

## **Russia: A Finger in Every Pie**

### **Bible in the News September 2010**

Russia has been particularly active in the news lately: moving into position at the centre of European Security, selling arms to Syria, making cruise missile deals with Iran, opening bases in Armenia, provoking Canada...

#### **France Asks Russia to Provide European Security**

The RIA Novosti News Agency reported recently,

“France intends to make specific proposals on Russia's relations with the European Union, NATO and OSCE in September to secure stability in the Euro-Atlantic zone.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy made the announcement...“Our common interests with Russia, if Moscow of course so desires, are expected to foster an exceptional partnership reinforcing stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic region.”



*French President Nicolas Sarkozy wants Russia to help to secure stability in the Euro-Atlantic zone.*

#### **Russian Arms Sales to Syria**

Russia has been stirring the pot in Israel's back yard. Haaretz News Agency reported the latest arms deal between Russia and Syria involving the sale of advanced P-800 Yakhont supersonic cruise missile. The missiles can be launched from land with a maximum range of 300 kilometers. Its unique feature is its ability to cruise several meters above the surface, making it difficult to identify on radar and therefore intercept. Netanyahu has been reported as asking Putin to stop the deal fearing the transfer of the missiles to the Hezbollah.

#### **Iran Hopeful of Cruise Missile Deal with Russia**

Ezekiel 38:8 links Persia, modern day Iran, with Gog as well. It is no surprise therefore to see military cooperation between the two countries, even in the face of international criticism. The Xinhua News Agency reported,

“After years of delay, Russians completed the construction of Bushehr nuclear plant, which began in 1975 by German companies but was halted after the United States imposed embargo on hi-tech supplies to Iran following Iran's 1979 revolution. Russia signed a contract with Tehran in 1995 to complete the construction. Iran and Russia started on Saturday to load fuel rods to a reactor at Iran's first nuclear power plant.”

The same article stated that Iran is hopeful that Russia's next step would be the delivery of S-300 missile system, fulfilling a commitment signed in 2007.

## Russian Base in Armenia

Dmitri Medvedev visited Armenia to secure a deal extending the Russian military base operation. The Associated Press reported:

“Russia secured a long-term foothold in the energy-rich and unstable Caucasus region last week by signing a deal with Armenia that allows a Russian military base to operate until 2044 in exchange for a promise of new weaponry and fresh security guarantees.

The 24-year extension will allow the base's fighter jets and thousands of troops to operate outside former Soviet territory, lifting a previous restriction. The agreement could raise tensions between Armenia and neighboring Azerbaijan.

"The protocol doesn't just allow the Russian military base to stay in Armenia for a longer period, it also extends the sphere of its geographic and strategic responsibility," Armenian President Serge Sarkisian said.

Russia is strengthening its “guard” relationship with Europe, Syria, Iran, and Armenia – all willing participants in the Gogian invasion of the latter days.

## Russia Flexes its Military Muscles

The provocative character of Russia was witnessed recently, just outside of Canada. The Ottawa Citizen reported that a pair of Russian Cold War-era strategic bombers flying over the Beaufort Sea came within 30 nautical miles of the Canadian border, causing Canada to scramble two Canadian jet fighters. The incident occurred during the Canadian Prime Minister’s visit Canada’s Northwest Territories. Russia is flexing its muscles in the north, warning the world it is a power to be reckoned with and testing the metal of its traditional adversaries. The Ottawa Citizen stated,

“An Arctic defence expert said he believed the flight by the TU-95s was timed to get catch the allies' attention because Canadian, American and Danish troops are for the first time taking part in a joint northern exercise — Operation Nanook 10 — on Canadian soil.”

## Is Russia in the Bible?

Open the Bible to any page at all and you will discover its message is centred on the land and people of Israel. Closer investigation will reveal that the Bible has much to say about other nations, especially those who impinge on the life of Israel, as for example, Egypt, Babylon, Assyria etc. Bible prophecy also mentions some modern nations by name, such as Persia (Iran), Ethiopia and Libya (*Ezekiel 38:5*). From this chapter in Ezekiel we learn that these nations are involved in a confederacy which invades the land of Israel (verse 8). These invaders are defeated and destroyed by God, resulting in Israel being *"saved with an everlasting salvation" Isaiah 45:17* so that following the establishment of the Kingdom of God, *"God will be known in the eyes of many nations" Ezekiel 38:23*.

The leader of this invasion is named as **Gog**, who is described as *"the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal"* (verse 2). These ancient names are unknown to us because they have been

superseded by more modern ones. Experts confidently assert that "Ros (or Rosh) is the most ancient form under which history makes mention of the name Russia", and Russian historians themselves confirm this by stating that "Russians derive their name from Ros".

Ezekiel 38 adds its own confirmation to this interpretation by pinpointing the geographical location of this prince of Rosh. This is described as "*the north parts*", or, as the Revised Version states "*the uttermost parts of the north*" (verse 15). A glance at a map will reveal that in relation to the land of Israel, the territory of Russia lies in the "*uttermost parts of the north*". It is particularly noticeable that Moscow is almost due north of Jerusalem.

So, yes, Russia is in the Bible, and plays an important role in the events surrounding the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Bible students therefore keep their eye on this country and its maneuvers.

*‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of **Rosh**, Meshech, and Tubal. I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, **a great company** with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords.*

Ezekiel 38:3-4

*“Prepare yourself and be ready, you and **all your companies that are gathered about you**; and be a **guard** for them. After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the **mountains of Israel**, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. You will ascend, coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, **you and all your troops and many peoples with you.**”*

Ezekiel 37:7-9

Russia, the world's largest country, is taking centre stage as a military, political and economic force, just as God predicted.