

# Global Watch Weekly Report

A Weekly Global Watch Media Publication ([www.globalreport2010.com](http://www.globalreport2010.com))

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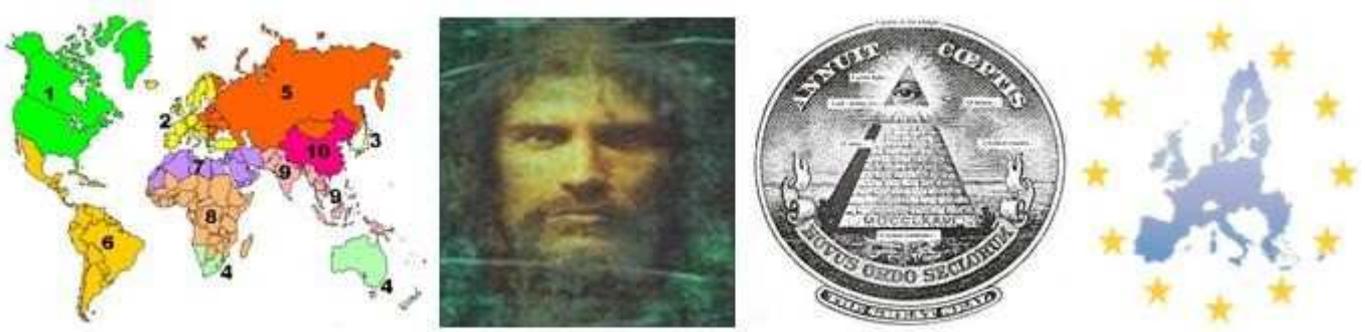
## THE PROPHECY OF BALAAM



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# Global Watch Weekly Report



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# Global Watch Weekly Report

## Welcome to the Global Watch Weekly Report

ISIS or ISIL has Christians not just in Iraq and Syria, but even in America worried. With their propaganda spreading on social media, they are growing and becoming a significant political and terror force. But what does Bible prophecy say? Does ISIS play a big role in the end times? Is this one of the signs of the end?



In the last few days the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS has again been in the news with new militants flocking to it's banner and the USA and it's allies inflicting air strikes upon it. This week we take a look at ISIS in the light of Bible prophecy to see if there is any indication of its role in the latter days..

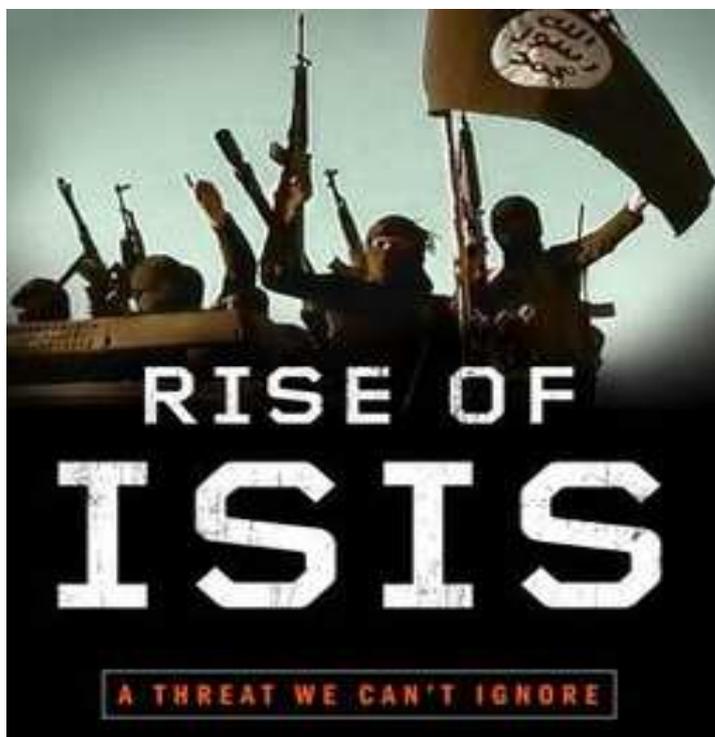
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# THE PROPHECY OF BALAAM

## WHO ARE ISIS?

Since the rise of the power of ISIS, Bible students have been pondering if the Bible hints at the rise of such a power in the Middle East before the return of Christ. Will this group be a small stepping stone in order to gather the nations to Armageddon? Or is there a larger part for ISIS to play? Time of course, will be the interpreter. However it is interesting to consider some of the Bible prophecies which could link to the rise of ISIS and how this could bring about the great crisis of events in the latter days that prelude the manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ to the world



ISIS are a group of Sunni Muslim militia fighting to establish a Caliphate in the area around Syria and Iraq. They believe in Shia law and that infidels should be destroyed. They are led by an Iraqi called Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and were originally an al-Qaida group in Iraq which joined in the Syrian civil war. They are incredibly violent and were so blood thirsty and brutal that even al-Qaida have now disavowed them.

Having gained control of territory in Syria and Iraq they are well armed obtaining weapons from the areas they have taken. They are also quite wealthy as they have in their possession oil refineries which are still operational.

So does this group have a part to play in the unfolding of events towards Armageddon? One cannot be 100% certain but there are some interesting things in our scriptures that this group could relate to.

## EZEKIEL 38 AND THE PENDING CRISIS

The first prophecy we want to consider is that of Ezekiel 38 which helps to set the scene of the great crisis soon to unfold onto the world stage. Here, we have a prophecy which is specified to take place "in the latter days" v16 and also v8. This time period is helpfully defined in the prophecy to leave us in no doubt that these are the days we live in - for it states in v8 that the prophecy is to do with *"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."* In other words the "latter days" is a period when the Jews have returned to their land.

The prophecy speaks of a great war which takes place against the people of Israel before God acts to save them (v18). The reason for this action is also stated by God "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" v23.



In the prophecy we read of two sets of nations. Unlike other prophecies which can be quite general, we are given the specific names of them. They are ancient names contemporary with Ezekiel though and so we have to look back into history to try and define what areas these ancient names now correspond to in modern times.

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One set is headed up by a man called "Gog" v2. He is the "prince" of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal - all ancient names for the territory of Russia. Allied with Gog are also other nations: Persia (modern Iran), Ethiopia (modern day Sudan) and Libya of North Africa are mentioned in v5. We also see Togarmah which is the area of Armenia and Southern Turkey.

Therefore Bible students have long watched Russia as we expect to see it gathering its military might so that these events can take place. It has been exciting to watch the military reforms which are ongoing in Russia and the huge increase in military spending and development that Putin has instigated. The crisis in Crimea and in the Ukraine witness to the fact that Russia does have the stomach for conflict.

## THE PARADOX THAT MANY IGNORE

Many bible prophecy commentators speak about this Ezekiel 38 war without actually fully addressing a paradox.

The majority of the countries referenced in Ezekiel 38 as coming against Israel are countries which today subscribe to Islamic fundamentalism in which all are openly hostile to the state of Israel. Yet in this prophecy we have Russia, a nation whose ideology pre 20th century was Christian orthodoxy and then afterwards changed to atheistic communism.

How can the religion of Islam which see's atheism as an infidels side in a war with an infidel which has the military might to move into the Middle East and then turn on the Muslims using military blackmail.

The answer to that could lie in the fact that there has been a resurgence of Islam in the commonwealth of independent states (the states of the previous Soviet Union) as the Kremlin finds it more challenging to keep a lid on the sweeping wave of Islamic fundamentalism. Such a sweeping change could drastically alter and heavily influence the type of relationship that exists between the Kremlin and major Middle Eastern centers of influence such as Tehran,

Cairo, Damascus and the Muslim populace of North Africa.

In fact it has been exciting to witness the recent alliance of Russia and Iran. A recent news article (dated 12th Nov 2014) in ICEJ was entitled "Russia sends west warning by signing nuclear deal with Iran". The article began

*"In a development that stunned many observers in Israel and the West, Russia signed an agreement with Iran on Tuesday which could possible see the Islamic Republic enriching domestically produced fuel for its own nuclear reactors, undercutting Western efforts to discourage the practice."*

This alliance between Russia and Iran is exactly in accordance with Bible prophecy and we can see Russia also allied with Libya and the Sudan.

The other set of nations we read of in verse 13 "Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof".

This set of nations challenges Gogs advance and so they are clearly not part of the alliance which Gog sets up. Sheba and Dedan are the ancient names of peoples in the Gulf and would be in reference to the gulf states such as Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates etc Understandably the gulf states despite being Islamic have always felt that their oil interests need the military security of Western nations t ward off the jealous nations such as Iran, Syria etc.



*WWI Posters depicting Britain the Old Lion with her young lions and associates*

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Tarshish is an ancient trading power which has been identified with Britain and her now independent colonies such as the USA, Canada, Australia etc and so the reference here is a weak diplomatic protest to this invasion.

*"Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?"*

## ISIS AND THE PROPHECIES OF BALAAM

This week the Guardian reported on Wednesday: *"US-led forces conduct 23 air strikes against Isis positions in Syria and Iraq"*. Last week airstrikes had been carried out and it was thought in the media that the leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, may have been killed. However in the news on 13th of November the BBC reported that Baghdadi was alive and had issued a message. In an article entitled *"Islamic State: 'Baghdadi message' issued by jihadists"* the report stated "The recording calls on IS supporters to "erupt volcanoes of jihad" across the world. He disparages opponents of IS as "Jews, Crusaders, apostates... [and] devils", and says the US and its allies "are terrified, weak and powerless"."

Not only are the US alliance against ISIS but so are the Russians. Last month the independent had an article entitled *"Chechen Isis fighters under Omar al-Shishani threaten to take fight to Putin"*. The article stated *"Isis' Chechen military commander has threatened that Russia will be the group's next target. Omar al-Shishani phoned his father back in Georgia's Pankisi Gorge saying that he would have "revenge" on Vladimir Putin..."*

On Monday 13th of October Al Arabiya had a news story entitled *"ISIS's Chechens pose a serious threat to Russia"*.

Ezekiel 38 though does not mention another power, such as ISIS, in the middle east at the time of the invasion of Gog into Israel. We get the idea of two separate sets of nations and so this

must be the state of things just before this invasion takes place. However we do seem to have a prophecy which indicates perhaps a that a third power will exist in the outworking of events that lead up to Ezekiel 38 taking place. That lead up to the outworking of events before God acts to save His people. This is the prophecy found in Numbers 24 and the words of the unwilling prophet Balaam.

The story of Balaam is an unusual one. It does not seem he was of God's people of Israel but it does seem God was working with him, compelling him through inspiration to speak God's words.

Balaam was invited by a Midian king - Balak, to curse Israel. However Balaam was unable to speak words of cursing as God only allowed him to utter words of blessing upon Israel. Amongst the things Balaam speaks of, is a set of prophecies about the surrounding nations of Israel which connect with the same time period we have looked at in Ezekiel 38 - the latter days.

In chapter 24 v 14 we read

*"And now, behold, I (Balaam) go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise thee (Balak) what this people shall do to thy people in the latter days."*

The prophet then utters a prophecy about various events connected with Balak's people. But in connection with what we have been looking at here he states:

*"Alas, who shall live when God doeth this! And ships shall come from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish for ever." Numbers 24:23-24*

Now in this verse, as with most Bible prophecy about the latter days, ancient names of places are used. Chittim is an ancient name for Cyprus. Eber was the ancestor of the race of the Hebrews - Israel.

The name Assur is what is of most interest to us though. According to Smiths Bible Dictionary, Asshur, *"was a great and powerful country lying on the Tigris, (Genesis 2:14) the capital of which*

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was Nineveh. (Genesis 10:11) etc. It derived its name apparently from Asshur, the son of Shem, (Genesis 10:22) who in later times was worshipped by the Assyrians as their chief god."

In the Hebrew the word translated Asshur is the same word translated elsewhere as Assyria. Asshur is an actual city located 110km south of Mosul and 280 km north of Baghdad. It was one of the capital cities of Ancient Assyria and it's remains are situated today on the Western bank of the river Tigris in modern day Iraq in the Al-Shirqat District.



Putting this together then, we can interpret the meaning of what God (through Balaam) has said would happen in the latter days:

*"Alas, who shall live when God doeth this! And ships shall come from the coast of Cyprus, and shall afflict Assyria, and shall afflict Israel, and he also shall perish for ever." Numbers 24:23-24*

The interesting thing is that here we have an invading force, taking Cyprus, afflicting Israel and Assyria. This invading force surely connects with Ezekiel 38 and the hordes of Gog.

The ancient Assyrians held the territory between the Tigris and the Euphrates - the exact same territory that ISIS is dominating today. Do we have a reference here to ISIS as a power which sits on the territory of ancient Assyria? Are we being told that Russia will invade this territory before Gog has an "evil thought" (Ezekiel 38:10) to come against Israel?

Recently the Guardian ran a report entitled "Egyptian jihadis pledge allegiance to Isis". It

stated:

*"Egypt's most active jihadi group, Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, has disclosed its allegiance to Islamic State, becoming one of the largest militant bodies to pledge loyalty to Isis outside its strongholds in Iraq and Syria. In a nine-minute audio recording released early on Monday, a spokesman for ABM said: "In accordance with the teachings of the Prophet, we announce our allegiance to the Caliphate, and call on Muslims everywhere to do the same." The message attempted to justify its pledge by alluding to violations by the Egyptian state, which has cracked down on most forms of opposition over the last year, in particular in the region where ABM is based."*

It's also interesting to note that this week that the Guardian reported on Monday 10th Nov 2014, "the leaders of Greece, Cyprus and Egypt signed an agreement in Cairo on Saturday to boost energy cooperation." We all know how Russia likes to control the energy markets so this may be another reason for them sweeping down and possibly taking Cyprus in the process.

Its interesting to note that earlier this year the IRS accused the Cypriot financial system of being a Money Laundering environment leading to intense auditing of many of the Cypriot offshore banking institutions where the biggest account holders are Russian oligarchs.

However we know this invasion will not be successful. In Numbers 24 we read that "he also shall perish for ever" and in Ezekiel 38 we read that "they shall know that I am the LORD".

We watch this developments more closely over the course of the next few months.