

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 #110

Bible Prophecy students have had a huge boost to their faith as of Monday/Tuesday, June 13/14th, 2022. This was all related to what transpired as a result of Russia cutting off natural gas and oil deliveries a month ago. Ezekiel 38 has risen to the forefront by what just occurred.

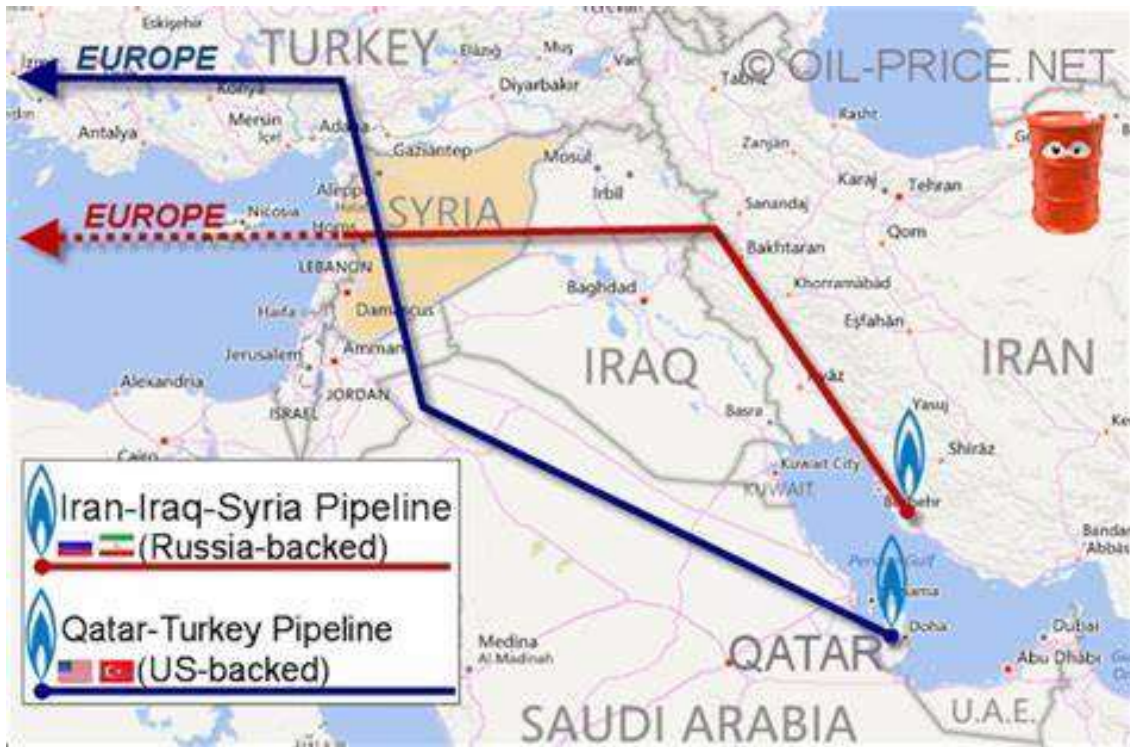
Since the Russian army invaded the Ukraine back on February 24, 2022, Israeli special operators had been engaged in the training and assistance of Ukrainian military operations. There have been repercussions with Naftali Bennett making personal visits to meet with Vladimir Putin in face-to-face meetings. At least on one occasion Vladimir Putin warned the Israeli prime minister becoming too involved with the Ukraine.

Just over a hundred days into the war, Russia shut off oil and gas pipe lines to Western Europe. Most of those lines transited the Ukraine and it made sense for Russia to close the valves, to prevent Ukraine from stealing oil and gas, something that it had done in the past, since the 2014 conflagration. The European Union faced the coming winter with the possibility of freezing, and so it became a matter of necessity to either pay high prices of U.S. LNG.

You may not remember this but more than a decade ago, Israel discovered huge gas and oil reserves off its coast. Early on in the events, competition became a potential issue; Russia had signed a \$5-billion deal with Iran to move oil and gas through a Russian pipe line between Iran and onto southern Europe. The U.S. backed a competing line that ran through Iran, Iraq, and Syria.

At about the same time, Israel was drilling off the coast of Israel and discovered the largest gas and oil find of the century known as the Leviathan. Prior to this discovery Israel was known to have no energy reserves and all of a sudden it had more than enough gas and oil for 200 years and in such abundance that it could provide cheap oil and gas for all of Europe. That discovery was instrumental in the conflict to become serious competition for Russian pipelines providing oil and natural gas to Western Europe.

The second map on the next page shows the proposed pipelines that would distribute Israeli energy to the region through Greece and Italy to the EU.



Amir Tsarfati reported that the president of the European Union was on her way to Israel on Monday, June 13th, 2022 to finalize a historic deal in which Israel will supply trillions of cubic feet of natural gas to Europe either by liquidating it locally or using Egyptian facilities then exporting it via Egypt.

The deal with Europe is part of the European way to find substitutes to the Russian gas supply. In other words: Israeli gas will replace the Russian gas.

Can you guess who is very unhappy now?

If there was ever a reason for Russia to attack Israel now as part of the Ezekiel 38/39 Gog-Magog War, this is perhaps the major reason for the Ezekiel 38/39 prophecy! Russia has had serious sanctions imposed upon it by the U.S., as well as similar moves by other European nations. The fact that it is a hot and humid June is no reason for delay to assure both oil and natural gas is available to Europe. God is clearly involved in bringing about His judgment and deliverance for Israel.

There has been increasing signs of the war in the Ukraine spreading to Poland because of Poland's threat and NATO's incremental aid to the Ukraine. NATO partner members have been supplying the Ukraine with more powerful weapons and surface-to-sea rockets provided to NATO through U.S. reserves and inventory forward-stationed in Europe. The U.S. has a huge inventory of weapons in Europe that troops can be air-lifted to Europe in hours to days. It conducts periodic exercises where entire brigades are air-lifted from U.S. bases in 24-hour as part of the U.S. leadership role in NATO.

Israeli gas and oil as I recall was projected to sell for about half of what the Russians were going to sell to the EU. This would be a major blow to Vladimir Putin and his efforts to blackmail the EU for its sanctions against Russia. Russia finances its military through its ability to control the price for which countries are required to pay for and Putin further stipulated they had to pay for in Russian Rubles.

Egypt, Israel, and the European Union have signed a deal to boost shipments of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to EU member states, Sky News Arabia reported on Wednesday. Brussels hopes the agreement will help it to reduce energy dependence on Russia.

"The deal will see Israel sending more gas via Egypt, which has facilities to liquefy it for export by sea," European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said at a joint news conference alongside the Egyptian and Israeli energy ministers.

In 2021, the EU imported some 40% of its gas from Russia. The heavy reliance on energy purchases from the country makes it difficult for the bloc to expand its Ukraine-related sanctions.

The gas destined for European consumers is expected to go from Israel via a pipeline directly to Egypt's LNG terminal on the Mediterranean coast before being loaded onto tankers and shipped north to the European market.

Some Israeli gas is already being sent by pipeline to liquefaction plants in Egypt, where it is liquefied and re-exported. Israel reportedly operates two gas fields off its Mediterranean coast holding an estimated 690 billion cubic meters of natural gas combined, while a third offshore rig is in the works.

Egypt is also a gas producer, but its exports have been limited by rising domestic demand. At the same time, the country's large-scale natural gas facilities on the Mediterranean have remained mostly inactive since the country's 2011 uprising that led to the overthrow of then-President Hosni Mubarak.

The Egyptian government has modernized the facilities in recent years and has ambitions to become a regional energy hub.

Blessings,

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