

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

- For today's prophecy update I would like to answer the question of whether or not the nations listed in Ezekiel 38 are aligned.
- This because, the prophecy in Ezekiel lists the nations by their ancient names, which has led to much in the way of speculation.
- I'm hoping at the conclusion of today's update, we'll have a better understanding of this prophecy and why it matters so much.

- In order to do that, we first need to revisit the prophecy in Ezekiel 38 as it relates to the modern day nations that are listed in it.
- However, it's important to also revisit the nations that are conspicuously absent from this alliance, most notably, that of Syria.
- I would suggest that Syria's absence is explained vis-à-vis another prophecy we talk a lot about, which is found in Isaiah 17:1.

- At the risk of an oversimplification those not involved in this invasion are Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.
- Those who are include Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, and what I refer to as the "Stans," i.e. Afghanistan.
- This brings us to the aforementioned question of whether or not these nations listed in Ezekiel 38 are presently allied together.

I would argue that they in fact are, and I'll start with a report from "Gulf News" concerning Libya. According to the report, Russia's role in Libya is more nuanced than it seems. Here's a quote from the report, In October this year, British intelligence services reportedly warned Prime Minister Theresa May that Russia was moving troops and missiles into Libya, saying President Vladimir Putin wanted to make Libya "his new Syria". It was also claimed that by having a military foothold in the North African country, Putin wants to impose a stranglehold on the Western powers.

<https://gulfnnews.com/world/mena/russias-role-in-libya-more-nuanced-than-it-seems-1.60825857>

This brings us to Sudan and this report from the Middle East Monitor in which, Russia and Sudan are looking to develop military cooperation. It's believed that the recent Syria visit of Sudanese president Omar Al-Bashir was in response to Russia's President Vladimir Putin, who, according to the report was hailed by Al-Bashir for encouraging shifts in defense technology and military cooperation: "We see big exchanges between specialists in Russia and Sudan," he told Putin. "A large number of Russian specialists work in our country and this is why we praise highly the role that your country plays in preparing Sudanese military personnel." ... The government in Khartoum hopes to enhance Russian investments in Sudan, especially in the gold, oil and gas fields, and to use the income to fund the modernization of its army's weapons.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20180716-russia-and-sudan-look-to-develop-military-cooperation/>

Let's talk about Ethiopia and this All Africa news report about Ethiopia and Russia entering a new frontier. According to reports from a number of reputable sources, Ethiopia and Russia have reached an agreement to develop nuclear energy collaboratively. ... Ethiopia recently resumed daily flights to Moscow and as they embrace nuclear as a new form of power generation, the Ethiopia-Russia love affair shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon.

<https://allafrica.com/stories/201804100937.html>

As for Yemen, let's look at this Washington Examiner report about how "Russia's support for Iran's proxy war in Yemen is further proof it's enemy No. 1." Quoting the Examiner, "The Russians have done it again. They have castrated the United Nations and reduced the organization to irrelevance in exactly the type of situation it was created for. ... Russia defied the U.S. and 10 other states at the U.N. Security Council in vetoing a resolution that would have held Iran accountable for its proxy war in Yemen."

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/russias-support-for-irans-proxy-war-in-yemen-is-further-proof-its-enemy-no-1>

- Suffice it to say, all the players are on the field, as it were, which means that it's just a matter of time before all of this plays out.
- As such, it's incumbent upon all of us to interpret the signs, understanding the times, and knowing what we are to do about it.
- This is why all of this matters to us, such that, it shows us just how close we are to the return of Jesus Christ for His church.

Matthew 16:1-3 — 1 And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. 2 He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' 3 And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NKJV) — 32 of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

Romans 13:11-14 - 11 And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. 14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

- It's for this reason that we end our weekly prophecy updates with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the simple ABC's of Salvation.
- The Gospel, or good news is that Jesus was crucified, buried, rose again on the third day, and is coming back for us one day.
- That's the Gospel, and the ABC's of Salvation is a simple childlike explanation of how to respond to the Gospel and be saved.

**The ABC's of Salvation** - The A is for Admit you're a sinner and your need for the Savior, (Romans 3:10, 23 – 6:23).

- The B is for Believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and God raised Him from the dead, (Romans 10:9-10).

- The C is for Call upon the name of the Lord and confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, (Romans 10:9-10, 13).