

Israel News Desk

With
David Hoyle
September 2016

With the Arab nations in turmoil & IS continuing its rampage the world continuous to search for a solution to the Palestinians & mostly continues to blame Israel for all the problems of the Middle East. Benjamin Netanyahu released a statement last week presenting Israel's position in relation to the Russian proposal for a meeting with President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority. Russia has invited both Mr Abbas & Mr Netanyahu to meet in Moscow with no pre conditions on either side & Mr Abbas signified to Russia his agreement. The plan was to meet on September 9th but Mr Abbas said the meeting will not take place because Mr Netanyahu has asked for it to be postponed.

Speaking in the Hague Mr Netanyahu said the question was whether Mr Abbas really would agree to no preconditions. The Dutch Prime Minister said, "*First & foremost, the two state solution has to be preserved & that means settlement building has to stop & so do demolitions & incitement*".

Mr Netanyahu is used to European criticism & did not respond to Mr Rutte, instead focussing on the war against Jihadism, which was threatening Europe. He stated, "*The Netherlands have no greater friend than Israel*".

The invitation for a meeting in Moscow seems to have been promoted by the Egyptian President Abdul al-Sisi during a visit to Moscow & of course Mr Netanyahu will take a conciliatory view to negotiations as Egypt is currently friendly to Israel & he would not wish to upset them.

Mr Netanyahu has excellent relations with Mr Putin but is in a tricky position as he has to preserve his relationship with America who have just agreed a substantial increase in military aid to Israel of 28.8 billion pounds. However Mr Netanyahu is skilled in diplomacy & no doubt he will deal with this without too much problem. It may well be that this is an attempt to put Russia to the fore & sideline America & Mr Netanyahu will have to walk a fine line if he is to avoid upsetting America or Russia!

The increased influence of Russia in the Middle East & their links with Iran and Turkey are in line with Ezekiel 38/39, as I have pointed out before. Other nations mentioned there are also coming to the fore but the relationship of all this to America is hard to define biblically, although there are many theories which need to be treated with care.

Overall the situation is fluid & the only sensible approach is to "*watch this space*", things are changing all the time but in the Word of God we have all we should need. Much of what we hear is speculative and not the Word, whilst it is interesting we must keep focused on God's infallible Word and not embroider it.

LABOUR PARTY There is intense anger at the invitation to controversial party figures to speak at a rally against anti-Semitism. The Jewish Labour Movement said that it's leadership's invitation to Naz Shah, John McDonnell & Baroness Chakrabarti would make the group '*a laughing stock*'. On Monday last Mr McDonnell shared a platform with Jackie Walker who was suspended from Labour for claiming that Jews were '*the chief financiers of the sugar & slave trade*'

SYRIA Fighting continues on the Golan Heights, just across from Israel. Israel has had up to date considered being sucked in whilst seeking to maintain its core interest of not allowing Iran and Hezbollah to establish a presence in the heights. In the last week a spate of shells have fallen on the Israeli side of the border, but Israel believes they were misfires.

Israel held the Syrian army responsible & carried out an attack on a Syrian artillery post during which the Syrians fired SAM missiles. It is thought that President Assad may be seeking to embroil Israel in the war.

AMERICA Jewish Democrats predict that the '*kosher vote*' could prove critical in the elections. There is a campaign to mobilise Jewish votes to the Democrats in the swing states of Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa & New Hampshire, which could decide the next occupant of the White House. Mr Trump seems to lack appeal to Jews, however things might change as the Jewish vote is generally Democrat just as in the UK the Jewish vote is generally Labour. One Israeli cabinet member said recently that he did not understand how any Jew could support an anti-Semitic Labour leadership.

AVIGDOR LIEBERMAN Israel's Defence Minister has called for the reform of the country's political system. He said the present system was complicated & ineffective with too many portfolios. The best reform, he said, was to say the leader of the biggest party became Prime Minister, without any bargaining. He went on to say that people are paying a high price for having a coalition. Speaking in London he addressed the current situation in Israel & said Israel's first strategic alliance was obviously with the US but Russia could not be ignored, although they have their own agenda. He said relations with Russia were much better than they were when he left the Soviet Union but we have different interests. He further said, "*What happens in Syria is a big game between Russia & the US & we are not part of the game*".

Reviewing the threats to Israel Mr Lieberman said that even in the Negev many Bedouins were becoming influenced by Islamists. He said that obviously the biggest threat in the region was Iran, without whom Hezbollah & Hamas would not be able to function. Hezbollah is he said, a bigger threat than Daesh (IS).

GERMANY A branch of the German teachers union has pulped its September magazine because it had an article advocating a boycott of Israel!
British unions take note!

HAMAS Despite the residents of the Gaza Strip enduring dire economic hardship, Hamas are reported to be spending 100 million dollars a year on military hardware & infrastructure. 1,500 Hamas members are employed digging tunnels & are paid up to \$400 per month plus bonuses. The tunnels are both under Israel's border & the Egyptian border. They are smuggling resources through tunnels from Sinai & also preparing incursions into Israel through the tunnels under the Gaza/Israel border.

JEREMY CORBYN faced criticism for an undisclosed donation of £10,000 raised at a Palestinians group fund raising dinner. This donation was from a pro Hamas group. Mr Corbyn's team claimed they did not declare it because the cheque bounced!

JERUSALEM With only 5 months left in office Mr Obama could yet do a lot of damage. He has already said he has a parting present for Israel, he is planning moves to use a Security Council resolution that would require Israel to cease building construction in Judea & Samaria and force Israel to recognise East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine! One American commentator says, "*Obama has brought a curse on America*", Genesis 12v1-3.

TURKEY Turkey's President seeks to resurrect the Ottoman Caliphate and establish Istanbul as the capital of a global Islamic Caliphate. His ultimate objective is Jerusalem. Mr Erdogan says, "*Jerusalem is the apple of every Muslim's eye*". He now leads 56 Islamic nations known as '*The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation*'. The O.I.C. He seeks Turkish reconciliation with Egypt but Turkey supports the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas and Egypt is at war with both.

GAS & OIL are two of the hidden interests of the main players in the Middle East, Mr Putin has his eyes on Israel's huge gas reserves but up to now Israel has kept him at a distance. His current suggestion is to defend the gas fields under the sea off Israel!! How devious can you get!

CHINA The book of Revelation speaks of an army of 200,000,000 that will one day sweep down through Israel into Africa, Revelation 16v12 & Revelation 9v14-16 & Daniel 11v44. China is investing heavily in Israel (as it is in the UK).

Truly things are heading up today as never before. The time is short, Jesus is returning as He promised – maybe today! Two questions arise:-

1. Are you saved? If you are not trust Him today.
2. If you are saved – what are you doing to get others saved?

God bless

David Hoyle