



Prophecy in Perspective

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An email newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in Current Events*

We have been horrified over the past weeks while witnessing the demonic cruelties of ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) in Iraq. In the past few days we have begun to realize, as reports have come out, that there are many in America that have become radicalized by Islamic, Jihadist internet propaganda. Some have even gone to Syria to join in with ISIS. We have also witnessed how President Obama seems to be at a loss as to how to respond to this growing Islamist threat. His relative inaction regarding the ISIS atrocities in Iraq and its threats against the United States have baffled many.

But, while appearing to be indecisive regarding issues that concern radical Islam, Mr. Obama seems to be talking big regarding Russia prior to the NATO Summit in Wales. My concern is that while Mr. Obama stated a week ago that he does not yet have a strategy to deal with the very present ISIS threat, he does seem very willing to presumptively threaten Russia in behalf of NATO, and to act like he will take on Vladimir Putin if he attacks Estonia. Could this be a strategy that will bring on WWII? The following article shows how any leader's ineptitude and pride can make for a very dangerous combination when it comes to dealing in the affairs of the world. The global consequences might well be apocalyptic and prophetic.

Obama's Russia Paradox: Why He Just Threatened WWII In Order To Prevent It

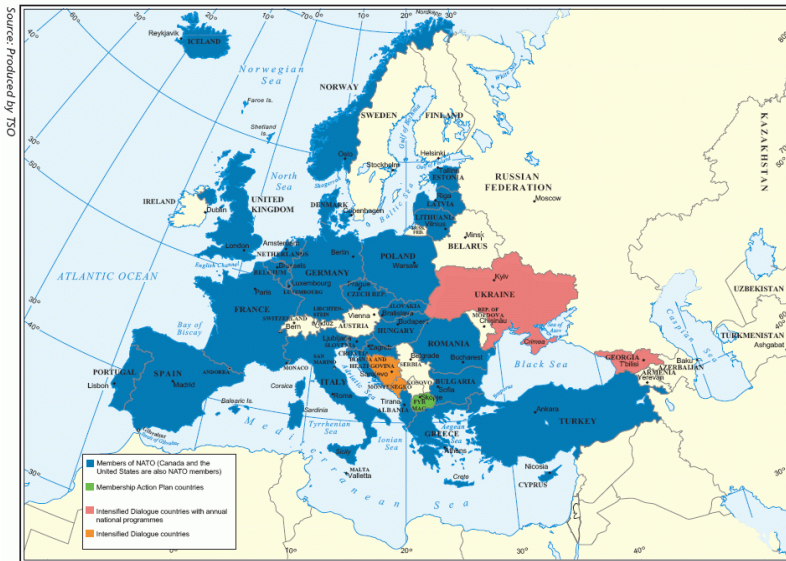
Updated by Max Fisher on September 3, 2014, 12:10 p.m. ET@MaxFisher; max@vox.com

President Obama gave a speech on Wednesday, (Sept 3rd) in a city most Americans have never heard of, committing the United States to possible war against Russia. He said that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a Western military alliance better known as NATO would fight to defend eastern European members like Estonia against any foreign aggression. In other words, if Russian President Vladimir Putin invades Estonia or Latvia as he invaded Ukraine, then Putin would trigger war with the US and most of Europe.

Obama's speech from the Estonian capital of Tallinn, though just a speech, may well be America's most important and aggressive step yet against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. While the speech will do nothing for Ukraine, it is meant to stop Russia from invading, or perhaps from sponsoring rebellions in, other European countries — so long as those European countries are part of NATO, as most are.

Obama wants to prove the U. S. will defend Estonia, without making that actually necessary.

"We'll be here for Estonia. We will be here for Latvia. We will be here for Lithuania," President Obama said from the capital of Estonia, one of the three Baltic states that were once part of the Soviet Union but now are members of NATO. "You lost your independence once before. With NATO, you will never lose it again."



Members of NATO in blue; the US and Canada are also members
(Geneva Tribune)

Obama was making a promise, and a very public one meant to reverberate not just in European capitals but in Moscow as well: If Russia invades any member of NATO, even these small Baltic states on the alliance's far periphery, then it will be at war with all of them — including the United States.

"The defense of Tallinn and Riga and Vilnius is just as important as the defense of Berlin and Paris and London," Obama said. To be really clear: that defense means war with Russia, which has the world's second-largest military and second-largest nuclear arsenal, a

prospect so dangerous that even during the angriest moments of the Cold War, the world managed to avoid it.

The idea, though, is not that Obama wants to go to war with Russia, it's that he wants to avoid war with Russia — this is also why the US and Europe are not intervening militarily in Ukraine to push back the Russian tanks — but that avoiding war with Russia means deterring Russian President Vladimir Putin from invading these Baltic states in the first place by scaring him off.

The risk of such an invasion, by the way, is real: these countries are about one-quarter ethnic Russian, and Ukraine's own Russian minority which was Putin's excuse for invading Crimea in March. Putin also clearly sees former Soviet states as fair game; he has invaded Ukraine and Georgia, both marked in red on the above map. So the Baltic states are rightly terrified that they are next. However, no one is sure whether the US would really defend former soviet members of NATO,

Here is Obama's dilemma, and Europe's: They want to prove to Putin that they will definitely defend Estonia and Latvia and other eastern European NATO members as if they were American or British or German soil, so that Putin will not invade those countries as he did in Ukraine. But the entire world, including Putin, is suspicious as to whether or not this threat is a bluff. And the worst possible thing that could happen, the thing that could legitimately lead to World War Three and global nuclear war, is for Putin to call Obama's bluff, invade Estonia, and have Obama's bluff turn out to not be a bluff.

(Just in case you thought I was exaggerating about the threat of nuclear war: Russia announced on Wednesday, shortly after Obama's speech, that its strategic nuclear forces would conduct "major exercises" later this month.)

This all started when NATO invited a bunch of former Soviet states, such as Estonia, to join in the 1990s and 2000s because it wanted to keep them safe from Russian aggression, and wanted to isolate Russia. The entire point of NATO is as a military alliance, and mostly an anti-Russian one, in which declaring war against one member means you are at war with all of them. So the idea is that this will prevent Russia from invading Estonia, because this would trigger war with the US, UK, Germany, France, and many others, which Russia would lose.

But no one is really sure whether the US and other Western European countries would be willing to go to war against Russia should Putin invade a peripheral NATO member such as Estonia or Latvia. Western analysts are legitimately divided on how this would play out, and it is not hard to find former — or current — US officials who worry that, if the moment came for NATO to launch World War III in defense of Estonia, they would decide that it was not worth the trouble.

That's why Obama went to the Estonian capital of Tallinn this week, and why he stood up with the Estonian prime minister to pledge as clearly as possible that he would definitely go to war against Russia if it came to it — precisely so that it never will come to that.

It is not a mere coincidence that as Russia turns up the pressure on Ukraine, and on the smaller Baltic states, that Jews are moving back to Israel in increasing numbers. As the threat of invasion grows, so will the population of Israel. This is exactly what Bible prophecy indicates for the latter days. Eventually Russia, and many Islamic countries will attempt to invade Israel for a final initiative for their destruction. As we will see, Ezekiel predicts a time when many nations will seek to join forces against Russia. However, they will not follow through with any threats to stand up against Russia and her Islamic allies. These nations apparently will amount to no more than a diplomatic organization of weakly led countries. Their only quasi-action will be a series of diluted rhetorical questions. As Ezekiel 38:13 predicts, this will be their spineless response to the attack of Russia on Israel:

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?

I believe the "**young lions**," may represent the nations that came out of Tarshish. Many believe Tarshish to be a reference to Spain or even Great Britain. The United States could well be one of the "**young lions**," among the nations that will talk big, but do little to stop the Russian assault on Israel. There is reason to believe, as well, that this attack on Israel will be during the early days of the Great Tribulation Period. This will be a time of peace for the tiny country of Jews who will have signed on with the future world "*Prince that shall come*," (the Antichrist) who will confirm a seven year peace covenant with Israel (Daniel 9:27).

It will probably be during this time of peace that Russia will see its chance to attack and occupy Israel along with other Islamic nations who desire the destruction of the Jews. Vladimir Putin, always the clever strategist and tactician, is perhaps even now preparing, through a series of timely moves, to position Russia for just such an assault on Israel. It is striking then, how President Obama is sounding-off with such bluster as though to frighten off Vladimir Putin, when he may in reality be prompting Putin to call Obama's bluff. Putin knows that an American President that consistently hesitates to defend its own citizens from radical Islam, will certainly not do anything if Russia attacks Estonia. Perhaps such an attack will only be another step toward Russia's terminal mission: a final assault on Israel; which will mean the doom of Russia by God Himself (Ezekiel 38:14-23).

Christians need therefore to take seriously the times that we are living in today. The rapture of the Church, so clearly detailed in the New Testament (1 Thessalonians 3:13-18), is an imminent and "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13) for all who are born-again. The Lord promised the church, "***I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth***" (Revelation 3:10). The events of these latter days should cause us to put our trust in Jesus Christ, and to be assured that He will return according to His Word (Matthew 24-25).

Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces to Hold Major Exercise This Month

By Reuters Filed: 9/3/14 at 7:18 AM



Ka-52 helicopter is on display during an event entitled "Innovations Day" organized by Russia's Western military command at Levashovo airbase outside St. Petersburg, June 6, 2014. (Alexander Demianchuk/Reuters)

Russia plans to change its military doctrine this year because of recent developments in NATO strategy regarding Ukraine. Are these military games a show of strength and resolve for Russia to do what it thinks is in its own best interest?

The Church's Witness in the Midst of Confusion

America has fallen on hard times resulting in much judgment by Almighty God. Today, much sexual immorality is rampant and encouraged. There does not seem to be any such thing in American culture as sexual deviancy. The deviant today seems to be viewed now as the man or woman who believes in biblical morality. The morality of the Bible is now being viewed as immorality in America. As a result, drug addiction and marketing is prominent and growing in America. Marijuana, which will always be a 'gateway' to worse forms of drug abuse, is now legal in several states. People are lining up to get high. There is complete ignorance on the part of most that such indulgence will open their minds and souls to literal demonic oppression. Yet, there are many in the occult who are very aware that such practices will bring these results.

Here is yet another indication that we are living in the latter days and the Lord's return for His church is imminent. There will be an effort by Satan in the latter days to enslave millions to false beliefs and to the practices of immorality and the occult. This will be what His mark of 666 will be all about. This will not simply represent an outward identity but also a literal giving over of the mind to an altered state of conscience. This will result in an all-out commitment to serve the Antichrist and to assist him in his murderous rampage against

Israel and against Tribulation Saints during the time of the Great Tribulation. Drugs are simply a part of the preparation for that time.

Drug use, beginning with marijuana, is where the demons really will gain entrance into the minds of men, women and young people. This is nothing less than the practice of sorcery. While this sounds outlandish to the modern mind, to the 'post-modern' generation, mysticism through trance like meditation, and even the use of drugs to further transform the mind deeply affects the soul of people. Many of these are people we know. They are at our work place, in the class room, in our families, and even in our churches. Here are some Scriptures which caution us to avoid any form of the practice of sorcery, a form of which is drug use.

"Sorcery" = Word Origin: from pharmakeuó (to administer drugs)

Definition: the use of medicine, drugs or spells (NAS, Exhaustive Concordance, Bible Hub.com)
pharmakeía (from *pharmakeuō*, "administer drugs") – properly, drug-related sorcery, like the practice of magical-arts, etc. (A. T. Robertson; Bible Hub.com)

Isaiah 47:12 *"Stand fast now in your spells And in your many sorceries With which you have labored from your youth; Perhaps you will be able to profit, Perhaps you may cause trembling."*

Revelation 9:21 *"And they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts."*

Revelation 18:23 *"And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived."*

Nahum 3:4 (NIV) *"all because of the wanton lust of a prostitute, alluring, the mistress of sorceries, who enslaved nations by her prostitution and peoples by her witchcraft."*

1 Thessalonians 5:7 *"For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night."*

1 Thessalonians 5:8 *"But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."*

Faithful Witnesses

As Christians we are called to be faithful witnesses to God and to His Word. ***"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 1:3).*** A Christian, therefore, has no business getting involved with drugs, and this would include the drug of alcohol! ***"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27).*** We are living in times when the world needs to see Christians who are taking a clear stand apart from the philosophies, opinions and fleshly practices of the world. ***"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you***

made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:12). Christians who are compromising in those things the Bible cautions them against are in disobedience to God. The result will be darkness in their lives which will bring darkness into their families, jobs and the churches they attend. The lost of the world have a greater respect for a Christian that will take a true and consistent stand through the power and conviction of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. Many in the world, even though they are lost, can tell if you are genuine. Your sincerity of love and your consistency in your Christian walk will influence them to pay attention to the words of Christ and will possibly lead them to saving faith in Him.

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*As usual, if you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your name and email address to: sgdowning@bellsouth.net. Also, you can purchase his books: "Good News From a Far Country", a study in the book of Daniel [\$15]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Revelation's Prophecies" [\$10]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Developing a Prophetic Walk...A study in the lives and ministries of Elijah and Elisha" [\$10] by contacting him. **Dr. Downing's newest book, "God's Unfolding Purpose and Unfailing Power" is now available! [\$10].**
****Be watching for Dr. Downing's latest book on Ezekiel coming out around Christmas!!***