

Israel, Russia & Syria

The Nations

This war of Ezekiel 38-39 has yet to be fulfilled. Russia will attack Israel with the help of a coalition. She will receive help from Iran, Ethiopia, Libya, Germany, Turkey and many other nations. Israel will win this war as a result of supernatural help from God in the form of an earthquake. Russia will lead a coalition from Syria and the peacekeepers located in Southern Lebanon will attack in this two-front war.

The Place

Russia will attack Israel from Syria. Biblical Bashan is Mount Hermon – the foot of the Anti-Lebanon Mountains which are located just east of the Golan Heights and west of Damascus.

Ezekiel 39:18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of **Bashan**.

The Method

Russia, the main player in this war, will come on horseback. The Cossacks are a well-trained Russian army prepared for such a time. Syria has an unusual problem today and horses are an excellent means of crowd control. Russia will likely come with tanks and other equipment along with the Cossacks.

Ezekiel 38:15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them **riding upon horses**, a great company, **and a mighty army**...

The Plan

Russia does not come down to attack Israel. When they are in Syria, they will think an evil thought and attack Israel to take a spoil. It may be the spoil is the newly discovered oil in Haifa (Northern Israel).

Ezekiel 38:9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. ¹⁰ Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, *that* at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: ¹¹ And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, ¹² To take a spoil, and to take a prey....

The Earthquake

God will protect Israel as an earthquake that shakes the entire earth occurs. Russia is defeated. Three tectonic plates converge at Lebanon. This is the location of the Dead Sea Transform Fault.

Ezekiel 38:19 ...Surely in that day there shall be a **great shaking** in the land of Israel; ²⁰ So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that *are* upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

Jewish Thought

Grant Jeffrey stated, "Israel is waiting for the signal from God (to rebuild the Temple) which the Rabbis tell me will be the defeat of the Russian Islamic armies in the Gog and Magog battle."

Ezekiel 39:21-22 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. So the house of Israel shall know that I *am* the LORD their God from that day and forward.

Ezekiel Chapters 38 & 39

When

Ezekiel 38:8 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the **latter years** thou shalt come into the land *that is* brought back from the sword, *and is* gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall **dwell safely** all of them.

Ezekiel 38:16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the **latter days**, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

Ezekiel 38:8-14 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come... against the mountains of **Israel**...and **they shall dwell safely** all of them. ⁹Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee...And thou shalt say... I will go to them that are at rest, **that dwell safely**, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates...Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day **when** my people of **Israel dwelleth safely**, shalt thou not know *it?*

Many put the timeframe of this war near the end of the Tribulation Period. The timing of this war is unclear. It may be that we will live to see this war unfold before the rapture. This war must occur between now and the end of the Tribulation Period.

Eze. Ch. 37 Israel Regathered
Eze Ch. 38-39 Israel wins this war
Eze Ch. 40-48 Millennial Temple

Although we are uncertain as to the timing of this – there is talk that the Jews will rebuild their Temple when this war is over. Here is a quote from a March, 2012 Grant Jeffrey program:

“The **Jews and Israel are literally getting ready to build the Temple**. The reconvened Sanhedrin are training their priests in animal sacrifice for their Passover. They have made all the robes for the Kohanim (priests). They have created the musical vessels and the vessels of shewbread; the Table of Shewbread.

They have everything except the Ark of the Covenant and now there are rumors that it has been brought back from Ethiopia and is hidden in a vault in **Israel waiting for the signal from God which the Rabbis tell me will be the defeat of the Russian Islamic armies in the Gog and Magog battle** and when that occurs, the Bible says the glory of the Lord will be in the midst of the nations – that I believe is the rebuilding of the Temple.”

Ezekiel 39:21-22 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. So the house of Israel shall know that I *am* the LORD their God from that day and forward.

(Appendix # 1 gives more info concerning the Temple & the Current Sanhedrin)

Who

Ezekiel 38:5 Persia, **Ethiopia**, and **Libya** with them; all of them with shield and helmet: ⁶ **Gomer**, and **all his bands**; the house of **Togarmah** of the north quarters, and **all his bands**: *and many people* with thee.

These are two separate groups -- verse 5 is one group and verse 6 is another group -- separated by a colon after the word “helmet”.

Thus, verse 5 is the group that will come down with Russia - Iran, Ethiopia & Libya.

(Appendix # 2 shows current relations between these nations)

The group in verse 6 will be the peacekeeping crowd – **already present** in Southern Lebanon - Germany and “his bands” and Turkey and “his bands” and many people. “At the moment 37 countries are contributing troops to UNIFIL (Germany & Turkey included) with about 12,000 peacekeepers.” (03 / 2012)

(Appendix # 3 shows who are in these 2 groups in Lebanon – page # 8)

(Appendix # 4 shows the current names of the nations of verse 5 & 6 – page # 8)

How – Horses & Horsemen

Ezekiel 38:4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine **army, horses and horsemen**, all of them clothed with all sorts of *armour*, even a great company *with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

Ezekiel 38:15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them **riding upon horses**, a great company, **and a mighty army**...

Ezekiel 38:16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, **as a cloud to cover the land**...

Ezekiel 38:9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be **like a cloud to cover the land**, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

(Appendix # 5 shows Russia’s desire as a world peacekeeper – page # 9)

A literal interpretation of the passage suggests that modern methods of warfare may someday become obsolete, and man will return to primitive weapons. That is not as far-fetched as it may appear at first. For years, electronic scientists have reportedly been working on heat- ray devices that would have the capacity from many miles distant to render metallic surfaces so hot they could not be touched.

If such an invention were produced by the West, Russia could not invade Israel with tanks, bazookas, and modern weaponry. They would have to resort to horses. Metal weapons would be replaced with wooden; these would not be wooden swords and spears as used in ancient days, but implements fashioned with enormous strength out of basic wood materials seasoned with resin or lignostone, or other chemically treated woods that already are used industrially and have an amazingly long bum life.

Russia will mount a massive military attack on Israel, and only God will be Israel's defense. God's supernatural intervention will save her. By: Tim LaHaye ([http:// www.raptureme.com/terry/james19.html](http://www.raptureme.com/terry/james19.html))

(Appendix # 6 gives details on Russia’s Cavalry – page # 10)

The U.S.S.R., with vast distances and few roads, and with severe climatic conditions during much of the year, has used horse cavalry to great advantage during World War II. By the results achieved, the Soviets have justified the use of cavalry, not as a substitute for armor and mechanized forces, but as an independent arm and as a supplement to armor and mechanized might in operations over severe terrain.

Russian cavalry has great power in supporting weapons. The organization is so designed as to provide a small and mobile striking force with adequate support of artillery, mortars, and automatic weapons. Cavalry and tanks have been combined into a smooth working and effective organization. <http://www.lonesentry.com/articles/cavalry/index.html>

Where – Upon Mountains of Israel

Ezekiel 38:8 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land *that is* brought back from the sword, *and is* gathered out of many people, **against the mountains of Israel**, which have been always waste...

Ezekiel 38:16 And thou shalt come up **against my people of Israel**...

Ezekiel 39:2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee **upon the mountains of Israel**:

Ezekiel 38:15 And **thou** shalt **come** from thy place **out of the north parts**, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army...

Russia will come through the Anti-Lebanon Mountains (near Damascus) to attack Israel.

Ezekiel 38:8 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land *that is* brought back from the sword, *and is* gathered out of many people, **against the mountains of Israel**, which have been always waste...

Ezekiel 39:2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee **upon the mountains of Israel**:

Ezekiel 39:17 ... Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves...that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. ¹⁸ Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, **all of them fatlings of Bashan**. ¹⁹ And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. ²⁰ Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.

“**Bashan**” in Eze. 39:18 is located at the Anti-Lebanon Mountains. The only easy route through the Anti-Lebanon mountains is located by Damascus. Keep this in mind when this will be linked later to the destruction of Damascus from Isaiah, chapter 17.

(See Appendix # 7 on Location of Bashan – page # 12)

What Happens

This coalition will attack after a thought comes into their mind

Russia will probably come as a peacekeeping force. It is probably not their intention to attack:

Ezekiel 38:9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. ¹⁰ Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, *that* at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: ¹¹ And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, ¹² To take a spoil, and to take a prey....

Perhaps the “evil thought” and the “spoil” is oil.” Israel has struck oil again, this time off the Tel Aviv coast. Developers maintain the find includes 100 million barrels of oil, worth \$10 billion.”

(See Appendix # 8 on Israel & the Oil Discovery of March, 2012)

Victory Given By God

Ezekiel 38:23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and **they shall know that I am the LORD.**

Ezekiel 39:6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and **they shall know that I am the LORD.** ⁷ So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not *let them* pollute my holy name any more: and the **heathen shall know that I am the LORD,** the Holy One in Israel.

Ezekiel 39:21 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the **heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed,** and my hand that I have laid upon them. ²² So the house of **Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.** ²³ And the **heathen shall know** that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword.

Ezekiel 39:28 Then shall **they know that I am the LORD their God,** which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.

Victory in This Order:

Ezekiel 38:19 ... Surely in that day there shall be a **great shaking** in the land of Israel; ²⁰ So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that *are* upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

When the Bible states that there will be a great shaking, it is a great understatement. Notice the result of this shaking is found in Eze. 38:20 – the entire earth is moved. As Russia comes through the Anti-Lebanon Mountains, an earthquake leaves 5/6 of them dead.

(See Appendix # 9 on this earthquake – page # 13)

Ezekiel 38:21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

Ezekiel 38:22 And I will plead against him with **pestilence** and with **blood**; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that *are* with him, an **overflowing rain,** and **great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.**

Ezekiel 39:4 ...I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and *to* the beasts of the field to be devoured.

Ezekiel 39:17 ... Speak unto **every feathered fowl,** and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves...that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. ¹⁸ Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. ¹⁹ And **ye shall eat fat till ye be full,** and **drink blood till ye be drunken,** of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. ²⁰ Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.

Result of Victory

Ezekiel 39:2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:
(5/6 of Russia is defeated)

Ezekiel 39:9 And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years:

Ezekiel 39:12 And **seven months** shall the house of Israel be **burying** of them, that they may cleanse the land.

Appendices

Appendix # 1 The Temple & The Current Sanhedrin

Reestablished Sanhedrin Convenes to Discuss Temple

The re-established "Sanhedrin" convened to hold its monthly meeting this week, with the question of the Holy Temple's precise location the main topic on the agenda.

The Sanhedrin heard expert testimony on the various opinions as to the exact part of the Temple Mount upon which the Holy Temple stood. The fact that there has never been an archaeological expedition or dig on the Temple Mount, coupled with continuous Muslim efforts to destroy historical evidence of the Holy Temple at the site, have made determining the exact location difficult.

Identifying the spot on which the Temple stood is a matter of controversy among scholars, and has serious ramifications for those wishing to visit the Temple Mount. It is also critical for the renewal of the Passover sacrifice, and ultimately for the building of the third and final Holy Temple. While numerous opinions have been expressed throughout the years, and while several of them were expressed at the Sanhedrin gathering this week, the two main opinions state that the Temple stood either on the spot currently occupied by the gold-topped Dome of the Rock, or just to the north of that spot. An opinion that the Temple stood south of that spot, approximately behind the present-day Western Wall, was also presented - though most scholars basically discount it.

The opinion that it is impossible to determine the site of the Temple without prophecy was also presented.

The opinions were delivered by rabbis, professors and archaeologists, all experts in the matter of the Temple Mount. A final presentation on the matter will be given to the Sanhedrin by a subcommittee now in formation. The subcommittee will thoroughly examine the various opinions, and present its findings to the Sanhedrin, which is then to make a decision on whether the site can be determined.

The founders of the new Sanhedrin stress that they are merely fulfilling a Biblical mitzvah (obligation). "It is a special mitzvah, based on our presence in Israel, to establish a Sanhedrin," Rabbi Meir HaLevi, one of the 71 members of the new Sanhedrin, has explained. "The Rambam [12th-century Torah scholar Maimonides] describes the process exactly in the Mishnah Torah [his seminal work codifying Jewish Law]. When he wrote it, there was no Sanhedrin, and he therefore outlines the steps necessary to establish one."

"It is appropriate that the Sanhedrin convened to discuss this lofty matter [of the Temple's location] this week," Sanhedrin spokesman Rabbi Chaim Richman told Arutz-7's Ezra HaLevi, "as the Torah portion is Terumah – the portion of the Bible which begins to deal with the preparations for the Tabernacle. Though seemingly esoteric, the preparations for building a Tabernacle and the Temple are at the center of who we are as a people."

Richman also said that it was heartening to see that despite talk of withdrawal from parts of the Land of Israel, and despite Prime Minister Sharon's declaration that Israel has "given up its dreams," the Sanhedrin continues to move toward strengthening the nation of Israel. "As all these things happen all around us," Rabbi Richman said, "the Sanhedrin is researching ways to renew the deepest roots of our faith – to renew Temple service, reunite Jewish legal tradition and inspire the Jewish people to aspire to greatness. Our people have one path before us, and we will continue to march toward our destiny." Sanhedrin member Rabbi Yisrael Ariel - former Yeshiva head, founder of the Temple Institute, and one of the paratroopers who took part in the 1967 liberation of the Temple Mount - said: "People today ask, 'Who are we in this generation to even consider building the Temple?' But in this week's Torah portion we see that the commandment to build a Temple was given to Jews who had just sinned and committed idolatry in the Sin of the Golden Calf. The fact is that what G-d requires in this world is for regular people to do their best. That is what we are trying to do."

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/76624>

Appendix # 2 Current Relations Between Russia, Iran, Libya and Syria

Russian Anti-Terror Troops Arrive in Syria

Now the Russian Black Sea fleet's Iman tanker has arrived in the Syrian port of Tartus on the Mediterranean Sea with an anti-terror squad from the Russian Marines aboard according to the Interfax news agency. <http://news.yahoo.com/russian-anti-terror-troops-arrive-syria-164035966--abc-news.html>

Why Russia protects Syria's Assad – CNN.com

Russia Strongly Backs Annan's Mission in Syria By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV | *Associated Press*
MOSCOW (AP) — Russia said Friday it has encouraged the Syrian government to cooperate with Kofi Annan, the envoy charged with trying to help end the violence there... (03/16/12)

02/03/2012 (AP) — Iran will help any nation or group that confronts the "cancer" Israel, the Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Friday.

...From now on, in any place, **if any nation or any group confronts the Zionist regime, we will endorse and we will help. We have no fear expressing this,**" said Khamenei. He said Israel is a "cancerous tumor that should be cut and will be cut."

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Saturday that the Palestinians and "other nations" will eventually remove Israel from the region.

http://www.bangkokpost.net/breaking_news/breakingnews.php?id=78985

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Thursday the **solution to the Middle East crisis was to destroy Israel**... <http://haaretz.com/hasen/spages/746081.html>

Iran's hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Sunday said the world would witness the destruction of Israel soon, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/06/03/ap/middleeast/main2878695.shtml>

WASHINGTON - Libya's prime minister...said his country stands with the people of Syria opposed to President Bashar Assad's regime...He added, however, that the Libyan government does support the "good" cause of Syrians opposed to Assad.

<http://news.yahoo.com/libyan-denies-russian-charges-training-syrian-rebels-000802383.html>

Appendix # 3 Peacekeepers in Lebanon / Who is in Lebanon?

The United Nations Interim Force includes:

Austria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, El Salvador, France, FYR of Macedonia, **Germany**, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, S. Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Portugal, Qatar, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Timor Leste, and **Turkey**.

<http://unifil.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4879>

"At the moment 37 countries are contributing troops to UNIFIL with about 12,000 peacekeepers."

Appendix # 4 Names Represented in Eze. 38

Most experts identify **Magog** as being associated with the ancient peoples known as the Scythians. Ancient historian, Joseph Flavius, clearly identifies Magog: "Magog founded the Magogians, thus named after him, but who were by the Greeks called Scythians." Another reliable source comes from Herodotus, known as the "Father of History." Herodotus writes of the bizarre and savage practices of the descendents of Magog known as the Scythians. They drank the blood of the first enemy they killed; they carried the heads of the victims to their chiefs; they scalped their enemies and used the scalps as "napkins"; they used the skins of their victims to cover their quivers; they drank from the skulls of their victims; they practiced blood brotherhood by drinking each other's blood mixed with wine. The Scythians "bathed" in the vapor from heated hemp seeds. When their king died, they sacrificed one of his concubines and several servants. After a year, they commemorated his death by sacrificing fifty servants and fifty horses.

The name Scythian covers a number of nomadic tribes from the Russian steppes, a fertile area of the Ukraine north of the Black Sea. Other related tribes occupied the area to the east of the Caspian Sea. The area encompassed by the Scythians extended from the mid-Volga to the northern Urals and beyond. They colonized Media, Parthia, Persia, Central Asia and as far as the Chinese border. Arab writers confirm that in the Arabic language their name for the Great Wall of China is called "the wall of Al Magog" because the Great Wall was built to keep out the invading armies from **Magog**. All together an area of about 2,000 square miles. So clearly this was the former Soviet Union, **modern day Russia**. (http://www.prophecyupdate.com/gog_and_magog_identified.htm)

Gog (the ruler) is chief prince of **Meschech** and **Tubal - Russia** (Bible Atlas). Gog is to Magog what Pharaoh is to Egypt.

Ethiopia and **Libya** are who they are.

Gomer was the eldest son of Japheth, most likely representing **Germany** (<http://latterrain.com/ot/gene.htm>).

Togarmah seems to be modern **Turkey**. "All his bands" may include Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia and Ukraine.

Sheba and **Dedan** (vs. 13) are **Saudi Arabia** (Bible Atlas).

Persia was similar in size and location to modern-day Iran.

<http://www.bibleresourcecenter.org/vslitemDisplay.dsp&objectid=C0FAE099-945A4CB4B1F081744F9EA93C&method=Display>

Russia – Peacekeepers

The foreign policy of the Russian Federation is directed in various key directions, the main goal being to achieve military security for **Russia** by ensuring that the country reacts appropriately to threats. Assisting in settling conflicts, including **peacekeeping activities**, under the aegis of the UN and other international organizations, and strengthening the key mechanisms of multinational security, are among the highest priorities of Russia's present political leaders.

They were selected for participation in CIS, UN and NATO-led peace support missions for two main reasons: a) their air and ground transportability, and b) the troops were among the best Russian stand-by military formations and units. Initially Russian soldiers and their commanding officers had little peacekeeping experience; the troops however did their best to fulfill assigned tasks. Our Western partners noticed the adaptability and flexibility of the Russian military during joint peacekeeping operations, as well as their high level professional skills and their dedication.

NATO and Russia need each other and *it's only a question of time therefore, before Russian and NATO peacekeepers are again cooperating in the field.*

http://72.14.203.104/search?q=cache:JNnUQRjmMDgJ:www.ndc.nato.int/download/publications/monograph_28.pdf+ussia+peacekeeping&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=10

Russia has allocated huge material and human resources over the last decade for conflict management under the UN flag. In this regard, it is noteworthy that Russia's National Security Concept for the first time determines that the country's long-term interests require its wider participation in peacekeeping operations, and that *"the implementation of such operations should become an important instrument for the prevention or liquidation of crises as they arise and develop."*

<http://www.iss.co.za/Pubs/Monographs/No44/Russia'sPeacekeeping.html>

Russia – World Leader

"Russia's expanding ties with Venezuela are the latest example of a new assertiveness in Kremlin foreign policy, driven by growing frustration with what Moscow sees as U.S. high-handedness around the world and by Russia's oil-fueled economic recovery. Moscow has cultivated ties with China and sought to forge its own line in the Middle East, restoring Soviet-era relations to regimes at odds with the U.S., such as Syria."¹

"...how can one speak about ensuring global world security issues without account of Russia's position, which is one of the strongest nuclear powers?"

-Russian President Putin (Wall St. Journal)

Boldly confident Kremlin shines at G-8 summit (Article off the web)

...He also played up Russia's long-time contacts with Tehran, Damascus and Palestinian militant group Hamas, saying they made Russia an important power broker in the region. The days after the summit were marked by elated reports in the Russian media claiming it was a crowning achievement for Putin that laid the groundwork for Russia's return to superpower status. „Russia's role as a world power has been enhanced," said Sergei Markov, a Kremlin-connected political analyst. „The higher its role and the more influential Russia becomes, the more opportunities we will have to resolve dozens, hundreds and even thousands of outstanding problems." (end of article) ¹ Wall St. Journal p. A6 July 27,2006

Appendix # 6 Russia's Cavalry

Russia – Horses

World War I took a heavy toll on Russian horses – more that 1.5 million lost their lives on the battlefields. The Russian revolution and civil war of 1917 to 1920 accounted for many more and by 1921, the Orlov-Rostopschin was extinct and only four Strelets mares and two Strelets stallions remained. Yet, the following article shows Russia with over 2 million horses.

For January 1, 1997 at farms in Russia there were...**2.2 mln heads of horses...**

(http://www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/FOR/russia_cd/agr_des_liv.htm)

Russia - Cavalry

...What was needed, the Russians figured out, was an infantryman who was about nine feet tall, who could march cross-country at tank speed, for about a hundred miles, dash into battle beside the tank, carry several days to a week's worth of food and ammunition, and be almost self-supporting in the field. Impossible? NO.

I have just described a Russian Cossack Cavalryman. A well-conditioned horse can march 100 miles in 12 hours, and it is done all over our West in endurance races. Recruiting Cossacks is not difficult, as war is the tribal occupation. All that is necessary is to let it be known that you have a war going on and they will appear, in family groups. They will also provide their own mounts and will be able to keep up with most mechanized operations. Ask them where they learned these almost legendary, impossible skills, and they will tell you. "Study Stuart, Mosby, Morgan, and Grierson."

But those are our Civil War generals you protest. Exactly. In 1880, when the Army historical branch finished the O.R. or Official Report of the Civil War, we sent copies of the 80 volume report to all governments in Europe, where they proceeded to gather dust. Except in one country. Russia, where men with the genes of Genghis and Tamerlane provided fertile ground indeed for the seed of mobile warfare. Prince General Golitzen once said, "The American Cavalry has raised to reality the most celestial dreams of the cavalryman, and we in Russia are the only ones who can duplicate them."

More exotic yet is the fact that the Russian 14.5mm cartridge was designed as an antitank cartridge, and was made for a rifle that could be fired off the packsaddle of a led horse....So we could, if we so desired, create a mounted infantry force that could give most terrorists fits in their secluded bases.

(<http://www.geocities.com/futuretanks/ponysoldiers.htm>)

Cossack Cavalry Acting in Russian Films (Aired March 10, 2002)

They rode into Russian history as the fiercest of warriors, the Cossacks, men who were born on horses. That history lives today, with Russia's Cossack Cavalry Regiment a separate part of the Russian Army. But these soldiers don't fight. They act. The Soviet Army's cavalry came to an end in the 1950s when it was replaced by the horsepower of motorized vehicles. But just a few years later, it was reborn, thanks to the Russian film industry.

DOUGHERTY (voice over): 1962, Sergei Bondarchuk's "War in Peace," the debut for the Cossack Cavalry, 1,250 horses were used in that film, which won Russia's first Oscar.

Since then, the regiment has appeared in almost 1,000 films. Half their pay comes from the army, half from the Russian film industry. Today, just a few are Cossacks, but many grew up with horses. Some are regular conscripts.

"My father and grandfather were Cossack warriors, Vladimir Yakuhev (ph) tells me, and I plan on continuing the tradition.

Many say it sure beats regular service in the Russian Army, but it's hard work. Horses must be cleaned three times a day and fed a dozen times a day. Both the horses and the men have to train for the movies and teaching a horse to lie down in the snow isn't easy.

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0203/10/sm.23.html>

Moscow, 27 May 2005 (RFE/RL) -- President Putin this week received a warm welcome from Cossacks of the Don region, in the Cossack settlement of Veshenskaya. Following decades of repression under Soviet rule, Cossacks are eager to restore some of their former status as Russia's elite cavalry guard.

Many Cossacks are pinning their hopes on a bill that Putin submitted to the State Duma in April that would allow Cossacks to serve in the army, police, and border-guard forces. This practice is already well established in southern Russia, but Cossack troops do not have a full legal status.
<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2005/05/01322f73-7f51-49f5-80c9-34371343f99c.html>

Putin sends for Cossacks in fight against terrorism

NAPOLEON once said: "Give me 20,000 Cossacks and I will conquer the whole of Europe, and even the whole world." Now, President Putin is enlisting the help of the Cossack ethnic minority to keep order in Russia's volatile southern regions. The President has introduced personally to the Russian Duma a Bill that would create special Cossack security units to preserve law and order and fight terrorism.

It could become law this month. About 600,000 Cossacks would be eligible to join the units, the first of which could be formed by the end of the year. The move would mean Cossacks returning, after a 90-year hiatus, to their traditional role as tough defenders of Russia's border regions.

The need for such defense was underlined yesterday as eleven soldiers were killed and more than twenty people, including civilians, were injured when a lorry carrying troops was blown up by a radio-controlled bomb in Makhachkala, capital of the restive Dagestan region that borders Chechnya.

Cossacks were bands of freemen who lived in what is now the south of Russia, defying the authority of tsars and Ottoman princes and conducting armed raids on both sides. Eventually they swore allegiance to the Russian tsars and, as cavalry, were at the vanguard of the expansion of the Russian empire into Siberia and the Caucasus. Their culture and way of life was brutally suppressed under the Soviet Union.

Cossacks now want to pick up their long tradition of military service to the Russian state. Sergei Buzinov, the deputy Ataman (chief) of the Cossack Military Society in Rostov-on-Don, said: "We want to defend the motherland. Historically, Cossacks served together, under a special bond of brotherhood."

General Gennadi Troshin, formerly commander of the federal troops in the Chechen republic and now presidential aide on Cossack issues, told the Russian media that Cossacks could play an important role in protecting Russia's southern borders, where Islamic extremism and ethnic divisions have fostered unrest. Mr Buzinov agreed, saying: "About 1,200 Cossack voluntary organizations exist in Russia, where Cossacks, on foot or on horseback, help to maintain law and order in Russian cities."
(<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-1677270,00.html>)

Cavalry in the Offense

Red Army doctrine stresses that cavalry should be used as an independent striking force; that cavalry is not a substitute for mechanized forces, but is a powerful force for operations where motorized units are handicapped by impassable terrain. By Red Army definition, cavalry is capable of taking part in every kind of engagement, and of carrying out actions of every type in cooperation with other arms; in addition to being able to operate independently.

Operating apart from other troops, horse cavalry attempts to strike the enemy flank or rear, to encircle and destroy the main body, and to cooperate generally with air forces, armored units, airborne units, and frontal assault groups. Other cavalry missions are large-scale raids, screening of troop movements of other arms, and counterattacks against the enemy flanks and far from concealed areas in the rear of a defensive position.

Cavalry can operate in very severe climatic conditions and over severely cut-up terrain. Over extremely difficult terrain, Red Army cavalry can average 5 miles per hour. Small units are unable to maintain continuous movement for long periods under combat conditions due to lack of organic transport and difficulty of resupply. Large units, however, with a sizeable supply train and an established resupply system, can operate for much longer periods and over long distances. One reinforced cavalry corps was given the mission of penetrating behind German lines and advancing for 60 miles parallel to the front and across the enemy lines of communication, thus effecting a junction with another cavalry corps in the area. The movement was entirely through forests and cross-country in 2 feet of snow, with temperatures as low as 30 degrees below zero. In 6 days, the corps traveled 55 miles and captured large supplies of enemy material.

Appendix # 7 Location of Biblical Bashan

Ps. 68:15. *Hill of Bashan*. The world's physical greatness must yield to the church's spiritual grandeur. The "hill of God" is here an emblem of the world kingdoms, which (Psalms 65:6) are great only by the grace of God. A great hill reminds us of the creative power of God. Hence, "the hill of Elohim" (the general name of God as the Creator) stands in contrast to the hill which (Psalms 68:16) "the Lord" (Jehovah) will dwell in for ever. It lay in the north, in the region east of Jordan, or the land of Hermon, the kingdom of Og, the most formidable enemy whom Israel encountered on their march to Canaan. "The hill of Bashan is the high snow summit of Anti Lebanon, or Hermon, the extreme limit of Bashan. There was a peculiar propriety, from its position on the boundary between Judaea and the heathen world, in employing it as a symbol of the world's might (Psalms 68:22 42:6 89:12)" (Hengstenberg). The original name of Hermon as Sion; i.e., lofty (Deuteronomy 4:48); allied in sound to Zion, which suggested the contrast here between the world hills and the Lord's hill. A. R. Fausset.

(<http://bible.crosswalk.com/Commentaries/TreasuryofDavid/tod.cgi?book=ps&chapter=068&verse=015>)

Both Lebanon and Bashan were hills that looked towards Assyria, from whence the Jews looked for help. (<http://www.christnotes.org/commentary.php?com=wes&b=24&c=22>)

Anti-Libanus (Anti-Lebanon) --The main chain of Anti-Libanus commences in the plateau of Bashan, near the parallel of Caesarea Philippi... (<http://www.bible-history.com/smiths/L/Lebanon/>)

Ezekiel 27:5 They have made all thy *ship* boards of fir trees of Senir: they have taken cedars from Lebanon to make masts for thee. ⁶ Of the oaks of Bashan have they made thine oars; the company of the Ashurites have made thy benches of ivory, *brought* out of the isles of Chittim.

Anti-Lebanon, ancient *Anti-Libanus*, Arabic *Jabal al Sharqi*, mountain range between Syria and Lebanon, rising to Mt. Hermon, 9,232 ft. high. Once noted for its forest of oak, pine, cypress, and juniper, the range is largely barren and stony. Its name also appears as Anti-Liban. (<http://Columbia.thefreedictionary.com/Anti-Lebanon>)

This information (Bashan) indicates that Russia will attack Israel near the Anti-Lebanon Mountains!!!
The only easy route through the Anti-Lebanon mountains is located by Damascus.

Lebanon Mountains

The Lebanon Mountains are 96 miles long and between 6 and 33 miles wide.

The Beqaa Valley separates the Lebanon Mountains from the Anti-Lebanon Mountains.

The Anti-Lebanon Mountains are located on the Syria-Lebanon border.

The Horns Gap separates the Lebanon Mountains from the Jabal-al-Nusayriyah Mountains (in Syria).

The Jabal-al-Nusayriyah Mountains (in Syria) are 75 miles long and 18 miles wide (max).

Lebanon – Crossing the Mountains

“Cross-mountain routes, which linked the northern Biqa Valley with Juniyah and Tripoli and the southern valley with Sidon, were of relatively little importance in times of peace. In the 1980’s, however, ordinary travelers have used these routes to circumvent roadblocks on the major roads, and the drug dealers have used them for transport. Private militias have also used them to secure lines of communication between the coast and outlying areas. Minor cross-border routes into Syria have also been important entry routes from time to time for Palestinian and sometimes Iranian fighters entering Lebanon. These roads have also served as exit points for produce funneled via Lebanon onto the Syrian black market.”
(<http://www.country-data.com/cgi-bin/query/r-8007.html>)

Appendix # 8 Israel Strikes Oil Off Tel Aviv Coast

By Tzvi Ben Gedalyahu First Publish: 3/13/2012, 6:19 PM Reuters

Israel has struck oil again, this time off the Tel Aviv coast. Developers maintain the find includes 100 million barrels of oil, worth \$10 billion.

Modiin Energy and Adira Energy discovered an estimated 128 million barrels of oil and 1.8 trillion cubic feet of gas in their Gabriella and Yitzhak licenses, in shallow water less than 15 miles northwest of Tel Aviv.

Officials called the find “significant” and added, “Surveys conducted in recent months found oil in the target strata.

The potential oil reservoir is 128 million barrels of oil, and the contingent reserves are an additional 120 million barrels.”

“Bottom line, there is oil. It’s 100 percent. Secondly, the quantities are commercial,” said Tzachi Sultan, controlling shareholder of Modiin.

The Gabriella license is near shore in shallow water. “At a time of soaring oil prices, this is good news for IDB, Modiin, Adira, said Chaim Gavriella, CEO of the IDB holding company that owns most of Gabriella’s shares.

The oil was defined as “high quality” and reportedly can be extracted even easier than the gas.

The amount of oil is estimated to meet Israel’s needs for 18 months, in addition to other energy finds in the Tamar and Leviathan fields off the Haifa coast. Companies developing those fields say there is enough gas and perhaps oil to turn Israel into an exporter.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/153723>

Lebanon – Faults

“The Lebanon Mountains and the Anti-Lebanon Mountains run in parallel, and the mountain areas along Rift Valley constitute main ridges. This means that these mountains have been elevated by faulting, relative to the valley bottom.”

([http:// www .um.u-toyko.ac.jp/publish_db/Bulletin/no01/no01003.htm](http://www.um.u-toyko.ac.jp/publish_db/Bulletin/no01/no01003.htm))

Active Tectonics Along Fault Branches of the Dead Sea Transform in Lebanon

The Dead Sea transform fault (DSTF) is a plate boundary that separates Arabia and Africa. The fault extends from the Gulf of Aqaba to southeast Turkey and has a general north-south trend except in Lebanon where it forms a restraining bend. Within the bend, the fault consists of the main Yammouneh branch, and 4 other subsidiary branches: the Roum, Hasbaya, Rachaya, and Serghaya faults. This section of DSTF is known to be seismically active because it experienced large earthquakes in 1156, 1170, 1202, 1759, and 1837.

(<http://72.14.203.104/search?q=cache:hFjg-IUw7cEJ:www.cosis.net/abstracts/EGU04/01012/EGU04-J-01012.pdf%3FPHPSESSID%3Db878af1c1b69816998ddd469c64b023a+%22active+tectonics+along+fau+t%22&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=1>)

The Geology of Lebanon – A Summary By: C.D. Walley

Lebanon is cut by faults of every scale. Figure 2 merely shows some of the main ones. The longest fault in Lebanon is the Yammouneh Fault that runs along the western margin of the Bekaa and links the major fault of the Jordan Valley to the Ghab Valley Fault of Northern Syria. This is a lateral, or strike slip fault and is the Lebanese segment of the Dead Sea Transform Fault (see Section 2.5). It originated around 12 to 10 million years ago as the boundary between the Arabia Plate and the Levantine part of the African Plate and has been moving since. The result of this is that the Bekaa has moved some 50 km northwards with respect to Mount Lebanon. The evidence suggests that the Yammouneh Fault has not moved for many thousands of years; and whether it is dead or dormant is not clear. We would dearly love to know if it will move again. Like many large faults the Yammouneh Fault is not actually very impressive on the ground and is often only marked by a wide breccia zone.

The Roum Fault, which runs from near Marjayoun towards Beirut is probably where most of the plate tectonic motion is going on now and may be the present plate boundary between the Arabian and the African Plate. One model is that the plate motion has fairly recently (in geological terms) switched from the Yammouneh to the Roum Fault. The last recent earthquakes in Lebanon have been along this fault including the Chhim earthquake of 1956 that caused many deaths and much damage. One slightly worrying point is that the Roum Fault seems to be on line for Beirut. If it does have an active fault segment near (or even under) the capital then that must raise the earthquake risk. Earthquakes are discussed below in Section 2.7.

There are other major faults particularly in the Anti-Lebanon. The main highway to Damascus shows a good deal of faulting in the road cuts as it passes through this area. The Serghaya Fault in particular is apparently another major strike slip fault.

There many other faults in Lebanon with displacements ranging from a few centimetres to several kilometres. Working out which are major faults, and which are minor, is not easy. (<http://almashriq.hiof.no/ddc/projects/geology/geology-of-lebanon/>)

Land Degradation in Lebanon:

Vulnerability of Soil Resources to Desertification

By: Darwish, Khawlie, Faour, Masri, Shaaban, and Bou Kheir

- Geomorphology of Lebanon in relation to environmental risk hazards:
- The major faults of the Lebanese tectonic regime are the Yammouneh Fault and Roum Fault.
- These are the northern continuation of the Jordan Fault and are continued northward by the Ghab Fault.
- This setting and fracturing system are a structural result of the major tectonic framework of the Dead Sea Fault System.
- *This makes Lebanon vulnerable to earthquakes* (Italics are in this article – not added by me!)

(<http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/sap/2004/iran/presentations/darwish.pdf>)

One may want to download the charts available from the Internet:

<http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://unimaps.com/lebanon/mainmap.gif&imgrefurl=http://unimaps.com/lebanon/index.html&h=848&w=650&sz=156&hl=en&start=44&tbnid=1eKzUbGI8jUmIM:&tbnh=145&tbnw=111&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dlebanon%26start%3D40%26ndsp%3D20%26svnum%3D10%26hl%3Den%26lr%3D%26sa%3DN>

<http://almashriq.hiof.no/ddc/projects/geology/geology-of-lebanon/fig4.html>

<http://almashriq.hiof.no/ddc/projects/geology/geology-of-lebanon/fig3.html>

<http://almashriq.hiof.no/ddc/projects/geology/geology-of-lebanon/fig2.html>

The Severity of the Earthquake:

Ezekiel 38:18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, *that* my fury shall come up in my face. ¹⁹ For in my jealousy *and* in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a **great shaking** in the land of Israel; ²⁰ So that the fishes of the sea, **and** the fowls of the heaven, **and** the beasts of the field, **and** all creeping things that creep upon the earth, **and** all the men that *are* upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, **and** the mountains shall be thrown down, **and** the steep places shall fall, **and** every wall shall fall to the ground.

The Coming Judgment on Damascus:

Isaiah 17:1 The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from *being* a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap.

When God begins a pronouncement with the word, "Burden", He is signifying calamitous judgment. In this 'burden', God is foretelling that Damascus, the capital of Syria, will be reduced to a "ruinous heap", and shall cease being a city. This kind of devastation has never befallen Damascus. Archeologists call Damascus the 'longest continuously occupied city in the world'. In its long, long history, Damascus has never, ever been so thoroughly destroyed that it has ceased being a city. (<http://www.cuttingedge.org/news/n1035.html>)

H.C. Leupold states, "The fall of Damascus did not actually take place after the pattern which is here outlined. It never was completely ruined, nor did it pass off the scene."²

Damascus was inhabited by the 4th millennium BCE. Pottery finds there date back to the 3rd millennium BCE, and before the 2nd millennium BCE there was already an extensive irrigation system that would continue to be developed by later rulers. The ancient settlement is located on a terrace some 690 meters above sea level overlooking the Barada River. This river, rising in the Anti-Lebanon Mountains, created a large and fertile oasis before disappearing in the desert. **Located at the eastern end of the only easy route through the Anti-Lebanon mountains**, it became an important trading center where caravan routes began and ended. (http://www.nigli.net/akhenaten/damasc_1.html)

Syria: Government upgrades disaster management

DAMASCUS, 23 May (IRIN) - Syrian officials recently took part in a workshop to improve the national response to natural disasters in the country. The capital, **Damascus, is located on the Dead Sea fault line system** in the west of the country, which is a seismically active area experiencing frequent minor tremors...Damascus and pointed out that 80 earthquakes ranging between 0.6 and 5.4 on the Richter scale were registered there between February 2004 and March 2005...He said that Syria needed to make preparations for a more serious earthquake.

(http://www.undp.org/bcpr/disred/documents/press/2005/may/reutersan_230505.pdf)

Damascus has had two massive earthquakes -- A major one on August 15, 1157 and another big one on Nov. 25, 1759. Neither of these earthquakes fulfilled Isaiah 17:1.

In 1759 an earthquake completely destroyed Beirut and Damascus killing 40000.

(<http://www.lebanon.com/news/local/1997/1/14.htm>)

One expert contends that Lebanon is at the end of a quiescent cycle. He pointed out, "On average a major devastating earthquake occurs every 250 years. The last one was in 1759 and we should be aware that there is a possibility it would occur soon."

(written in March, 1997)

(<http://www.lebanon.com/news/local/1997/3/27.htm>)

Isaiah 17:1 The burden of Damascus. Behold, **Damascus is taken away from *being* a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap.**

² Exposition of Isaiah, H.C. Leupold p. 291

Why The Pre-Tribulation Rapture Is Biblical

The work and ministry of the Holy Spirit necessitates that **the Rapture must occur before the Tribulation Period**. The book of Thessalonians is a doctrinal book that places much emphasis on the return of the Lord. It is here (II Thessalonians) where it is emphatically taught that the Holy Spirit will take all believers to heaven before the Antichrist is revealed.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

1) The Holy Spirit was promised in all 4 gospels and the book of Acts

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me... he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with fire*:

Mark 1:8 I...have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

Luke 3:16 I indeed baptize you with water; but...he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

John 1:33 he that sent me to baptize with water...said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending... the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 1:5 John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost...

2) The Coming of the Holy Spirit was Fulfilled in the book of Acts:

He came and indwelt Jews (Acts 2:1-4), Samaritans (Acts 8:14-17), Gentiles (Acts 10:44-45), and the Uttermost (Acts 19:1-6).

a) The Holy Spirit is a Gift for all Believers in the N.T.:

Acts 2:38 Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

b) The Holy Spirit's Ministry in the N.T. is one of Indwelling

John 14:17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

c) This Indwelling will be Forever:

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever...

d) The ministry of the Holy Spirit coming to earth started after Jesus was glorified:

John 7:38-39 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. ³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

3) The ministry of the Holy Spirit leaving earth will occur just before the Antichrist is revealed:

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that **man of sin be revealed**, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. ⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? ⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that **he might be revealed in his time**. ⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until **he be taken out of the way**. ⁸ And **then** shall that **Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders...

“**He** who now letteth *will let*, until **he** be taken out of the way.” Who is this “he?” It is the Holy Spirit. He hinders the work of iniquity (through believers as the salt of the earth) – until he be taken out of the way – and then that Wicked (the wicked one / the lawless one) be revealed.

If the Holy Spirit leaves the earth, those whom He indwells forever must also leave. The Antichrist comes after the Holy Spirit leaves (the Rapture).

The Tribulation Period & The Antichrist

II Thessalonians chapter 2 could be titled, “The Revelation of Antichrist.”

And then shall that **Wicked** be revealed:

That **man of sin**

The **son of perdition**

Who **opposeth and exalteth himself** above all that is called God, or that is worshipped;

So that he **as God sitteth in the Temple of God**, shewing himself that he is God

Whom the **Lord shall** consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall **destroy** with the brightness of his coming

Whose **coming is after the working of Satan** with all power and signs and lying wonders,

Rapture 1st
II The. 2:6-7
Rev. 4:1

And Then

Antichrist
II The. 2:8
Rev. 6:1-2

The Tribulation period starts when:

a) In Heaven – when Jesus opens the 1st seal, then the Antichrist is revealed:

Revelation 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals.... ² And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

b) On Earth – when Antichrist signs a one-week covenant, the Tribulation Period begins:

Daniel 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease...

Why the Rapture Must occur Before the 7-Year Tribulation Period
The Holy Spirit leaves the earth and all believers go up with Him --
Then the Antichrist is revealed.

The Tribulation Period begins when Antichrist signs a 7-year covenant. The Holy Spirit leaves before the Antichrist is revealed.

Therefore, the Rapture occurs first, and **then** the Tribulation period begins with the Antichrist signing a covenant. Thus, we will not know who the Antichrist is.
To fully understand this Bible truth, one must be able to grasp what Daniel teaches concerning the 70 weeks in Daniel 9:24-27.

Below is a brief analysis of the 70th week of Daniel which teaches that the Tribulation Period is a seven year period and that those seven years begin with a covenant signed by the Antichrist.

The 70TH Week of Daniel

Daniel 9:24-27 **Seventy weeks** are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And **he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week**: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

When Daniel refers to the word *weeks*, he is referring to a seven-year timeframe. The word in the Hebrew is the word 'shabuwa.' The definition of this word is: "1. *period of seven days, week*; of marriage feast. 2. *heptad or seven of years.*"¹ This means that the seventy 'weeks' can be either seventy 'seven-day periods' or seventy 'seven-year periods.' The context will determine which one to use.

This principle of time measurement is not new. One day stood for a year in the following verse:

Numbers 14:34 "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, *even* forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, *even* forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise."

And one-week meant one 'seven-year period' in these verses:

Genesis 29:27 "Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years."²⁸ And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also."

¹ Bible Works 4.0 Whittaker's Revised BDB Lexicon p. 988

This approach of seven-years for one-week will be applied to Daniel 9:24-27. The following is a word-for-word reading of the Scriptures except for the notes added by this author which are in parenthesis.

Daniel 9:24-27:

“Seventy weeks are determined

(70 weeks = 70 x 7’s which totals 490 – in this case **490 years**)

upon thy people and upon thy holy city, (Israelites and Jerusalem)

To finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins (For Israel – Rom. 11:26)

and to make reconciliation for iniquity (The sin of Israel’s rejection of Messiah)

and to bring in everlasting righteousness (King Jesus reigns in righteousness)

and to seal up the vision and prophecy (End of need for vision & prophecy)

and to anoint the most Holy (Most Holy Place in Millennial Temple)

Know therefore and understand, that from

the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem **unto**

the Messiah the Prince **shall be**

seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks

(7+62 = 69 weeks or 69 x 7 = **483 years**)

the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off

(This has happened – thus 69 weeks have been already fulfilled), but not for himself: and

the people (Rome) of the prince that shall come (Antichrist)

shall destroy the city and the sanctuary (Titus and Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D.)

and the end thereof *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

And he (Antichrist)

shall confirm the covenant with many for **one week** (yet unfulfilled)

(**This is the last week – the 70th week** – one week of years = **7 years**)

and in the midst of the week (3 ½ year mark)

he (Antichrist)

shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease (in the Jewish Temple)

and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

Thus, the first sixty-nine weeks of Daniel have been fulfilled. The seventieth week of Daniel is unfulfilled. In the midst of the week (the 3 ½ year mark), he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease – as the Antichrist sits in the Temple as God (II The. 2:4).

It is imperative that one understands that this seven-year timeframe is yet future, as it is the Tribulation Period's timeframe.

Thus:

The Coming of the Holy Spirit Prophesied

All 4 gospels and Acts 1:5

The Coming of the Holy Spirit Fulfilled

To all peoples in the book of Acts

The Leaving of the Holy Spirit Prophesied

II The. 2:6-8 When He is taken out of the way

The Leaving of the Holy Spirit Fulfilled

At the Rapture – a future event

The Coming of Antichrist Prophesied

Dan. 9:27 To sign a covenant with many for one week.

The Coming of the Antichrist Fulfilled

Just after the Rapture – a future event

Only God can see a future event as if it is already done:

1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, **which delivered us from the wrath to come.**

God foresees / decrees the saved to avoid the wrath of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Rapture:

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

Philippians 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Compare Antichrist to Christ

- **Daniel 11:36** And the **king shall do according to his will...**
Luke 22:42 Father... nevertheless **not my will, but thine, be done.**
- **Daniel 11:36** ...the king... **shall exalt himself, and magnify himself...**
Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and **took upon him the form of a servant...**
Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself...**
- **Daniel 11:36** And the king...**shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods...**
John 12:49-50 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment...**whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.**
- **2 Thessalonians 2:3** ...*for that day shall not come...* **that man of sin be revealed...**
Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a **man of sorrows**, and acquainted with grief...
- **2 Thessalonians 2:3** ...that man of sin be revealed, the **son of perdition;**
John 1:34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the **Son of God.**
- **Revelation 11:7** ... **the beast** that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit...
John 1:29 ...Behold the **Lamb of God**, which taketh away the sin of the world.
- **Revelation 11:7** ...the beast that **ascendeth out of the bottomless pit** shall make war against them...
John 3:13 ... **he that came down from heaven**, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven.
- **Revelation 13:4** And they worshipped **the dragon which gave power unto the beast...**
Luke 4:14 And **Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit** into Galilee...
- **Revelation 13:6** And **he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God**, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.
John 17:4 **I have glorified thee on the earth:** I have finished the work...
- **Revelation 19:20** And **the beast was taken**, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were **cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**
Luke 24:51 And it came to pass... **he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.**ⁱ

Satan Imitates God

Trinity

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the communion of the **Holy Ghost**, *be* with you all. Amen.

False Trinity

Revelation 20:10 And the **devil** that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the **beast** and the **false prophet** *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

True Vine

John 15:1 **I am the true vine**, and my Father is the husbandman.

Vine of the Earth

Rev. 14:19 ... gathered **the vine of the earth**, and cast *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

Mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 3:16 ...great is the **mystery of godliness**: God was manifest in the flesh...

Mystery of Iniquity

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the **mystery of iniquity** doth already work...

Good Seed

Matthew 13:24 ...The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which **sowed good seed** in his field:

Tares

Matthew 13:25 But while men slept, his **enemy** came and **sowed tares among the wheat**...

God working in His children

Philippians 2:13 For it is **God which worketh in you** both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

Satan working in his children

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the **spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience**:

Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel which I preached** unto you...

Another Gospel

Galatians 1:6-7 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him... **unto another gospel**: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Apostles

1 Corinthians 12:28 And **God hath set some in the church, first apostles...**

Satan's Apostles

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such *are false apostles*, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

Sealed in Forehead by God

Revelation 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have **sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.**

Sealed in Forehead by Satan

Revelation 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or **in their foreheads...**

Christ & His Angels

Matthew 24:31 And he shall **send his angels** with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Satan & his Angels

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the **devil and his angels:**

Church of Christ is His Bride

Ephesians 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church...

Church of Satan is a Whore

Revelation 17:1 ...Come hither; I will shew unto thee the **judgment of the great whore** that sitteth upon many waters:

ⁱ Materials from page 20-22 taken from A.W. Pink's *The Antichrist*