

# SIGNS OF OUR TIMES

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*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."  
Psalm 119:105*

Dear Lovers of Truth,

Every true disciple of Jesus will be hoping—with good reason—that the year 2023 will witness the triumphant return of their Saviour, Redeemer and King to enforce His rightful, just and holy rule on this rebellious, Godless world.

Having fulfilled His commission to conquer Sin by perfect obedience to His Father—even to the extremes of suffering described by the Hebrew prophets—torture which ended in His crucifixion—Jesus experienced the *joy* of His resurrection and change to immortality.

As Paul wrote, it was in His resurrection that Sin (personified as the Serpent) received the fatal blow foretold in Genesis 3:15 where God said to the serpent: **I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.** “Death is swallowed up in victory”. 1 Corinth 15:17

It was this victory that opened the door to redemption—breaking the power of sin to hold us in the grave—that He may “**guide us with His counsel, and afterward receive us to glory.**” Ps. 73:24

Our salvation relies entirely on the faithfulness of God in raising Jesus to life.

**For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.**

**21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; Afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 1 Corinth. 15:16-23.**

## MACHINATIONS OF FALSE RELIGION

In contrast to the above—behind the turmoil we see in the world—is a Secret Society whose sole purpose is to bring the nations under one authority. Masquerading as a religious Order, it manipulates governments and societies. It has operatives in all political and social orders—manipulating them to a final struggle for power in a cataclysmic war—the outcome of which is planned to be that **Rome dominates the world**. The following gives an example.

## RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AT WAR

Sunday Telegraph 08-Jan-23 Jade McGlynn

The Russian Orthodox Church is now an enabler of war crimes. It is time its poisonous role was called out and its leaders face global sanctions. The Christmas Truce—the myth that the wonder of the festive period triumphed over even the turbid terror of the First World War trenches—holds a special place in European cultural memory.

Perhaps the Kremlin was trying to elicit similar emotions when it ordered a unilateral 36-hour ceasefire in Ukraine to mark Russian Orthodox Christmas.

It may have hoped to exacerbate divisions in the West by pretending to be interested in a longer ceasefire and thus negotiated peace.

The Russian Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas on Jan 7 in accordance with the old Julian calendar. Most other Orthodox churches celebrate on Dec 25—as is increasingly the case in Ukraine. Deliberately not recognising this shift, Putin's justification of the truce was another way to pretend that Ukrainians are the same as Russians, *continuing the brotherly nations propaganda that has fuelled this war*. Against the backdrop of this dismissive ideology, Russia's history of breaking ceasefires, and the hypocrisy of an invading force demanding a temporary truce, it is little wonder Ukraine refused the Kremlin's offer, which was ostensibly initiated not by Putin but by Patriarch Kirill.

Ever since Vladimir Putin came to power in 2000, the Kremlin has enjoyed very close relations with the leadership of the Russian Orthodox Church. But the Church is no mere pawn: it is an actor and agent. Kirill, working with Putin, has been central to Russia's authoritarian degradation over the past decade, lobbying to decriminalise domestic violence and persecute any dissenters.

The Church has also contributed to the types of “patriotic” indoctrination that underpin Russian support for the war; by 2022, *Putin's personal confessor, Metropolitan Tikhon, had made around 20 billion roubles (£230 million) from designing militaristic education programmes*. He is also believed to work with the nationalist businessman Konstantin Malofeev, spreading chaos in the Orthodox world by funding the 2014 “separatist” putsches in Donbas and staging coups in Montenegro.

Since the 2022 invasion, the Church has been not only providing theological cover for Russia's war but playing an active role in some of the war crimes: priests belonging to the branch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church that (as of early 2022) remained loyal to the Moscow Patriarchate were central to helping the Russian occupiers. Some collaborator priests even blessed tanks and compiled lists of locals likely to resist occupation, many of whom were subsequently tortured or executed. Unsurprisingly, the Ukrainian security services have been targeting these Church collaborators. The UK and US (but not the EU) have sanctioned Kirill, but otherwise the leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church remain almost untouched by international sanctions. Such queasiness is out of place.

The Russian Orthodox Church is not a shepherd of God's flock but a wolf in sheep's clothing. If they want peace, Russian priests can call on Russian troops to leave Ukraine.

**Until that time, the Church should be treated as what it is: a propaganda tool and a malignant corrupt force in its own right.** Dr Jade McGlynn is a Research Fellow in the War Studies Department at Kings College London

### RUSSIAN REVERSALS IN UKRAINE

The war in Ukraine is not proceeding to *the Kirill-Putin plan* ! Ukrainian forces continue to take a heavy toll as they regain territory the Russian's had occupied over the past 11 months.

Today: **Germany said it aims to quickly establish two battalions with Leopard 2 tanks for Ukraine and initially provide 14 Leopard 2 tanks from its own inventory. A battalion normally comprises three or four companies with around 14 tanks each. Poland has also pledged 14 tanks and Britain has promised 14 of its own Challengers.**

### THE LEOPARD IS FREE!

**Germany has given "the green light" for Poland and other NATO countries to supply their Leopard tanks to Ukraine. With "Challenger 2" tanks from the UK and 31 "Abram" tanks from the USA , Ukraine will possess a much more efficient armoured force.**

### Why the delay?

Of huge significance is **the weight of history** felt by German modern-day leaders. It can't be over-emphasised.

This Friday is **Holocaust Memorial Day**. A huge sign proclaiming "We Will Not Forget" hangs at the Reichstag in Berlin.

As the aggressor in two world wars, many Germans are wary of being the main provider of battle tanks in Ukraine. [BBC News]

### WHERE WILL THIS LEAVE ROME?

While the Pope has lamented the mindless destruction and loss of life by Russian aggression in the Ukraine, the Vatican will be pleased to see the NATO allies uniting with other European forces to assist the Ukrainian army in its quest to repel all Russian forces from its Eastern States.

The "deadly wound" (Revelation 13:3) will have been completely healed to the extent that "all the world will marvel" that Europe could act so unitedly.

It is estimated that the transfer of tanks and other promised ordnance will take a period of three or four months to accomplish. This could then result in the defeat of Russia and Putin's demise.

### RUSSIA DEFEATED? !!

The war in Ukraine isn't Russia's only problem.

By: [Mona Yacoubian](#), January 18, 2023

**Amid military struggles in Ukraine, Russia's presence in Syria is slowly receding, setting off a series of regional shifts from Turkey, Iran and Israel that could have major ripple effects on U.S. national security interests, says USIP's Mona Yacoubian: "There are too many actors there for it be a simple math equation."**

As the restraining presence of Russia wanes in the Middle East—the **False Prophet** nations of Turkey and Iran [ **King of the North** ] will feel the atmosphere is clearing for their ultimate goal to be achieved—the **destruction of the State of Israel** !

The coming months will no doubt shift our main attention **from Ukraine to the Middle East!**

### MIDDLE EAST BATTLE LINES

The confrontation between Iran's network of state and non-state actors, and a counter-front of traditional Western allies—centred on Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates [ **King of the South** ] and Israel—has become the region's central battle line. Saudi Arabia has already made one apparent attempt to shake up Lebanese political structures and thereby weaken Hezbollah, it may take other opportunities to do so. Any Israeli move to confront Hezbollah militarily in Lebanon could be devastating - given that Israel has declared that it no longer distinguishes between Hezbollah and the Lebanese state – unlike in previous wars. Such a conflict could also quickly spiral into a wider war, given Hezbollah's links with Syria. (European Council on Foreign Relations. [ecfr.eu](#))

### THE DRAGON OF THE "TIME OF THE END"

SOT has suggested that **Revelation 16:13** to read: **13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon (Pagan China), and out of the mouth of the (Catholic European) beast, and out of the mouth of the false (Islamic) prophet (Iran?).**

**The Chinese economy is slowing down sharply under the mounting pressure of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially following the CCP regime's reversal of the zero COVID policy. Under such circumstances, it would be foolhardy on the part of Xi, or the CCP, to burden the national economy by taking on the enormous expense of a war. [The Diplomat-January 20, 2023 ]**

**China : 15,321 new cases in last 24hrs**

**11,088,646 cumulative cases**

**34,739 cumulative deaths**

"David their king" is the One who was crucified as "King of the Jews" almost 2000 years ago—Jesus.

We have as our anchor, the words of Gabriel:

**He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end (Luke 1:32).**

**And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and for your redemption draweth nigh. 21:28**

In the Master's Service,

*Arthur Wright*