

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 #328

Current Events through a Biblical World View!

Markets Dump Then Rebound As Israel Retaliates To Iran In Oddly Toothless, Performative Response

BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, APR 19, 2024

SUMMARY:

- Iran says its nuclear facilities remain unharmed: Reuters
- Situation in Iran's Isfahan is normal, no explosion taken place on ground: PressTV
- CNN: Two U.S. officials say Israel indicated they would not attack nuclear targets. US didn't "green light" this attack.
- Unconfirmed: IRGC states that Iran will target Israeli nuclear sites with counterattack.
- Iran Space Agency: "all that happened is a failed and humiliating attempt by Israel aviation" - via Sky News
- Iranian officials and outlets are claiming that all explosions heard tonight are due to interceptions and that no explosions have occurred "on the ground"
- Bloomberg: Israeli officials notified the U.S. earlier today they planned to retaliate in the next 24-48 hours.
- Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA) tells passengers that all flights have been canceled and they should exit the airport.
- Fox News: Israeli strikes in Iran came from unmanned aircraft
- U.S. claims IDF attacks in Iran were limited.
- Three large explosions heard in Isfahan south of Tehran, US officials confirm.
- The Natanz nuclear facility is located in Isfahan.
- Unconfirmed simultaneous explosions have also been reported in Syria and Iraq (Baghdad and Babil/Babylon province).
- Iran has established a no-fly-zone over its western region.

- Market reaction: initial panic selling, but gradually as it becomes clear that this is just a token "scripted" response to the token "scripted" initial attack by Iran - which achieved absolutely nothing - markets are rebounding.

Israel - having once again ignored Biden's pleadings not to escalate the already tense situation - is retaliating against Iran's weekend strike, which was itself a retaliation against Israel bombing Iran's embassy in Syria on April 1.



Moments ago (early Friday AM) futures dumped, oil prices spiked, and treasury yields slumped amid social media reports and Reuters headlines that there have been three "huge explosions" near the central Iran cities of Natanz (location of an Iranian nuclear power plant) and Isfahan (location of the Iranian Nuclear Technology Center which is suspected of being the center of Iran's nuclear weapons program), as well as simultaneous explosions in Iraq and Syria, where the Israel air force appears to be targeting pro-Iranian militias.

- IRANIAN MEDIA CONFIRMS AN ISRAELI ATTACK ON IRANIAN TERRITORY

- IRANIAN STATE MEDIA IS REPORTING THAT TONIGHT'S AIRSTRIKE BY THE ISRAEL AIR FORCE MAY HAVE TARGETED THE 8TH TACTICAL AIRBASE OF THE IRANIAN AIR FORCE, WITHIN ISFAHAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WHICH CONTAINS MULTIPLE SQUADRONS OF F-14 "TOMCAT" FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.
- ABC NEWS REPORTS THAT ISRAELI MISSILES HIT A SITE IN IRAN
- IRAN STATE MEDIA SAYS 'NO FLY ZONE' ESTABLISHED OVER WESTERN REGION
- IRANIAN MEDIA: 3 HUGE EXPLOSIONS WERE HEARD IN ISFAHAN, SOUTH OF TEHRAN
- JERUSALEM POST: SIMULTANEOUS EXPLOSIONS REPORTED IN IRAN, SYRIA, AND IRAQ ACCORDING TO INITIAL REPORTS
- IRAN'S FARS NEWS AGENCY SAYS EXPLOSIONS HEARD IN CENTRAL ISFAHAN AIRPORT, REASON UNKNOWN
- ISRAELI MISSILES HIT IRAN SITE, US OFFICIAL SAYS: ABC

Some more reports:

- Here is Marco Rubio telling us more or less what happened:
- A video of the explosions in Iran:
- There have also been reports of drone activity over Iraq:
- Flights above central Iran are diverting from their designations:
- as the airspace over the region is rapidly clearing:

Unconfirmed reports suggest that the Israeli airstrikes are targeting a building where a high level meeting was being held among groups supported by Iran and the IRGC:

The market reaction has been immediate, with S&P futures dumping initially but then, as speculation grows that this is another measured, scripted response to the measured, scripted initial attack by Iran, the market is starting to normalize fast.

... with oil initially surging, then dropping.

... and gold also first surged above \$2400, only to slide right back...

... with Silver fading all the gains...

...and Treasuries are aggressively bid but they too are now fading.

Even as the Bitcoin algo's reprice WW3... for the second time in 5 days.

And as traders brace for the worst, because even if Israel hopes to present a "measured" retaliation now it's a question of what Iran will do next, it once again appears that this was just the latest episode in the carefully scripted middle-eastern "war" soap opera. [[This is a Biblical under statement!]]

More as we get it, until then, fear not: He is watching everything... closely.

It Is Impossible to Look at What Took Place That Night and Not See The Hand Of God

– By Amir Tsarfati - <https://harbingersdaily.com/amir-tsarfati-it-is-impossible-to-look-at-what-took-place-that-night-and-not-see-the-hand-of-god/>

Shalom from Israel! Saturday night was very tense. There were rumors that Iran was actually going to do something they had never done before. They were going to attack Israel from their own soil. In the past they always had their little proxy terrorist minions do their dirty work. Why get Persian hands bloody when there are plenty of Arab to do the job? But this time, they felt that to keep their honor, the world needed to see them step up and act. All the rumors indicated that it was going to be an air attack, and it was going to be massive.

The Attack

Then it launched. Dozens and dozens of explosive drones began their slow trip toward Israel. It's an 8-hour flight for a drone to cross the airspace between Iran and my country. As we in Israel awaited their arrival, it was like watching war in slow motion.

But then the situation escalated. Drones were launched from proxy militias in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, countries closer to Israel. Those were followed by cruise missiles. In all, 185 suicide drones and 36 cruise missiles filled the air. The Israeli Air Force set to work, sending fighter jets to destroy these flying explosives before they reached our borders. But we weren't alone. The United States, the UK, and France joined us in plucking them out of the sky.

Then came Phase Three of the attack. The drones and cruise missiles were not the end game. Their role was to deplete Israel's air defense system prior to the primary attack – 110 ballistic missiles. As I mentioned earlier, it takes a drone eight hours to fly from Iran to Israel. A cruise missile's flight is two hours. But a ballistic missile can traverse the gap in 12 minutes. I have to give the ayatollahs credit – it was a good plan. It just wasn't good enough. In the end, 99% of the missiles and drones were intercepted. Those that managed to make it through caused a little bit of damage to an airfield and critically injured an innocent child.

The Historic and the Miraculous

History was made in the early morning hours of April 14. But more significantly, God clearly showed Himself.

It was historic in that Iran had never attacked Israel before from its own borders. As I mentioned earlier, they always had their proxies do their dirty work. This was the first time in the nearly 76 years of Israel's existence and the decades of the Islamist regime in Iran that the ayatollahs put their own fingers on the trigger and pulled.

It was historic in that never before had an aerial attack of this type and this size been carried out. Again, there were 185 drones, 36 cruise missiles, and 110 ballistic missiles launched in a coordinated assault with the intention to cause major damage and loss of

life. Some may balk, saying, “Yeah, but only one child got hurt. Israel really needs to temper its response.” Let me ask you this – picture a mass shooter loading himself up with multiple guns and 200 rounds of ammunition. He then goes to a crowded event and opens fire. Several people are struck and wounded, before he is tackled by bystanders and subdued. Do we say, “Relax, it’s not a big deal. It’s not like he actually killed anyone.” Or, do we say, “Thank the Lord that this man’s plan to massacre all those people was thwarted. Let’s put him away so that he can never do it again.” Iran’s intention was to kill many Israelis, and it is by that intention that they should be judged and punished.

It was historic in that not only did Israel receive help from the U.S., the UK, and France, but Saudi Arabia and Jordan also participated in shooting down anything that entered their airspace. Help, though, from our Sunni friends had begun prior to that night. The Wall Street Journal reported that Saudi Arabia and the UAE funneled classified intelligence through the U.S. to Israel that helped spoil Iran’s plan. It’s truly remarkable to see the ever-growing effects of the Abraham Accords, mediated by the previous U.S. administration.

It was miraculous in that this level of success never should have happened. Mordecai Avitbul, a Doctor of Physics who works for Israeli security, said, “When I look at what happened on Saturday night on a scientific level, it simply cannot happen.” He explained that to have such a high percentage of weapons destroyed would take every element of the process – human, electronic, mechanical – working just perfectly. He went on to say, “The likelihood that everything works out just as it should does not exist in complex systems like the defense systems that were operating.... Even if we got 90% protection, it would be a miracle.... If this is not an act of God, then I no longer know what a miracle is.” If you feel he may be a biased observer, let me assure you that he is not the only one who sees the miraculous in this event. A close friend of mine in the U.S. who is involved in military security related to missiles and weapons of that sort has assured me that it is impossible to logically look at what took place that night and not see the hand of God. It just doesn’t happen.

If it seems like I am taking a victory lap, let me assure you that I am not. Intercepting hundreds of warheads and stopping a disastrous attack isn’t a victory. It’s just success. Victory is never achieved by defensive actions. The enemy will just fall back, regroup, find ways to improve, and try again. Attacking and defeating the enemy is the only path to true victory. That is why Israel must now go on the offensive.

The Response

No sooner were the engines cool on the jet fighters than the U.S. and Western Europe began to warn Israel against a strong response. As I mentioned above, their logic went something like, “Yeah, Iran was wrong for doing that, but nobody really got hurt, right? Let’s just forget it and move on.” Really? Let’s imagine an enemy fires 110 ballistic missiles at the White House or Buckingham Palace or the Élysée Palace. Just because your air defenses shoot the weapons out of the sky, are you then going to say, “Tsk, tsk, tsk. This is your warning, guys. Better not do it again”?

Israel is going to respond, and it will do so with force. Iran crossed a line and now they have brought the fight to their own soil. It may be a blow to their nuclear program, causing destruction to their production facilities. Their infrastructure may be targeted, taking out dams or electrical stations. The response could be directed at their economy, destroying oil production. Considering the Iranian currency hit an all-time 700,000 rials to the U.S. dollar following the failed attack, this could be particularly damaging.

Whatever it will be, it is likely the ayatollahs will have to wait and wonder. Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi indicated that a response was unlikely to occur until after Passover ends on April 30. This would enable a home front policy that would provide for a much-needed, almost-normal Passover week for the people of Israel. It will also give the leaders of the Islamist regime time to sweat. Already they are pulling back workers and reducing the presence of IRGC senior officers from Syria. I understand the strategic benefits of waiting and moving in a time of our own choosing. However, I still think that a forceful attack that same night would have been more effective. The psychological impact of their failure being compounded by a devastating strike by Israel could have gone a long way towards demoralizing and quieting the violent religious radicals who are running the country. In a perfect world with the current U.S. administration's pressure, an attack would have already been carried out.

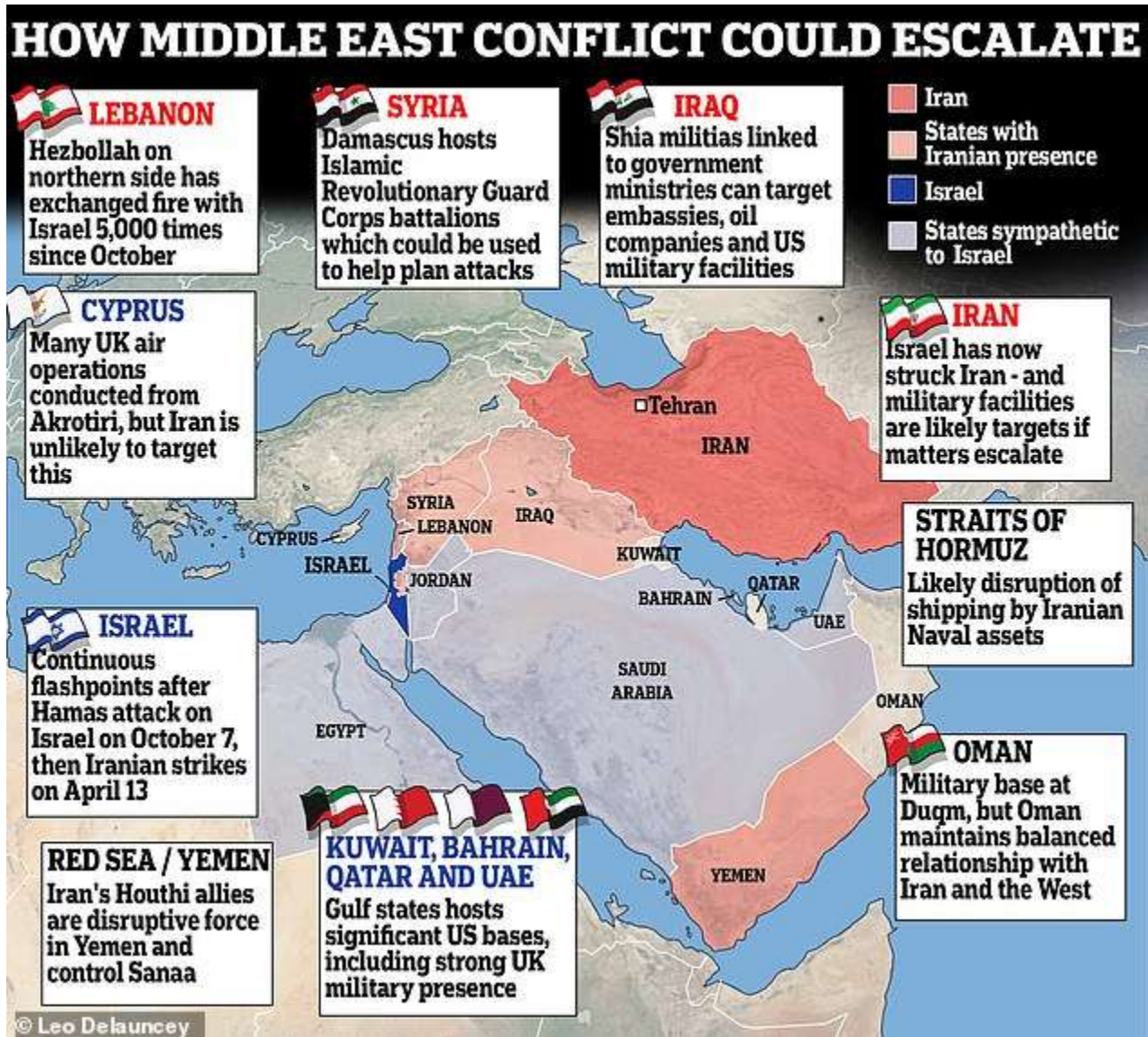
There is one more twist to this story. A rumor has surfaced today of a deal that may be taking shape. If Israel does not attack Iran, the U.S. will 1) impose severe sanctions on Iran, 2) approve the actions on Rafah in the south and Hezbollah in the north, and 3) transfer the financial aid approved for Israel. Should this be true, it is almost as if Iran has unwittingly fixed all of the U.S.–Israel problems on the regional disputes. I see what the U.S. and Israel are doing here; however, I'm not okay with any of this. This does not sound like Middle East language. It has much more of an American feel. When you leave an attack such as this unanswered in the Middle East, it emboldens the other side to feel like they've deterred you. I believe that Israel must do something militarily. Ideally, to the three points above, I would add a fourth that would allow Israel to hit back at Iran. Even if it is something minor, it would at least show that any strike they give will not go unanswered. Then, if Iran were to retaliate, we could come back on them forcefully giving us a win either way.

I do know one thing for sure; that however Israel responds and whatever the resulting escalation might entail, both Iran and Israel will survive this conflict. My confidence does not come from the military or infrastructure or allied relationships. My assurance is rooted in the Bible, where Ezekiel 38 tells me that when Russia comes against Israel it will not be alone. Among those joining Russia will be Persia, or Iran. Thus, Iran must be around to attack, while Israel must still exist so that it can be attacked. There is such clarity when people know their Bibles.

The Rest of the War

In the south, the IDF is intensifying its readiness for a major assault on Rafah. Prior to the attack, all the civilians in the area are being encouraged to leave immediately. Any who refuse the order will likely get moving once the bombs start dropping. As always,

the IDF will do all it can to minimize civilian casualties, despite Hamas's policy of using their own people as human shields.



Daily strikes are taking place against Hezbollah in Lebanon. On Tuesday, a targeted attack in the city of Ain Ebel took out Ismail Youssef Baz, commander of the coastal sector of Hezbollah. That same day, another airstrike in Al-Shahabiyeh killed Muhammad al-Shahouri, commander of the Rockets and Missiles Unit of the Radwan Forces' Western Region. No Hezbollah leader is safe as long as they are targeting Israel.

In a heartbreaking story, Nova survivor, 19-year-old Guy Ben Shimon, told a State Audit Commission on the treatment of survivors of the October 7 massacre at the dance festival that *"there have been almost 50 suicides among the Nova survivors. This*

number, which was true two months ago, may have increased since." The victims of Hamas's holocaust continue to increase even to today.

As evil as Hamas is, they are not without friends. A recent article in *'The Times'* revealed that Iran has given at least \$222 million to the terrorist organization. This isn't a surprise. However, the article revealed the money pipeline which passed from Iran to Beirut to the Hamas Politburo to Yahya Sinwar in Gaza. Knowing this trail allows the possibility of freezing the Hamas accounts. Turkish President Erdogan gave Hamas some legitimacy, saying, *"There is no difference between the Turkish national forces in the (Turkish) War of Independence and the Hamas movement now."* So, what I hear you saying is that Turkey's freedom fighters also kidnapped, raped, tortured, and murdered innocent civilians? Are you sure Hamas is who you want to link your country's history to, Mr. Erdogan?

Biden Set to Cede Future Pandemic Response to WHO Next Month – Fred Lucas -

https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=6836

Congressional Republicans are calling on President Joe Biden to abandon plans for a pandemic treaty that would strengthen the World Health Organization, citing that global body's numerous failures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., backed by about half of all Senate Republicans, signed a letter to Biden urging him to withdraw from two agreements with the World Health Organization that would boost its authority to declare public health emergencies and give it new powers over the U.S. and 193 other member states during such emergencies.

The letter to the president from Senate Republicans also asks that he submit any such pandemic agreement with WHO--criticized for going easy on China during COVID-19--to the Senate for ratification.

"China has far too much control over the WHO. We certainly don't want the WHO to control our individual health decisions," Johnson said at a press conference Thursday outside the Capitol, flanked by several House Republicans and other conservative leaders.

"I have a bill that would deem any agreement between the Biden administration and the WHO a treaty to come before the Senate for debate and ratification. That is absolutely crucial," Johnson said.

The Biden administration looks to commit the United States to the new global pandemic preparedness agreement, as well as to revise rules within the International Health Regulations adopted in 2005.

The existing rules allow the World Health Organization, with the consent of member nations, to declare a *"Public Health Emergency of International Concern."* The amendment will allow WHO to do so over the objection of member nations.

Even if the Biden administration tries to commit the United States to the agreement May 27 at the World Health Assembly--absent Senate ratification--at a minimum Congress can ensure that it doesn't go unnoticed, said Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C.

"We are going to expose it. They needed four months to get the amendments out there that are going to be considered on May 27," Norman told The Daily Signal as speakers took questions. *"That's unacceptable. I've seen too many documents at the last minute. This is too important to let this go by."*

Norman added that he is calling on Biden to be transparent with Americans about the pandemic agreements.

"What I will ask him to do, and it will fall on deaf ears, is to show the American people exactly what you are submitting America to," Norman said. *"Show us the fine print. Ladies and gentlemen, the devil is in the details of almost everything that my colleagues and I have to deal with. So exposure is what we can do right now, and he can lead the way as the leader of the free world. Do I think he will do it? No."*

Earlier this month, the White House released a Global Health Security Strategy that says in part:

The United States is supporting efforts to strengthen global policies and legal preparedness, including negotiating a pandemic agreement and targeted amendments to the IHR [International Health Regulations], as these two instruments have the potential to provide the international community with the opportunity to establish a shared path forward for preventing, preparing for, and responding to international health emergencies.

Nations that belong to the World Health Organization agreed in November 2021 to negotiate and draft an agreement based on WHO's constitution to strengthen pandemic prevention, according to the White House.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on global health, global human rights, and international organizations, also spoke at the press conference.

"It remains unclear whether the Biden administration intends to submit this treaty agreement to the Senate for its constitutionally required advice and consent as a prerequisite for ratification," Smith said. *"An executive agreement bypassing Senate ratification would be an egregious mistake."*

In January 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations that would enable WHO's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to declare a public health emergency in any member nation--even over the objections of a member nation.

"Every single day you wake up and say to yourself, 'Well, what more can it be? I can't believe what just happened,'" Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa., said at the press conference.

"They can't do anything else," Perry said, referring to the Biden administration. *"As bad as it is in dealing with this government taking away our rights every single day, just imagine how difficult it is going to be to drag our rights back away from some international organization of bureaucrats that aren't even elected, that don't care about America, that don't care about our Constitution and don't care about what we think."*

The change could provide unilateral authority to WHO's Tedros to declare a public health crisis in the United States or other countries, without consultation.

The proposed changes to the International Health Regulations would cede control to World Health Organization *"regional directors."* The regional directors would have authority to declare these types of emergencies, and WHO's chief could issue an *"intermediate public health alert."* The agreement also includes ways to control information about a pandemic.

The World Health Organization covered up for the Chinese Communist Party at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak and should have less power, said Jenny Beth Martin, president of Tea Party Patriots Action.

"There is not a single one-size-fits-all solution to health care in America. There is certainly not a one-size-fits-all solution to health care around the entire world," Martin said at the press conference.

"What we saw during COVID, as states were able to compete with one another and show the differences in their policies, we saw which policies work the best," she said. *"If we wind up having a one-size-fits-all solution for the entire world, we may never know the solution that actually is the best."*

WHO came under withering criticism for its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for failing to send a team to China during the initial spread of the coronavirus that causes the disease, as required by the existing International Health Regulations.

Under the proposed agreement, the U.S. and other member nations would provide financial assistance to developing countries. Critics note that the United Nations continues to classify China as a developing country despite its large economy.

Other provisions of the pandemic treaty would promote *"sustainable and geographically diversified production"* of vaccines and other pandemic-related products and require spending for research in developing countries.

The agreement would establish a WHO Global Supply Chain and Logistics Network with international requirements for manufacturing and exporting pandemic-related products. It would create a new position called the *"secretariat for the WHO pandemic agreement."*

In the past, the World Health Organization and the United Nations have worked against the interests of the United States, Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, said.

"This agreement would subject the United States to the powers of the World Health Organization without going through what we need to do in the Senate, without the people's representatives having a voice and ceding our sovereignty to these enemies who are undermining our national security and the interests of the United States," Roy said.

The Texas Republican later added: *"When are we going to stop funding the organizations that are undermining our freedom?"*

Biden White House Signs on to New Gates-Funded Pandemic Surveillance Plan

Guest Post by [Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.](#)

The Biden White House on Tuesday announced a new 50-country partnership to "combat future pandemics" and a new Pandemic Fund, financed so far by 27 contributors, including some associated with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, journalist Kim Iversen reported.

The Biden White House on Tuesday announced a new [50-country partnership](#) to "combat future pandemics" by identifying and responding to infectious disease outbreaks, journalist Kim Iversen reported on a recent episode of "The Kim Iversen Show."

The administration released a 64-page document detailing the program, which it said aims to strengthen "[global health security](#)" and *"prevent, detect and effectively respond to biological threats wherever they emerge."*

"We know exactly what that means," Iversen said. *"They're going to be hunting down [Disease X](#), which is what the [World Economic Forum] called it during their Davos meeting, where they're like, 'We've got to be prepared for Disease X, because Disease X is going to get us all.'"*

The Biden administration said it already supports 50 countries and has committed to support 50 more, primarily in Africa and Asia, to develop better testing, surveillance, communication and preparedness to “prevent pandemics” like the COVID-19 outbreak.

“You thought the [pandemic health treaty](#), which gives away our sovereignty, was scary?” she asked, referring to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) proposed pandemic agreement, which is up for a vote by member states next month. “Well, this is almost as bad.”

Several U.S. government agencies — including U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Defense, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security — will implement the program.

Iversen read from the [White House strategy document](#):

“The [COVID-19](#) pandemic had — and continues to have — a profound impact on our Nation and the world. More than one million Americans have lost their lives and nearly seven million Americans have been hospitalized, leaving families grieving and communities forever changed.

“We experienced the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression as weaknesses in our supply chains were exposed, small businesses struggled to stay afloat, and 20 million Americans lost their jobs.

“And we saw how this global health challenge caused local consequences for our hospitals, our schools, and our communities. No sector of the economy or society was immune.

“That is why, since day one, I have been committed to ensuring that our Nation is prepared for a future pandemic and all biological threats, including strengthening and investing in global health security.”

Iversen noted that the government response to the COVID-19 virus — “not the actual virus” — was responsible for the challenges President Joe Biden referenced. This new program, she said, would make it possible for the government to cause that kind of chaos again.

Government’s new Pandemic Fund — brought to you by Bill Gates?

As part of Tuesday’s announcement, Biden also said he created a [Pandemic Fund](#) with bipartisan support *“that has already catalyzed [\\$2 billion in financing](#) from 27 contributors, including countries, foundations, and philanthropies, to build stronger global health security capabilities.”*

“Who are these contributors?” Iversen asked, “Do you want to guess the Bill Gates Foundation is a big one?”

According to the Pandemic Fund website, funds are channeled through 13 governmental and nongovernmental organizations, including Gates-funded organizations like the WHO, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations ([CEPI](#)); [Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance](#); and [The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#).

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation also funds similar projects through other partnerships. For example, Gates and the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, funded the launch of the Sentinel system.

[Sentinel](#) is a proprietary "[early warning system](#)" — powered by [CRISPR](#) gene-editing technology — meant to detect deadly pathogens in Africa before they spread.

Organizations like the Gates Foundation, Iversen said, have their own agendas that they can advance through such partnerships. Gates, she said, "*wants to see vaccines for everybody and surveillance for diseases in order to enact [vaccines for everybody](#).*"

By offering major funding to poor countries, Iversen said, groups like the Gates Foundation buy the ability to manipulate or control policy. That kind of power, she said, was key to imposing vaccine mandates and [vaccine passports](#) across the world.

She cited recent reporting by investigative journalist [Paul D. Thacker](#), who reported that a WHO official testified that the Finnish government was well aware that COVID-19 vaccines didn't stop transmission when the country mandated vaccine passports.

[Dr. Hanna Nohynek](#), chair of the WHO's Strategic Group of Experts on Immunization, said she advised the government the passports would not be effective and were not needed.

"They knew it was an absolute scam, but they did it anyway," Iversen said. "It wasn't because they really worried about our health. It wasn't because they really were worried about the spread."

This new global health security partnership the administration has signed on to also has nothing to do with protecting public health, Iversen said.

"We all know that this is about coming up with a way to surveil people, to get people on passports, on some sort of surveillance system and it is absolutely frightening."

Iran's Foreign Minister: Our Response to Israeli Attacks 'Will Be Immediate And At A Maximum Level'

APRIL 19, 2024

Iranian foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Thursday night that Iran would launch an intense response if Israel struck Iranian soil in retaliation for Iran's unprecedented attack on Israel last week.

The official from the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism made the remarks while on U.S. soil during a CNN interview after he attended a U.N. meeting.

"In case the Israeli regime embarks on adventurism again and takes action against the interests of Iran, the next response from us will be immediate and at a maximum level," he said. "It will be decisive. Our response will be decisive through the Swiss embassy in Tehran."

"We have announced to the White House, sent a message to the White House and Washington, D.C., the administration, in which we reiterated that if the Israeli regime commits that grave error once again, our response will be decisive, definitive, and regretful for that," he added. "We do not seek to create tension and crisis or increase such situations in the Middle East, and we sincerely hope that the Israeli regime does not repeat the previous egregious error."

He claimed that the combined 300 missiles and drones fired by Iran were the "minimum" that the country could do.

"Why do we call it carried out at a minimum? Because it was geared towards two military targets, one the Innova Team Air Base and the other one an intelligence and information center," he said. "We did not target economic and financial centers, civilian centers, only the two locations from which F-35 aircraft were flown, took off from there, and targeted the embassy building in the Golan."

"This was our minimum response. But in case of a repeated adventure-seeking and adventurism of the Israeli regime, what will our maximum response be? I can only say that it will be carried out at a maximum level, and it will be regretful for them," he continued. "The details have been planned by the armed forces of my country. However, I do hope that Israel does not commit a grave error in calculating this."

[[Reciprocity or Tit-for-Tat is merely the near-term strategy in the escalation that will lead to the Ezekiel 38/39 scenario that will unfold as the War of Gog and Magog. The Bible promises the world of its inevitability and with that said it is not likely to be long before Iran retaliates for the April 19th attack on Iranian real estates. For non-believers, Bible prophecy is history being told in advance! This is the nearest thing to the fulfillment of a prophecy written 2,600 years ago. Stay tuned to even greater examples. **–Pastor Bob]]**

I posted the brief immediately below in the previous Blessed Hope that confirms the continued conflict between Iran and Israel is far from being over. The Christian church at large is fast asleep to what is happening in the Middle East.

Secret deal: Iran will attack Israel with Su-35 fighters and S-400 air defense systems

Moscow could provide Tehran with modern Su-35 fighter jets, which would allow the Iranian air force to undergo significant modernization in anticipation of Israel's response to Saturday's Iranian attack. Information about Iran purchasing Russian Su-35s is not new; this was officially reported back in March last year. However, according to the *'Washington Post'*, this is a secret Russian deal with Iran, which is part of broader arms cooperation.

Speaker Johnson: Believers Have a 'Biblical Admonition to Stand with Israel'

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) said Thursday on Newsmax TV's *"The Record"* that his bill for foreign aid was necessary because there is a *"Biblical admonition to stand with Israel."*

Host Greta Van Susteren asked, *"Can you guarantee the American people that money that goes to Gaza will actually go to humanitarian aid? Who is monitoring it?"*

Johnson said, *"Yes well, we are and our agencies and the Congress itself. We have oversight responsibility over that. We've required in the House's version of this strict accountability that the White House has to give reports of the funding."*

He continued, *"These are really, really important things. This is the precious treasure of the American people. Israel is a critical ally of ours and I think most people understand the necessity of this funding. They're fighting for their very existence. They are the only stable democracy in the Middle East. I mean, of course, there's for those of us who are believers, it's a Biblical admonition to stand with Israel. We will, and they will prevail."*

Johnson added, *"This is an important, very important symbolic gesture and a very important replenishment of their stockpiles, for example of the Iron Dome. The reason they shot down all those drones and missiles in the last attack by Iran is because we assisted with that. I think the American people understand the importance of that but to your point we have to have accountability over it."*

שְׁאֵלוּ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַם **Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem**

Analysis — Prayer Was The Most Successful Air Defense System

I'm sure you're all well aware that this past weekend, Iran launched hundreds of drones, cruise, and ballistic missiles toward Israel from Iran. In a joint effort, the Israeli Air Force and its allies, including the US, the UK, France, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, downed the

majority of the drones and cruise missiles outside of Israel. At the same time, Israel shot down the majority of the ballistic missiles with their Arrow Two and Three systems.

As [Amir Tsarfati](#) pointed out on his telegram Channel, “No country [has] ever intercepted over 100 ballistic missiles in space within one hour.”

Ultimately, we know that God protected Israel and His chosen people from the colossal damage that could have happened. In [Psalm 121:4](#), God says, “**Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.**”

Tsarfati further said that “*prayer was the most successful air defense system.*” I agree. We know that when God’s people pray, and especially when they have been and still are interceding for Israel and the Jewish people, God hears their prayers.

Yet, I wonder: how many churches were praying for Israel? Did pastors give an update from their pulpits this past Sunday to their congregation, informing them of the situation and then interceding and praying for Israel? How many have been doing that since October 7th?

Israel is in some very troubling times, and they need our love and support, and as Christians, we should be giving them that. Perhaps if your church is silent on the matter, you need to find out what your church’s biblical position is on Israel. It may not be what you think.

If Christians aren’t standing with, praying for, loving, and supporting the Jewish people... who is?

IDF Presents Enormous Remains Of Intercepted Iranian Rockets

Soon after the failed drone and missile assault by Iran against Israel early on Sunday morning, images of the blackened remains of intercepted rockets scattered across Israel began circulating on social media.

An especially poignant image showed the hull of an enormous rocket floating on the salty waters of Israel’s Dead Sea. The area immediately to the west of the sea, around the towns of Arad and Dimona, was one of the attack’s main targets.

“When I first saw images on Sunday circulating on social media I thought they were fake. There is nothing fake about this, or the threat it posed,” IDF Lt.-Col. Peter Lerner, who serves as an IDF spokesman in the reserves, wrote on X.

The IDF presented some remains discovered in Israel of the roughly 120 ballistic missiles fired by Iran, most of which were intercepted by the Israeli Air Force (IAF) in cooperation with several allied nations.



IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Daniel Hagari visited the Joulis military base, near the town of Kiryat Malachi, where the missile remains were presented.

"We cannot stand still from this kind of aggression," Hagari told reporters. "Iran will not get [off] scot-free with this aggression."

Lerner filmed himself next to one of the rockets and wrote on X: *"This is 70% of one of the 120 ballistic missiles Iran launched at Israel on Saturday. It was intercepted and this part fell near the Dead Sea."*

According to the IDF, the Iranian Emad missile originally had a warhead of around 450 kg (nearly 900 pounds). The remains – roughly 11 meters (36 ft.) in length – were only portions of the fuel tank.

"Over 880 pounds of explosives in just 1 ballistic missile. Around 120 were fired by Iran at Israel. The world must recognize Iran's attack could've ended very differently. It's thanks to our advanced aerial defense systems and the help of our international partners that the attack was successfully thwarted," the IDF wrote on its official X account.

The Israeli military said it would study the remains to deepen its understanding of Iranian weapons systems.

"Standing next to it, suddenly the claims that Iran's attack was in any way a token effort or symbolic seem absurd," noted Dominic Waghorn, a journalist at Sky News who attended the presentation.

"If any one of those ballistic missiles had reached an Israeli population center it would have been devastating." -(ALL ISRAEL NEWS)

Biden administration bans drilling in nearly half of Alaska petroleum reserve in sweeping win for climate advocates

By [Ella Nilsen](#), CNN
Friday April 19, 2024



A part of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System runs through boreal forest past Alaska Range mountains in May 2023 near Delta Junction, Alaska. The 800-mile-long pipeline carries oil from the North Slope in Prudhoe Bay to the port of Valdez.

In a sweeping win for climate and environmental advocates, the Biden administration on Friday finalized a rule to ban fossil fuel drilling on nearly half of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, alongside other major conservation actions.

The Interior Department will block oil drilling on over 13 million acres in the Western Arctic, including about 40% of the land of the NPR-A – [a remote area](#) that is home to protected animal species including polar bears and caribou.

The reserve is more than 23 million acres of public land and an underground emergency oil supply for the U.S. Navy that was designated in the early 1920s. More recently, it's become the site of the ConocoPhillips-owned [Willow project](#), a controversial oil drilling venture in the Arctic.

When the Biden administration [approved Willow](#) in March 2023, it sparked intense backlash among young people on social media, as well as environmental and climate groups. Friday's action could improve President Joe Biden's approval among young voters.

"These natural wonders demand our protection," Biden said in a statement. Biden said he was *"proud"* of his administration's move to conserve more than 13 million acres in the Western Arctic, but added, *"as the climate crisis imperils communities across the country, more must be done."*

Some Alaska Natives are critical of the drilling ban across such a significant swath of the NPR-A. It has proved controversial with Alaska's bipartisan congressional delegation, as well as Alaska Native groups who say they depend on the tax revenue from oil drilling to fund schools and basic services.

The final rule *"does not reflect our communities' wishes,"* said Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat President Nagruk Harcharek, adding the move *"will hurt the very residents the federal government purports to help by rolling back years of progress, impoverishing our communities, and imperiling our Iñupiaq culture."*

The ban will also open the president to attacks from Republicans that he is failing to prioritize American energy independence and is driving up the price of gasoline. But under Biden's tenure, the U.S. is [producing more oil than any country in history](#), CNN Business reported, and gas prices are [down \\$1.35 from their all-time high](#) in June 2022.

[RELATED ARTICLE Biden administration considers scrapping its cutting-edge proposal to slash power plant pollution](#)

In addition to protecting a vast amount of the NPR-A on Friday, the Biden administration moved to block the Trump administration-approved Ambler road in the Alaskan wilderness. If built, the road would serve as the access point for a proposed copper mine. The administration signaled it wanted to take *"no action"* on the mine, effectively blocking the road's access to federal land.

In a statement, Ambler Metals, the company seeking to mine copper in the region, said it was *"deeply disappointed"* in Interior's decision. Ambler's managing director Kaleb Froehlich said the move would deprive local communities of jobs and tax revenue and prevent the U.S. *"from developing a domestic supply of minerals that are critical for clean energy technology and national security."*

The Alaska announcements cap off a week that saw a flurry of actions from Biden's Interior Department. On Thursday, the department announced a new rule that elevated conservation to put it on equal footing as other public land uses like grazing, mining and other energy development. The new conservation rule covers 245 million acres largely in the Western United States – about a tenth of the land in the nation.

Next week, Biden is poised to expand [two national monuments](#) in California, CNN previously reported, adding to the several he has already designated throughout his presidency.

Interior Sec. Deb Haaland said the administration's Alaska conservation announcements *"underscore our commitment to ensure that places too special to develop remain intact for the communities and species that rely on them."*

In a statement, Haaland added the move would be big step to safeguard *"the way of life for the Indigenous people who have called this special place home since time immemorial."*

Environmental groups and some indigenous groups applauded Biden's announcements on Alaska conservation as an *"important step."*

"It's no secret that the Reserve – a vast region of tundra and wetlands teeming with wildlife – has frequently landed in the crosshairs of the insatiable fossil fuel industry," said Earthjustice attorney Jeremy Lieb in a statement. *"We applaud this move and call for even bolder action to keep the fossil fuel industry out of the Arctic, for the sake of the climate and future generations."*

Rosemary Ahtuanguak, the former mayor of the North Slope village of Nuiqsut, and a staunch opponent of Willow, called upon the Biden administration to build on the protections in a statement, saying it would help Alaska Natives *"continue to sustain and pass along the traditions and activities of our elders for years to come."*

Ahtuanguak told CNN in a recent interview that construction of infrastructure and ice and gravel roads needed for the Willow project is well underway. Ahtuanguak fears the project is already impacting an annual caribou migration that's an important source of food for locals.

"The animals have already begun their migration; we also have animals that get impeded and get stuck on the ice road areas," Ahtuanguak told CNN. *"It's really tough to work through all these issues."*

Iran's Attack on Israel Was Certainly Unprecedented, But Was It Biblically Prophetic?

By Greg Laurie

April 16, 2024

The attack of Iran on Israel on April 13, 2024 was unprecedented. We know that Iran has sponsored terrorism for a long time, working with proxy groups like the Houthis, Hezbollah, and, of course, Hamas on that horrific attack on the Jewish homeland on October 7th - where 1,200 people were butchered and murdered. It is unbelievable. And

there are still so many being held as hostages. But when Iran directly attacked Israel, that is literally without precedent and it has Bible prophecy significance.

Now, we had this solar eclipse recently and some people thought that that was a sign of the times, even a warning of an impending judgment on America. And as you recall, [I said I did not agree](#) with that position. It is true the Bible says that in the last days the sun will not give its light and the power of the heavens will be shaken, but that is speaking specifically of the tribulation period.

End Times Events

Let me give you just a quick flyover of end time's events chronologically. Number one, I think the next event on the prophetic calendar is the Rapture of the Church. Then, the Antichrist emerges on the scene and the tribulation period begins. The tribulation ends with the Second Coming of Christ, and then the Lord establishes the Millennium (the 1,000-year reign of Christ).

In the tribulation period, that is when the sun will not give its light and the moon will be darkened, as the Bible predicts. That has not yet happened. So, the eclipse was not a sign of the end times. It was just an amazing eclipse.

Was the Attack of Iran on Israel Bible Prophecy?

Setting that aside, I do believe the attack of Iran on Israel was a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. A sign of the end times, according to Scripture, is the Jewish people will be regathered together in their homeland. That has happened. On May 14, 1948, Israel officially became a nation. And you might say the prophetic time clock began to tick. That was not just a sign, that was a super sign.

But the Bible had more to say. Not only will the Jews be regathered together in their homeland, but they will be increasingly isolated. That's happening. The Bible also predicted the rise of antisemitism in the end times. That is happening. The Bible also predicts a large nation to the north of Israel, identified in Ezekiel as Magog, will attack her. That has not yet happened. Many scholars believe that Magog is a reference to modern-day Russia. I concur with that view, but no one can say with absolute certainty.

But this we can say with certainty: One of the allies of Russia will be Persia. Persia was the name of Iran. They changed their name in 1935. Therefore, Persia, or Iran, attacking Israel is predicted in the Bible. And guess what? That just happened.

Will This Lead to Ezekiel 38?

Now, am I suggesting that what just took place is going to lead to the scenario of Ezekiel 38? I don't think that's necessarily the case, but it certainly is a cause for us to sit up and pay attention. Jesus said, ***“So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near”*** -([Luke 21:28](#)).

I'm so thankful to say that, though 300 Iranian drones, missiles, and rockets were sent toward Israel, 99% of them were taken down by the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and other technology that America has provided for the nation Israel.

It is in the best interest of the United States of America to stand with our loyal ally, the nation Israel. God made a promise to Abraham years ago; He said, "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you" ([Genesis 12:3](#)). One of the reasons God has blessed the United States is because we have stood by our friend Israel. And I hope we continue to do so.

What Happens Next?

I don't know what will happen next. . . Will Israel retaliate? Again, I don't know. But Jesus said, "**Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near**" ([Luke 21:28](#)). He did not say, "When you see these things begin to happen, freak out because we're all dead." No. Look up!

Here's something else Jesus said, "**In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself. . .**" ([John 14:2-3](#)) But then He says, ". . . **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid**" ([John 14:27](#)).

Jesus is coming again. God is in control. But let's pray for our friends in Israel. Let's pray for the Jewish people. If you're reading this right now and you're Jewish, I want you to know that your evangelical friends stand with you now in your hour of need.

Let's continue to pray for this nation of Israel, that God would protect them, that God would lead them, and let's all make sure we're ready to meet the Lord—because, well, He could come back at any time.

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The **A B C**'s of Salvation

A Admit that you sin.



Your sin separates you from God and keeps you from Heaven. Every sin must be punished. Your punishment for sin is Hell.

Romans 3:10 • Revelation 21:8

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 6:23a

B Believe in Jesus.



Jesus Christ, God's own Son, came to die for your sins. His death on the cross can replace your death in Hell. He only asks that you believe Him.

John 3:16 • 2 Corinthians 5:21 • Isaiah 53:5-6

... but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23b

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

Romans 5:8

C Choose to allow Jesus to save you.



God is waiting for you to receive His gift of salvation. If you ask Him, God will remove your sin and give you a home in Heaven!

John 14:1-2 • Titus 3:5-7 • John 1:12

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:10

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 10:13