

Russia invades Ukraine: Prelude to WW3? (Ps 46, Rev 6:1-4)

1. Three Major Flash Points in the World

I have highlighted three major flash points as we began 2022.

- (i) Russia vs Ukraine conflict
- (ii) China vs Taiwan (South China Sea)
- (iii) Israel vs Iran (Syria)

One of the three flashpoints was ignited this week as Russia invaded Ukraine on the 23rd of February. What does this mean? Is this military conflict going to be contained in Eastern Europe, or is it going to spread and ignite other flashpoints around the world, leading to greater global conflict?



2. Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

On the 22nd of February 2022, Putin announced Russia will recognise Donetsk and Luhansk as separate states from Ukraine at the request of Donetsk and Luhansk. Putin announced he would launch a demilitarization, i.e. 'peacekeeping operation' in the region and 'denazify' the region, but not occupy it. However, the next day, 23rd February 2022, Russia invaded the whole country of Ukraine. Had he kept his forces in just Donetsk and Luhansk there still would have been the possibility of a diplomatic solution. But now that the red line has been crossed that can never be uncrossed, any hope of diplomatic peace between Russia and the USA (& NATO) has evaporated. This may signal a new cycle of 'wars and the rumours of war' that could lead to WW3 on a global scale. If so, then we may potentially be in the early stage of the breaking of the 2nd seal in the book of Revelation that leads to WW3. (Rev 6:1-4)

3. Fight for the New World Order

We know both US and Russia are heavily armed with nuclear weapons. In the recent past, Russia has been amassing superior and modern weapon systems, while the US military has been preoccupied with 'woke culture' and steadily weakening. Now the USA is politically and spiritually more divided than ever in recent history.

Note that mankind has not been shy to use the weapons invented for war. We tend to use its destructive power to the full extent. As Russia launched the invasion of Ukraine, Vladimir Putin warned primarily the NATO allies that he could use the most advanced nuclear weapons against any nation if they attempted to intervene militarily. So far, US & NATO sent help in the form of military equipment to Ukraine (stinger missile, anti-tank weapon), but no nation dared to join the fight on Ukrainian soil against Russia.

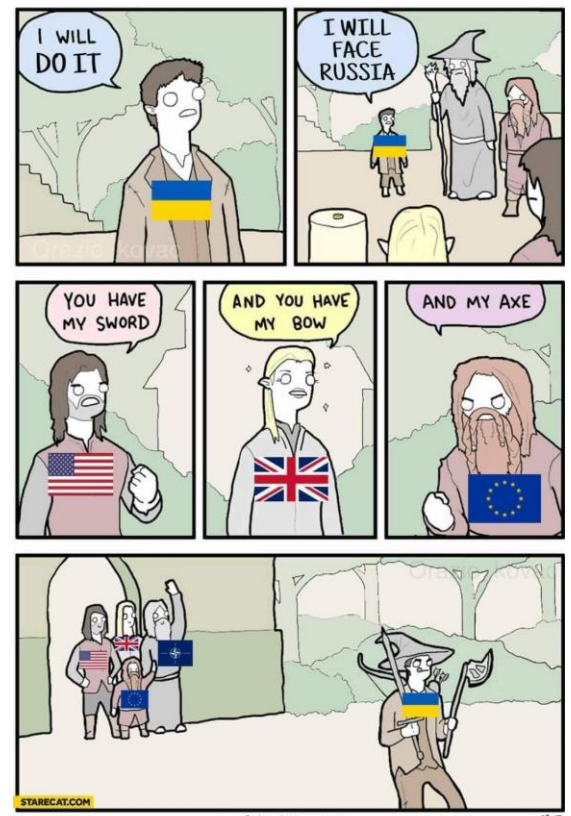
Joe Biden just ruled out a military confrontation with Russia in Ukraine. US will send troops to NATO nations in Europe, but not to Ukraine, which is not part of NATO.

4. US & NATO's Action Plan

So far Joe Biden's plan in Ukraine failed dramatically. So how is the US (& NATO – 'North Atlantic Treaty Organization' of 30 nations) responding to this crisis?

(i) Economic Sanction

Biden administration has been trying to galvanise the rest of the world to suffocate the life out of Russia economically. But this is an old trick that will not work, because Russia has been preparing for this for a long time.



Russia has gotten rid of almost all US Bonds this year and has been stockpiling gold as an alternative method of payment for many years. Furthermore, they have already tested an alternate SWIFT system. Russia is also prepared to use DEFI 'crypto' card if the needs arise. They are very self-sufficient in terms of food, energy, and other essentials. Russia is also a huge exporter of natural gas to Europe. Europe is addicted to Russian gas. Putin has also signed an extensive trade agreement with China to protect Russia in the case of sanctions.

If Putin feared this sanction (called a 'wet lettuce slap' on Russia), he would not have made this move in the first place. Further sanctions will escalate energy prices globally, and Russia supplies around 10% of global energy. So far, the NATO sanction only helped Russia's investment with the rise in energy price and gold reserve. And this is the worst time to engage in economic warfare. The US Fed has no way to tame the raging inflation or to off-load the huge Fed balance sheet.

EU & US have now just agreed to sanction the Russian central bank, and exclude selected Russian banks from the SWIFT system! This will not end well. E.g. Trudeau's recent sanction triggered a bank run in Canada.

(ii) Cyber Attack

Joe Biden is also considering hitting Russia with the biggest cyberattack in history. Apart from the fact that this would be an act of war, Russia can also hit back at the US with a cyberattack. The question is who is more vulnerable to cyberattacks between the two countries? The US with highly complex financial markets run with computerised algorithms, and they have a vulnerable outdated power grid system in great need of an upgrade. Can you imagine the impact of a cyberattack or the power grid going down in the US? All banking, internet, power will cease instantly. If one neutron bomb is detonated at a certain altitude, the power grid of the US will go down immediately. Many prophetic visions were given about explosions on US soil.

5. Ukraine's Fate

Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the president of Ukraine wants to be part of NATO. Article 5 binds the NATO nations together when invaded by a foreign force militarily. Maybe he really believed that the US and other western powers would come to Ukraine's aid if the Russians invaded. Lately, he was saying on national TV, *'We are fighting alone... Good-bye, tonight may be the last night you may see me alive.'* After what the US did to Afghanistan, he was incredibly naïve and foolish if he believed US/NATO allies will send troops and help them. (NATO – No Action Talk Only.) As expected, the Russians are now capturing city after city. It appears the war in Ukraine could be over in a matter of days. But when the war in Ukraine is over, what will follow? Is there a real war behind Ukraine? E.g. Belarus, parts of Georgia, etc. who were part of the former Soviet Union?

6. China and Russia Alliance

Putin would not have made this move without China's full backing. Russia and China are not friends by nature, but they are allies against the USA's global hegemony. If what Russia wants is Ukraine (& potentially Belarus), what would be the juicy carrot dangled before China? Taiwan (and the control of the South China Sea).

Is there an agreement between Russia and China to support each other to attain their respective goals? We don't hear China telling Russia to back off Ukraine. This makes the next target of Taiwan more likely. If China decides to pull the trigger, they will almost certainly do it while Biden is in office. When China pulls the trigger, it will affect South Korea, Japan, and South Asia in a most profound way.

How did the US, once the most powerful nation on earth, come to this point? The turning point in international politics came about when the USA decided to pull away from Afghanistan in the most disorderly and embarrassing way. The whole world saw how weak and vulnerable the Biden administration is. It was a very sad day, and it emboldened many world leaders to move against the USA who has acted like 'the global police' on the international scene.

Can you see the connection, and how the two out of three flashpoints can ignite quickly?

7. All Roads Lead to Israel

(i) **The Third Major Flashpoint?**

Israel vs Iran/Syria – nuclear issue. One thing Russia and China agree on is their policy against Israel. Following is an article from Tikkun by Guy Cohen, ‘Prayer, the Russian War in Ukraine, and connection to the Holy Land’ - <https://www.ritg.org/post/prayer-the-russian-war-in-ukraine-and-a-connection-to-the-holy-land>

After Israel expressed public support of Ukraine at the outbreak of this present war, the Russian delegation to the U.N. posted in response a condemnation of Israel’s plans in Golan. The Russian message said:

‘We are worried by Tel Aviv’s announced plans to expand settlement activity in the Golan Heights, which contradict the 1949 Geneva Convention. Russia does not recognize Israel’s sovereignty in the Golan Heights, which are part of Syria.’

In October 2021, Israel announced plans to build 7,000 houses in the Golan Heights. The war between Russia and Ukraine could have repercussions in Israel. Note that:

- a. There are Russian armed forces stationed in Syria.
- b. In their announcement, the Russians did not recognize Jerusalem, but rather Tel Aviv.
- c. The Israeli parliament and main government buildings are built on the land that belongs to the Orthodox Church, leased for 99 years since 1951.
- d. Even one small problem in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre could create very sensitive reactions.
- e. Russia has a strong agreement with both Syria and Iran.
- f. According to Russia, the Golan does not belong to Israel, but rather to Syria.

(ii) **The End-time scenario – Russian Invasion of Israel (Ezek 38-39)**

All this could lead to the final *end-time scenario* of the invasion of Israel by Russia outlined by Ezek 38-39.

Both WW1 and WW2 occurred in Eastern Europe. Is the spark ignited again for WW3? We must watch and pray.

- a. Jesus’ warning to the believers who live in the last days. (C.f. Matthew 24:4-14; Luke 21:29-36).
- b. The need for the ministry of intercession - the most powerful ministry that gives birth to all other ministries.
- c. Need for a personal walk of holiness in a time of upheaval. ‘Enoch walked with God.’ ‘Noah walked with God.’
- d. Scriptural reference in Syria, Iran, final invasion of Israel: Damascus - Is 17; Iran - Jer 49:34-39; Final invasion of Israel by Russia – Ezek 38-39.
- e. *‘Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!’ (Ps 46:10)*