

Second Holy War

There is some parallel between Christ's subjection of the nations and Israel's subduing of Canaan under Joshua. After the fall of Jericho, the men of Ai fought valiantly, aided only by Bethel, but both were routed by Israel. After this Gibeon and three other Canaanite cities transferred their allegiance to Israel. Shocked and terrified by these events, five kings of the Amorites declared war on the turncoats, but these kings were crushed by Israel after God extended the daylight, and sent a storm of hail which killed a large part of the invaders. Israel then proceeded to subdue southern Canaan, which roused the kings in the north to combine forces *"as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots."* But Israel, under divine guidance, overcame all. *"So Joshua took all this land.... He captured all their kings, and struck them down and killed them. Joshua made war a long time* with all those kings" - Joshua 8-11* - *several years.

Neither should we expect Christ to pacify the nations in a short time. The fear and loathing which the international community has towards the Islamic State will be refocused on Israel. The remaining Muslims, together with the Christians, will see the new power in the lately expanding Israel as a threat to their peace and stability - the antichrist which they have been looking for. Little Israel, expected by all to be steam-rolled by the Islamic invasion, will have in turn taken control of her invaders lands, whose inhabitants have also become devout worshippers of the God of Israel and loyal subjects of Jesus the Messiah.

The current president of Russia is a staunch upholder of Eastern Orthodox Christianity. This has earned him high electoral support in his own country where he regularly attends services on Russian Orthodox holidays, and enjoys a good relationship with patriarchs of the Russian church. Russia's traditional religions are defined by law to be Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam. Pursuit of this policy has evidently been rewarded with the naming of Putin street in Bethlehem, providing an additional, personal connection of the President with the Holy Land.

The abolition of all foreign religious activity in Israel will demand the attention of Russia whose patriarchate holds various properties there: some of them are, a church in Haifa, monasteries and churches in Jaffa, Tiberias, Hebron and Jericho, together with a cathedral, three convents and six churches in Jerusalem.

In July the Russian president, in the face of controversy, extended his championing of Orthodoxy by signing into law a list of measures. The first is to stop the production of non-Orthodox Church religious literature. In addition, no religious meetings, however small, are permitted, and evangelizing, even over the internet is forbidden - *Forum 18*.

The prophet **Ezekiel** in chapter **37** foretold the restoration of Israel back in their land, and in the following chapter he addresses **3** *"Gog, of the land of Magog¹, the prince of Rosh, Meshech², and Tubal³"*. Rosh was the ancient name of Russia, as noted by the historian Edward Gibbon and others. Those who dwell safely are Israel who have been recently saved by Christ from the "Assyrian" Islamic State invaders, and now living under his protection. **1** Magog was a grandson of Noah, whose descendants settled in what is now south-west Russia. **2** Meshech is the ancient form of Muscovy, from which came the name of Moscow. **3** Tubal refers to Tobolsk, one of the chief centres of early Russian colonization in Siberia, on the Tobol river. **10** *"it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan"*.

The prince of Rosh will tell the world that his invasion is not only for protecting the Christian shrines in the Holy Land, but also to overthrow the upstart troublemaker in Jerusalem.