

## 2. Current day events & things unfolding

May 2009

They who deny that you will be restored and re-established in your ancient inheritance may better deny that you are dispersed for as certainly as the prophecies of your dispersion and preservation have been verified so shall the numerous prophecies your restoration be realized and fulfilled.

- Thomas Newton 1754

The actual feasibility of the return of the Jews is no longer a paradox, the time gives it proof. That theory of the restoration of a Jewish Kingdom which a few years ago was laughed at as the fantasy of insane enthusiasm is now calculated on as a most practical achievement of diplomacy.

- 1840 Letter to the Editor of the Times in London

There is, then, a partial and primary restoration of Jews before the manifestation of Christ, which is to serve as the nucleus, or basis of future operations in the restoration of the rest of the tribes after he has appeared in the kingdom. The pre-adventual colonisation of Palestine will be on purely political principles; and the Jewish colonists will return in unbelief of the Messiahship of Jesus, and of the truth as it is in him. They will emigrate thither as agriculturists and traders, in the hope of ultimately establishing their commonwealth . . . under the efficient protection of the British power . . .

- John Thomas

For those who were twenty years old and upwards in 1948, the sudden birth of the Nation of Israel was tantamount to a direct angelic visitation. The reason for this is that for one hundred years prior to 1948, believers looked for the return of the Jews of the world to Palestine in direct fulfillment of Bible Prophecy. Now, at last, the veracity and truth of the Bible was vindicated for all to see. Not only is the establishment of the State of Israel a public witness to the authenticity of the Word of God, but also it is "the sign of the Son of man in heaven". We have lived to see the fig tree, "shoot forth." It has put forth leaves and has become ranked with the nations of the earth politically, militarily, and economically. Scarcely a day goes by without Israel being in the forefront of the news.

- Christadelphian Advocate, 1988

updated 5:40 p.m. EDT, Wed April 1, 2009

## Israeli foreign minister spurns Annapolis peace process

**JERUSALEM (CNN)** — Israel's new hard-line foreign minister immediately distanced himself Wednesday from the 2007 relaunch of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians adopted by his predecessor, Tzipi Livni.



Avigdor Lieberman's remarks come amid concerns about the new Israeli government's view of the peace process.

Avigdor Lieberman, leader of the far-right Yisrael Beytenu movement, said the Annapolis agreement was never adopted by Israel's government and is not binding. He said Israel is bound to follow the "road map" process, started earlier this decade.

The road map, put together by the Mideast Quartet — composed of the European Union, Russia, the United Nations and the United States — calls on Israel to stop settlement building and Palestinians to stop terrorism.

The Annapolis Peace Conference, held in November 2007 in Annapolis, Maryland, brought together Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to discuss a joint statement signed by the two Mideast leaders and U.S. President George W. Bush calling

for a two-state solution.

## Knesset - the Assembly

- Single chamber, 120 seat legislature
- Proportional representation
- Elected every 4 years
- Vote of no confidence results in early election

## President - head of state

- Single 7 year term
- Elected by Knesset
- Mostly ceremonial

## Prime Minister - head of government

- Not directly elected & unlimited term
- Knesset member & leader of the coalition
- Appoints cabinet members
- Most important political figure

# Current allocation of Knesset seats

- Kadima = 28
- Likud\* = 27
- Yisrael Beitenu\* = 15
- Israel Labor Party = 13
- Shas\* = 11
- United Torah Judaism\* = 5
- Hadash = 4
- Ichud Leumi\* = 4
- Ra`am-Ta`al = 4
- Habayit Hayehudi\* = 3
- National Democratic Assembly = 3
- New Movement – Meretz = 3





AP 1993 / Ron Edmonds



# Rome in the East

- 330 Constantinople made capital of Empire
- Constantinople = New or Second Rome
- Fell in 1453
- 1472 Russian Czar = Emperor
- 1470's = Russia adopts two-headed eagle

The old church of Rome fell because of the impiety of the Apollinarian heresy; the church of the second Rome, Constantinople, was smitten under the battle-axes of the Turks; but his present church of the Third, New Rome, of thy sovereign empire: the holy catholic apostolic church....shines in the whole universe more resplendent than the sun. And let it be known to thy lordship, o' pious Czar, that all the empires of the orthodox Christian faith have converged into thine one empire. Thou art the sole emperor of all the Christians in the whole universe...For two Romes have fallen, and the Third stands, and fourth shall never be, for thy Christian empire shall not devolve upon others...

- Philotheus to the Czar Basil III, 1511

# Rome in the West

- 476 city of Rome Falls
- 754 Pope helped by Frankish Kings
- 800 Charlemagne crowned Augustus
- 1000-1806 Holy Roman Empire
- Included: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, parts of France, Northern Italy

(T)he conflict demonstrated just how far a resurgent Russia will go to advance its interests. Nearly 20 years ago, when the Soviet Union collapsed, many in the West thought a weakened Russia would be a friendly one and would pose no threat to its former satellites. Instead, awash with profits from natural resources, Russia has become a new economic power. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who continues to run Russia through his handpicked successor as President, Dmitri Medvedev, invested heavily to transform Russia's Soviet-era military into a more modern fighting machine. The invasion of Georgia demonstrates that Moscow is ready to reassert its primacy in its neighborhood and stand up to Washington...The bear is out of hibernation. Its neighbors can no longer sleep easily.

- Time August 14, 2008

# Gog's allies: Iran

- Russia – Iran treaty on “the cooperation in the military-technological sphere”
- Russia supplies Iran with:
  - anti-aircraft missiles
  - conventional arms
  - nuclear material
- Russia says Iran's nuclear program is peaceful

# Gog's allies: Turkey

Russia's invasion of Georgia should serve as proof that there are some regimes that simply cannot be considered strategic allies of the West. And as the US and NATO try to assess the wreckage of their attempt to forge a post-Soviet alliance with Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, another erstwhile ally is showing that it too, cannot be trusted.

- Jerusalem Post, August 2008

# Gog's allies: Libya & North Africa

Russia has crafted its role by using its two most valuable assets — vast energy resources and mountains of military hardware — to cut a series of clever deals. In 2006, for example, then President Vladimir Putin flew a delegation of oil, gas and defense executives to Algeria. Putin negotiated to sell \$7.5 billion worth of combat jets, missiles and tanks to the government...Then there was the deal Putin cut with ...involved an agreement to sell \$2.5 billion worth of arms....

- TIME Magazine April 2009



# Gog's Allies: Europe

- More anti-Semitic incidences in the first three months of this year than all of 2008.
- Finland: Molotov cocktails into synagogues
- Sweden and Norway: cemeteries vandalized
- Scandinavia: Swastika cartoons
- Increases of anti-Semitism: Holland, Belgium, France and Britain

## America Seeks Bonds to Islam, Obama Insists




Todd Heisler/The New York Times

President Obama, with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, spoke to the Turkish Parliament in Ankara on Monday.

By HELENE COOPER

Published: April 6, 2009

ANKARA, Turkey — [President Obama](#) formally began his outreach to the Muslim world on Monday when he spoke before Turkey's Parliament, telling legislators that the United States "is not and will never be at war with Islam."

 COMMENTS (202)

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# Military Budget Reflects a Shift in U.S. Strategy

New York Times, April 6, 2009

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced a major reshaping of the Pentagon budget on Monday, with deep cuts in many traditional weapons systems but new billions of dollars for others, along with more troops and new technology to fight the insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The decisions are expected to set off a vigorous round of lobbying over the priorities embroidered into the Defense Department's half-trillion dollars of annual spending. They represent the first broad rethinking of American military strategy under the Obama administration, which plans to shift more money to counterterrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan while spending less on preparations for conventional warfare against large nations like China and Russia.

Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?