 3-4 years: With current production averaging about 1,000 Javelins a year, the Pentagon assures that up to 6,480 can be made per year in an emergency. However, Cancian says this production rate would take years to reach, given the 32 month delivery time from when a missile is ordered and the time that it's delivered. This means that it will take about three or four years to replace the missiles that have been delivered so far. If the United States delivers more missiles to Ukraine, this time to replace extends,"* he stresses. A similar situation exists with *Stinger* anti-aircraft missiles, which are also being sent to Ukraine in large numbers, depleting America's stockpiles.

In effect, **America cannot defeat Russia in a war.** This is becoming rather obvious in Ukraine where U.S. intelligence, U.S. weapons and U.S. satellite systems are running the entire theater of operations for the Ukrainians, yet the Ukraine military is still getting stomped. Russia is just weeks away from a decisive victory in the Donbas region, and there's absolutely nothing any NATO country can do to stop them, short of launching nuclear weapons. It turns out that America's priorities have led this nation down the path of self-destruction. Instead of building a military as a capable fighting force, the Pentagon is far more concerned with organizing gay helicopter crews and paying for the transgender sex-change surgeries of active-duty soldiers. The insanity has reached the point of mass dysfunction... even clinical insanity. Our Pentagon is now run by mentally ill lunatics who will get American soldiers slaughtered on the battlefield when there's an actual war with Russia (which seems to be coming).

The Russian asset losses clearly suggest that the Ukrainian military have proven to be an effective adversary. That said it is my opinion that Putin is faced with a serious decision, and that is to ratchet up the firepower and end this stalemate as quickly as possible. **This is where the U.S. and NATO could become the recipients of Russian retaliation with nuclear missiles and go full global WWII with China covering Putin's backside.** Putin's control of the war effort could force his hand by even more hard core war hawks back in Moscow. Should that occur, the restrained Putin might want to insure his control by launching nuclear missiles at targets in places such as London, Brussels, Frankfurt, New York, and Washington, DC.

Putin has never been considered a military leader; he was a KGB protégé and has been dependent to rely on his military leaders to carry out his orders. The sinking of the Moskva was a huge blow to Russia. The Moskva was Russia's flagship, and losing it in its backyard, the Black Sea becomes Russia's version of Pearl Harbor in World War II.

**The Ukraine is a pawn on the Grand Chessboard.** Rick Sterling writing for the 'Dissident Voice' on April 23, 2022 pointed out the larger agenda the Ukraine plays in the geo-political world of chess.

Few, if any of you are likely to have read Zbigniew Brzezinski's book *'The Grand Chessboard'* published 25 years ago. His assumptions and strategies for maintaining U.S. global dominance have been hugely influential in U.S. foreign policy. As the conflict in Ukraine evolves, with the potential of escalating into world war, we can see where this policy leads and how crucial it is to re-evaluate. He served as a counselor to President Lyndon B. Johnson from 1966 to 1968 and was President Jimmy Carter's National Security Advisor from 1977 to 1981. Brzezinski died May 26, 2017, at the age of 89.

**The need to dominate Eurasia was established by Zbigniew Brzezinski.** The basic premise of *'The Grand Chessboard'* is outlined in the introduction:

- with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States is the sole global power
- Europe and Asia (Eurasia) together have the largest land area, population and economy
- U.S. must control Eurasia and prevent another country from challenging US dominance

Brzezinski sums up the situation: *"America is now the only global superpower, and Eurasia is the globe's central arena."* He adds *"It is imperative that no Eurasian challenger emerges, capable of dominating Eurasia and thus of challenging America."*

The book surveys the different nations in Eurasia, from Japan in the east to the UK in the west. The entire land mass of Europe and Asia is covered. This is the *"grand chessboard"* and Brzezinski analyzes how the U.S. should *"play"* different pieces on the board to keep potential rivals down and the U.S. in control.

Brzezinski was a very powerful National Security Advisor to President Carter. Before that, he founded the Trilateral Commission. Later he taught Madeline Albright and many other key figures in U.S. foreign policy.

Brzezinski initiated the *"Afghanistan Trap"*. That was the secret 1979 U.S. program to mobilize and support mujahedin foreign fighters to invade and destabilize Afghanistan. In this period, Afghanistan was undergoing dramatic positive changes. As described by Canadian academic John Ryan, *"Afghanistan once had a progressive secular government, with broad popular support. It had enacted progressive reforms and gave equal rights to women."*

The Brzezinski plan was to utilize reactionary local forces and foreign fighters to create enough mayhem that the government would ask the neighboring Soviet Union to send military support. The overall goal was to *"bog down the Soviet army"* and *"give them their own Vietnam"*.

With enormous funding from the U.S. and Saudi Arabia beginning in 1978, the plan resulted in chaos, starvation and bloodshed in Afghanistan which continues to today. Approximately 6 million Afghans became refugees fleeing the chaos and war.



Years later, when interviewed about this policy, Brzezinski was proud and explicit: “We didn’t push the Russians to intervene, but we knowingly increased the probability that they would.” When asked if he had regrets for the decades of mayhem in Afghanistan, he was clear: “Regret what? That secret operation was an excellent idea. It had the effect of drawing the Russians into the Afghan trap and you want me to regret it? .... Moscow had to carry on a war that was unsustainable for the regime, a conflict that brought about the demoralization and finally the breakup of the Soviet empire.... What is more important in world history? The Taliban or the collapse of the Soviet empire? Some agitated Muslims or the liberation of central Europe and the end of the Cold War?”

Afghanistan was a pawn in the U.S. campaign against the Soviet Union. The amorality of U.S. foreign policy is clear and consistent, from the destruction of Afghanistan beginning in 1978 continuing to the current starvation caused by U.S. freezing of Afghan government reserves.

The blow-back is also clear. The foreign fighters trained by the U.S. and Saudis became Al Qaeda and then ISIS. The 2016 Orlando nightclub massacre, where 49 died and 53 were wounded was perpetrated by the son of an Afghan refugee who never would have come to the US if his country had not been intentionally destabilized. Paul Fitzgerald eloquently describes the tragedy in his article [Brzezinski’s vision to lure Soviets into Afghan Trap now Orlando’s nightmare](#).

### **U.S. Supremacy and Exceptionalism**

*The Grand Chessboard* assumes U.S. supremacy and exceptionalism and adds the strategy for implementing and enforcing this “primacy” on the biggest and most important arena: Eurasia.

Brzezinski does not countenance a multi-polar world. “A world without U.S. primacy will be a world with more violence and disorder and less democracy and economic growth ....” and “The only real alternative to American global leadership in the foreseeable future is international anarchy.”

These assertions continue today as the U.S. foreign policy establishment repeatedly talks about the “rules based order” and “international community”, ignoring the fact that the West is a small fraction of humanity. Toward the end of his book, Brzezinski suggests the “upgrading” the United Nations and a “new distribution of responsibilities and privileges” that take into account the “changed realities of global power.”

### **The importance of NATO and Ukraine**

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact, many people in the West believed NATO was no longer needed. NATO claimed to be strictly a defensive alliance and its only rival had disbanded. That sentiment has continued for the past twenty years and has angered U.S. political and foreign policy experts.

Brzezinski and other U.S. war hawks saw that NATO could be used to expand U.S. hegemony and keep weapons purchases flowing. Thus he wrote that, *“an enlarged NATO will serve well both the short-term and the longer-term goals of U.S. policy.”*

Brzezinski was adamant that Russian concerns or fears should be dismissed. *“Any accommodation with Russia on the issue of NATO enlargement should not entail an outcome that has the effect of making Russia a de facto decision making member of the alliance.”* Brzezinski was skillful at presenting an aggressive and offensive policy in the best light.

Brzezinski presents Ukraine as the pivotal country for containing Russia. He says, *“Ukraine is the critical state, insofar as Russia’s future evolution is concerned.”* He says, *“Without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be a Eurasian empire.”* This is another example of his skillful wording because Ukraine as part of a hostile military alliance does not only prevent a Russian *“empire”*; it presents a potential threat. Kyiv is less than 500 miles from Moscow and Ukraine was a major route of the Nazi invasion.

Brzezinski was well aware of the controversial nature of Ukraine’s borders. On page 104 he gives a quote that shows many people of eastern Ukraine wanted out of Ukraine since the breakup of the Soviet Union. The 1996 quote from a Moscow newspaper reports, *“In the foreseeable future events in eastern Ukraine confront Russia with a very difficult problem. Mass manifestations of discontent ... will be accompanied by appeals to Russia, or even demands, to take over the region.”*

Despite this reality, Brzezinski is dismissive of Russian rights and complaints. He bluntly says, *“Europe is America’s essential geopolitical bridgehead on the Eurasian continent.”* and *“Western Europe and increasingly Central Europe remain largely an American protectorate.”* The unstated assumption is that the US has every right to dominate Eurasia from afar.

Brzezinski advised Russia to decentralize with the free market and a loose confederation of *“European Russia, a Siberian Russia and a Far Eastern Republic”*.

### **Afghanistan is the model**

Brzezinski realizes that Russia presents a potential challenge to U.S. domination of Eurasia, especially if it allies with China. In the *“Grand Chessboard”*, he writes, *“If the middle space rebuffs the West, becomes an assertive single entity and either gains control over the South or forms an alliance with the major Eastern actor, then America’s primacy in Eurasia shrinks dramatically.”* Russia is the *“middle space”* and China is the *“major Eastern actor”*.

What was feared by the U.S. strategist has actually happened: For the past 20 years, Russia and China have been building an alliance dedicated to ending U.S. hegemony and beginning a new era in international relations.

This may be why the U.S. aggressively provoked the crisis in the Ukraine. The list of provocations is clear: moral and material support for Maidan protests, rejection of the EU agreement, the sniper murders and violent 2014 coup, ignoring the Minsk Agreement approved by the UN Security Council, NATO advisors and training for ultra-nationalists, lethal weaponry to Ukraine, refusal to accept Ukrainian non-membership in NATO, threats to invade Donbass and Crimea.

Before Russia's intervention in Ukraine, active duty soldier and former Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard **said**, *"They actually want Russia to invade Ukraine. Why would they? Because it gives the Biden administration a clear excuse to levy draconian sanctions... against Russia and the Russian people and number two, it cements this cold war in place. The military industrial complex is the one who benefits from this. They clearly control the Biden administration. War mongers on both sides in Washington who have been drumming up these tensions. If they get Russia to invade Ukraine it locks in this new cold war, the military industrial complex starts to make a ton more money .... Who pays the price? The American people ... the Ukrainian people ... the Russian people pay the price. It undermines our own national security but the military industrial complex which controls so many of our elected officials wins and they run to the bank."*

This is accurate but the reasons for the provocations go much deeper. Hillary Clinton recently summed up the wishes and dreams of Washington hawks: *"The Russians invaded Afghanistan back in 1980 ... a lot of countries supplied arms, advice and even some advisors to those who were recruited to fight Russia... a well-funded insurgency basically drove the Russians out of Afghanistan.... I think that is the model people are now looking toward."*

U.S. foreign policy has been consistent from Brzezinski to Madeline Albright, Hillary Clinton and on to Victoria Nuland. The results are seen in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yugoslavia, Libya, Syria and now Ukraine.

As with Afghanistan, the U.S. *"didn't push Russia to intervene"* but *"knowingly increased the probability that they would."* The purpose is the same in both cases: to use a pawn to undermine and potentially eliminate a rival. We expect the U.S. will make every effort to prolong the bloodshed and war, to bog down the Russian army and prevent a peaceful settlement. **The U.S. goal is just what Joe Biden said: regime change in Moscow.** Zelensky seems to think he has leverage in this conflict. Ukraine's finance minister, Sergey Marchenko, has solicited at least \$2 billion per month in emergency economic aid from the Biden administration. The official also revealed that Kiev hopes to raise an additional \$3 billion per month from other sources.

Speaking to the *'Washington Post'*, Marchenko said that Ukraine needs *"to cover this gap right now to attract the necessary finance and win this war."*

During his visit to Washington, DC last week, Marchenko met with a number of senior U.S. officials, warning them that absent the requested financial support, Ukraine would likely not be able to cope with the humanitarian crisis brought on by Russia's military



offensive. A total of \$5 billion per month is needed to cover Ukraine's immediate needs in April, May, and June, the minister explained. In addition to that, Kiev is expected to request another tranche down the road to help Ukraine recover from all the damage incurred.

Last Thursday, the minister also reportedly attended a private dinner hosted by Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo, which included representatives from top U.S. firms such as Goldman Sachs, and the Business Roundtable lobbyist association. Moreover, Marchenko met with Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen during the G20 summit in Washington last Wednesday.

Since the start of Russia's military offensive in Ukraine in late February, the U.S. has already shelled out approximately \$1 billion in economic aid for Kiev. An additional \$500 million was cleared by the Biden administration last week, on top of the generous military aid. The U.S. contribution has just passed the \$5-billion mark and no end in sight.

Yellen told reporters last Thursday that America has to *"find ways to meet Ukraine's needs."* She added that this *"will involve going back to Congress with a supplemental request."* Her comments came shortly after President Joe Biden made it clear that he would ask Congress to give the green light to more financial assistance for Ukraine – something an anonymous U.S. official described to the Washington Post as one of the administration's top priorities.

Several members of Congress and senior Ukrainian officials alike have repeatedly suggested handing frozen assets belonging to Russia's central bank over to Ukraine. However, the Biden administration has stopped short of making any promises so far. Yellen described this potential handover as something she *"wouldn't want to do so lightly,"* telling reporters that *"it's something that I think our coalition and partners would need to feel comfortable with and be supportive of."* Yellen would have no problem with the American taxpayer to foot this bill of free money give away. It wrecks and sounds like extortion of the taxpayers.

The Ukrainian finance minister told the *'Washington Post'* that his country needs the money to provide care to millions of internally displaced Ukrainians, as well as paying pensions to retirees and salaries to medical and education professionals.

Marchenko concluded by saying that Washington has become *"more cooperative"* over time, adding that support from the U.S. is *"becoming greater and greater."* We can count on the Rothschild's to let the U.S. congress run up the National Debt a few more trillions. Already at \$30-trillion, another couple trillion more should get Jacob and Nathan Rothschild's nod of approval.

Forget the Nazis, the Oligarchs, the cocaine comic, the NATO clowns, the American empire war military-industrial complex, the district of corruption, the demented diapered one, the EU tyrants begging for economic and energy catastrophes a la carte.

They all stand to gain from the blood of young Ukrainians, from their sacrifice for a set of conditions that were never going to be met even when the world knew it before a single shot was fired.

They played Russian roulette with a country and most people celebrating its sacrifice for global evil can't point to it on a map. They all cried out in unison like one mindless drone across the earth: "*Keep dying youngbloods! The war will only end with more war!*"

Now we can see the wave rising at the border of Poland and Ukraine, on the horizon set for a prearranged destiny that nobody wants besides those with nothing to risk. All their instruments of war crossing the border will ensure that the war will surely end with more war. Russia turned off the energy pipeline to Poland earlier this week.

You can see the wave of youngbloods across the muddy fields. They wore their boots out running for the Oligarchs safely in London.

Like Afghanistan, Ukraine is just a pawn on the chessboard. I read the 'Grand Chessboard' shortly after it was released and my conclusion after reading the book was the world will never know peace and that book simply confirmed it for me. Until the Lord Jesus Christ returns, man would never be able to bring peace to this world as we know it! At that time, in the summer of 1999, talk of what Y2K was going to bring us seemed to over shadow the 'Grand Chessboard.'

A Dutch political party has since taken an interest in Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's personal finances.

*"Zelensky has a fortune: various estimates put his wealth at around \$850 million. He amassed most of it after taking office as president. Where does the money come from? And more importantly, where is it going?"* the Forum for Democracy asked in posts on its Twitter and Telegram accounts on Monday.

The Dutch national conservative and hardline Eurosceptic party boycotted Zelensky's speech to the Dutch parliament last month, denouncing it as a violation of nearly two centuries of democratic tradition, which forbid foreign heads of state from speaking before the House of Representatives. Kudos for their courage to call out the president of Ukraine.

Who knew Ukraine was run from a bagel shop in Miami Beach? Investigative reporter George Webb said, "*Breaking down Ukraine - let's start with Zelensky's \$35M mansion in Sunny Isles, FL built by Kolomoisky and Pinchuk. \$1.3B in the bank!!*"

According to George Webb, Zelensky has accumulated \$1.2 billion in the Dresdner Bank Lateinamerika in Costa Rica during the two-and-a-half-years of his presidency. This money was transferred to the president by Ukrainian oligarchs, such as Rinat Akhmetov, Viktor Pinchuk, Igor Kolomoisky. As Kiva noted, replenishment is done regularly, in tranches of \$12 million to \$35 million at a clip.

Zelensky--the working-class hero--a humble billionaire who fights for the freedom of Lockheed Martin to use Ukrainians as cannon fodder in a proxy war. And Zelensky wants the U.S. citizens to pay for his corruption! God help us! Forgive the cynicism!

### **The Ukraine Is Still Losing So What Is Its Plan?**

Russian and Donbass forces have cleared the city of Mariupol except for the giant metallurgic complex of Azovstal which is held by some estimated 4,000 men, including many from the fascist Azov battalion.

Russia had given the Ukrainian fighters in Mariupol until Sunday morning April 24<sup>th</sup> to lay down their weapons or be "eliminated." On Sunday, the forces at the plant ignored the deadline, and Ukrainian officials vowed that they would not surrender. In response, the Russian assault intensified, with missiles and bombs hitting the city and new attacks occurring near the plant, according to the Ukrainian military.

Ukrainian officials said on Sunday that the struggle was not over for Mariupol, which for two months has tied up Russian troops and resources that are badly needed elsewhere. The Azovstal steel mill complex is a 2 by 2 miles industrial area. It can be surrounded and controlled by a relatively small force. Those within the area no longer have heavy artillery ammunition and presumably little other supplies. The Russian forces can see and bomb anything that moves on the open ground and can otherwise sit back and wait their enemies out.

I do not believe that holding on to Azovstal will significantly delay the upcoming second phase of the Russian operation which will surround and destroy the Ukrainian army on the Donbas front.

The Russian military has two huge advantages over the Ukrainian forces in the east. One is of course its air superiority. The other is the unimpeded supply line which allows it to get as much heavy artillery ammunition, fuel and food to its forces as it needs.

Without fuel the Ukrainian army cannot move and without constant supply, especially of large amounts of artillery munitions, it cannot counter Russian artillery which will be in heavy use against it. 183,000 rounds of 155mm artillery shells listed in the above weaponry given to the Ukrainian military can do serious damage to the Russian forces once delivered. That is unless Putin decides to resort to use of more efficient means such as use of its heavier payload of nuclear tipped missiles!

Nearly all of the Ukrainian ammunition and fuel supplies have been bombed and destroyed. What is trickling in through its western borders has difficulties to reach the eastern front and is anyway not enough to supply an actively fighting and maneuvering army.

On April 16 Russia shot down a Ukrainian military transport plane that was bringing 'western' weapons to Odessa. Today it destroyed another ammunition depot near Lviv where 'western' weapons are crossing the border into Ukraine. Some bits of fuel



allegedly still reach the Ukraine through trains from Moldova. But that is far from enough.

On April 15, 2022, it was reported that Russia has formally warned the U.S. that there could be “unpredictable consequences” if America doesn’t stop sending weapons to Ukraine. The State Department is risking a wider war with nuclear disaster in Blinken and Austin’s visit with Zelensky. Peace negotiations are nothing more than a prelude to a war we do not want or need. The vast Ukrainian army is surrounded in the Donbass region and to paint a picture that the Ukraine is winning this war is plain stupidity.

According to the report, the U.S. made it clear that the weapons shipments will continue. What Russia’s “*unpredictable consequences*” are is unknown, but here are four predictable things:

- God will eventually put a hook in Gog’s jaw and drag Russia onto the mountains of Israel.
- Every jot and tittle of God’s Word will be fulfilled.
- God will not deal kindly with Gog and Russia.
- It will happen in the latter years and latter days.

Only God knows the day and the hour, but it sure does look close.

Here are more events that seem to indicate that we are getting close. Bible prophecy teacher Daymond Duck named these over the weekend of Orthodox Easter.

**One**, concerning natural disasters increasing in frequency and intensity at the end of the age: the Philippines were bombarded by a cyclone on April 10-12 with flooding and landslides that killed 167 people, left 110 missing, and impacted 1.9 million people.

**Two**, concerning natural disasters: on April 14, 2022, the temperature at Vostok Station, Antarctica, dropped to -106.2 degrees Fahrenheit, the lowest ever on earth, and it was April.

**Three**, also concerning natural disasters: on April 17, 2022, unusually heavy rains in Durban, South Africa, caused flooding that killed more than 440 people, left more than five dozen missing, and made thousands homeless.

**Four**, concerning famine: on April 13, 2022, it was reported that wholesale food prices in Germany increased 22.6% between Mar. 2021 and Mar. 2022 (the highest in 60 years).

**Five**, concerning pestilence: on April 16, 2022, it was reported that Avian flu has infected about 27 million chickens and turkeys in the U.S., and the price of a dozen eggs has gone from \$1 to \$2.95 since last November.

**Six**, concerning trouble over Jerusalem and a resumption of animal sacrifices at a rebuilt Temple at the end of the age: Orthodox Jews have been preparing for that by practicing animal sacrifices at other locations near the Temple Mount in recent years.

A Jewish group called “*Back to the Temple Mount*” called for an animal sacrifice to be held on the Temple Mount on April 15, 2022 (Passover of this year).

Hamas and Islamic Jihad announced that they planned to cause trouble.

They did, and more than 150 Muslims were wounded, and more than 400 were arrested (6 Jews were also arrested before they could offer a sacrifice).

Jerusalem is the cup of trembling and burdensome stone prophesied in the Bible.

The Bible indicates that world leaders will eventually divide the Temple Mount, and when that happens, God will confront them.

**(More:** In an opinion piece on April 18, 2022, Rabbi Tuly Weisz wrote, “*Hamas is terrified that after close to 75 years of statehood, Israel will begin turning its attention to the place where God chose to establish His name.... Palestinian terrorists are getting scared as Jews are getting serious about restoring our holy of holies, the site we pray towards every day, and the building we beseech God for repeatedly throughout our liturgy.*” According to Weisz, “*When blood spills on Passover and Easter, it is time to rebuild the Temple.*”)

**(More:** On April 19, 2022, it was reported that the Palestinian Authority (PA) warned Israel against dividing the Temple Mount. It is something that some world leaders have suggested in the past. Many prophecy teachers believe the Bible teaches that it will be divided (Joel 3:2; Revelation 11:1-2.)

(Writer’s opinion: On April 19, 2022, the UN Security Council held a closed-door discussion of the situation. They never accomplish anything because they ignore what the Bible says about dividing the Promised Land, they always condemn Israel, and they never hold the Palestinian terror groups accountable for their violence.)

**Seven**, concerning deceit and corruption: e-mails on Hunter Biden’s authenticated laptop show that Pres. Biden (as a former Senator and as Vice-Pres. of the U.S.) did have contact with several of Hunter’s associates.

The authenticated e-mails prove that Pres. Biden is either lying or mentally ill when he denies this (It is likely some of both).

**Eight**, concerning the Battle of Gog and Magog: Russia appears to be growing angrier with Israel.

On April 7, 2022, Israel voted in favor of a UN General Assembly resolution to suspend Russia's membership on the UN Human Rights Council, something that Russia said is an unfriendly, unlawful, and politically motivated gesture that would have consequences.

**Since then, Russia has accused Israel of:**

- Violating numerous UN General Assembly and UN Security Council resolutions by occupying Palestinian lands.
- Turning the Gaza Strip into an "open-air Prison."
- Imposing a sea, land, and air blockade on the Palestinians.

On April 18, 2022, Russia called in (and officially reprimanded) Israel's ambassador to Russia for voting in favor of the UN General Assembly resolution.

On the same day, Russian Pres. Putin spoke to PA Chairman Abbas by phone, condemned Israel's response to Muslim riots on the Temple Mount, and pledged Russia's support for the PA cause.

These are ominous words and actions since Russia and a group of Islamic allies will attack Israel in the latter years and latter days.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtvLKayBiXQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mTP36wQnvM>

Mark Biltz makes the case that the Rapture can only occur on a Jubilee cycle and presents a wealth of evidence that would suggest Rosh HaShanah this September has great potential and reason for our Departure!

I keep coming back to the words of the late Hilton Sutton, "*As the bombs are descending, the saints will be ascending.*" My suspicion is that sparks are overdue and the fireworks will begin soon. Earlier this year, Deputy Russian Ambassador to the UN Dmitry Polyanskiy said Russia is concerned over Tel Aviv's announced plans for expanding settlement activity in the occupied Golan Heights.

He said the move directly contradicts the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention.

Polyanskiy said: "*We're concerned over Tel Aviv's announced plans for expanding settlement activity in the occupied Golan Heights, which contradicts the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention. Russia doesn't recognize Israel's sovereignty over Golan Heights that are part of Syria.*"

"*We stress Russia's unchanging position, according to which we do not recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights that are an inalienable part of Syria,*" Polyanskiy" said on February 23.



Last December, Israel announced that it intends to double the number of its illegal settlements in the Golan, despite an earlier resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly demanding the regime's full withdrawal from the occupied territory.

Israeli-Russian relations have soured since the beginning of Moscow's military operation in Ukraine. Observers had already predicted that the Russia-Ukraine crisis could put Israel in a difficult position, as the Tel Aviv regime has good relations with both Moscow and Kiev.

Earlier this month, the Israeli regime voted in favour of a United Nations General Assembly resolution suspending the Russian Federation's membership in the UN Human Rights Council.

Reacting to the vote, the Russian foreign ministry called the resolution "*unlawful and politically motivated.*"

It also called the Israeli regime's support for it "*a thinly veiled attempt to take advantage of the situation around Ukraine in order to divert the attention of the international community from one of the oldest unresolved conflicts — the Palestinian-Israeli one.*"

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a "special military operation" in Ukraine on February 24, following Moscow's recognition of self-declared Lugansk and Donetsk republics, collectively known as the Donbass. The two breakaway regions, located in eastern Ukraine, are largely populated by ethnic Russians.

When you put the Golan Heights issue on the table alongside suggestions of Daymond Duck on page 27, above; from where I sit, this is by far the primary reason for Russia to intervene in the Ezekiel 38/39 scenario. I say that because Russia has long-term lease of port facilities and airbase operations in Syria. Keep in mind that Russia put two squadrons of new fighter aircraft into Syria shortly after the "Special Operations" intervention in the Ukraine.

The other day Amir Tsarfati, host of Behold Israel web site, when asked about how soon the Rapture, his reply was "Very Soon! He said that there was little more to add and that he was convinced it was imminent! Amir Tsarfati of the web site 'Behold Israel' is a born-again Messianic Jew who lives in the Valley of Megiddo and often when he reports from his home, you can hear Israeli fighter aircraft taking off and landing at the nearby airbase. Amir's posts are always to the point on what is happening in the Middle East and his analysis of Bible events provide his audience with on-the-ground insights to unfolding events in this End of Days!

## THE ABC'S OF SALVATION



### ADMIT

**Admit you are a sinner and have made mistakes.**



### BELIEVE

**Believe that Jesus is God's Son, died on the Cross for you, and rose up from the grave on the third day.**



### CONFESS

**Confess Jesus as the Lord of your life. And commit yourself to a life of following Jesus, and serving others.**

**(Romans 3:23; John 1:12; Romans 10:9)**

[Do you have a relationship with the Lord of Lords, and King of kings, Jesus the Christ?](#)

ABC's of Salvation – Repent and be saved from the Wrath of God to come.

Blessings,

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