



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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## Russia's New Hypersonic Nuclear Weapon

*March 15, 2019* spacedaily.com reported: "In December 2018, Russia tested a new hypersonic weapon designed to sneak under current U.S. ballistic missile defenses. The Avangard, a winged glider weapon boosted high into the atmosphere by a ballistic missile, descends on its target at speeds in excess of 6.7 km/sec.

This is 15,000 MPH, almost the speed of an orbiting satellite. According to Russian news sources, Avangard will enter Russian service this year. Check YouTube for footage of the test launch. Russian President Putin announced this and other new nuclear weapons programs last year."...



## 50 Iranian drones conduct massive 'way to Jerusalem' exercise

*March 14, 2019* jpost.com reported: "Iran's Defense Ministry announced on Thursday that it had launched a massive exercise involving 50 drones that are based on a US Sentinel drone the Iranians captured in 2011. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it was the strongest exercise of its kind to date.

Named 'Beit al-Maqdis,' a reference to Jerusalem, the operation was attended by the commander of the IRGC, Hossein Salami, and IRGC Aerospace Force commander Amir Ali Hajizadeh. Fars News and Tasnim News both reported details of the operation, noting that, 'for the first time, 50 Iranian drones on the RQ-170 [US Sentinel] model operated with a number of assault and combat drones.'

It was the first time, Iran says, that so many drones operated simultaneously in an 'offensive operation' at distances of more than 1,000 km away from each other. They trained to strike predetermined targets with 'high precision.' IRGC Ground Force commander Maj.-Gen. Golam Ali Rashid boasted that while the US has said Iran is failing 40 years after the Islamic Revolution, in fact 'today we are witnessing the strongest maneuvers of the IRGC's Aerospace Forces.' Enemies would be 'humiliated and feel shame,' according to the statement..."

## Iran warns Israel of 'firm response' if it acts against oil

*March 13, 2019* jpost.com reported: "Iran will respond firmly to any Israeli naval action against its oil shipments, Iran's defense minister said on Wednesday, in comments that came a week after Israel's prime minister said its navy could act against Iranian oil 'smuggling' to evade US sanctions.

US President Donald Trump last year quit a nuclear deal with Iran and reimposed some sanctions, aiming to cut Tehran's oil exports to zero. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told naval officers last week that Iran was still resorting to clandestine measures to ship fuel.

Iran's Minister of Defense Amir Hatami was quoted as saying by the state news agency IRNA that Tehran had the military capabilities to confront any Israeli intervention, and said the international community would also not accept such action. Hatami said such confrontation would be considered as 'piracy' and warned that 'if it happens, we will firmly respond.'..."

## Clashes Erupt After Israel Closes Jerusalem Holy Site

*March 13, 2019* voanews.com reported: "Israeli officials closed Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site, revered by Jews and Muslims, after a firebomb was thrown at a police station on the compound.

Police on Tuesday clashed with dozens of Palestinians at the compound revered by Jews as Temple Mount, and by Muslims as Haram al-Sharif or Noble Sanctuary. All worshippers were evacuated from the compound. Police said it would reopen to worshippers and visitors Wednesday.

Israeli police also took the unusual measure of closing all gates to the Old City, allowing only residents access to the Muslim and Christian quarters.

The incident further heightened tensions at the flashpoint site, home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque and gold-topped Dome of the Rock..."

## U.S. Official: Iranian Regime Wants Iraq to Become a Province of Iran

*March 13, 2019* voanews.com reported: "U.S. Special Representative for Iran, Brian Hook, blasted Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's visit to Iraq and accused his government of trying to control Iraq by fueling sectarian conflict in the country.

In an interview with Alhurra TV, Hook said Rouhani's visit is not in the best interest of the Iraqi people, adding that Iran does not support the security and sovereignty of Iraq.

'When President Rouhani comes into Iraq, you have to question the motive,' Hook said Monday. 'I think what Iran would ultimately like to see happen is Iraq turn into a province of Iran so that they can create a military highway across the northern Middle East that the Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps can use to ferry missiles and weapons.'

Hook said Iran is 'the last revolutionary regime on earth,' and it is trying to further destabilize the Middle East by reinforcing the sectarian divide..."

## Iran's Rouhani seeks to counter US pressure on first Iraq visit

*March 12, 2019* SpaceDaily.com reported: "Iran's President Hassan Rouhani hit back Monday against pressure from the 'aggressor' United States on Iraq to limit ties with its neighbour, during his first official visit to Baghdad.

Shiite-majority Iraq is walking a fine line to maintain good relations with its key partners Iran and the United States which themselves are arch-foes.

It has been under pressure from Washington not to get too close to the Islamic republic next door, particularly after the United States last year withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and hit Tehran with sanctions.

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Baghdad was given limited waivers to continue buying electricity and natural gas from Iran, but Washington has urged Iraq to partner with US companies to become energy independent.

Rouhani, who is on his first trip to Iraq since becoming president in 2013, hailed his country's 'special' ties with its neighbour..."

Breitbart.com reports: "China has lodged a protest over remarks by the U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom criticizing Beijing's restrictive religion policies.

### **China Protests U.S. Criticism of Its Policies on Religion**

**March 12, 2019** Breitbart.com reported: "China is 'at war with faith,' said Sam Brownback in a speech in Hong Kong last Friday. 'It's a war they will not win. The Chinese Communist Party must hear the cry of its people for religious freedom.'

The Chinese foreign ministry office in Hong Kong reacted strongly to Brownback's words. 'We ask the U.S. to respect the facts, stop the arrogance and prejudice and cease using religious issues to interfere in China's internal affairs,' it said in a statement.

The ministry went on to insist that China's constitution protects freedom of religion, urging critics to 'cease their slander of China's policies on religion and the situation with freedom of faith and cease using religious issues to interfere in China's internal affairs.'..."

### **Judge appeals punishment for saying children do best with mom and dad**

**March 11, 2019** World Net Daily reported: "A judge who was punished for saying that children do best with a mother and a father has been granted permission to appeal.

According to Christian Concern, Richard Page, formerly a magistrate in the United Kingdom, was blocked from returning to a non-executive director role at a National Health Service trust because of his views. His appeal recently was heard by the most senior judges in England and Wales, and a decision could be announced soon.

In 2014, during a closed-door consultation with two other magistrates about an adoption case, Page 'expressed his view that, wherever possible, children do best with a mother and a father,' the organization said.

'Despite having served as a magistrate in Kent for 15 years with an exemplary record, Richard was reported for his comments, and, following an investigation, was disciplined by the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice. He was told that his views about family life were 'discriminatory against same-sex couples' and was barred from sitting as a magistrate until he had received 'equality training,' the report said..."

### **Turkey's Erdogan stands by Russia missile deal**

**March 11, 2019** SpaceWar.com reported: "Turkey's deal to buy Russian S-400 missile defence systems had 'nothing to do' with the security of the US, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Saturday after a Pentagon warning. He was speaking a day after Washington warned Ankara of 'grave consequences' should the deal go ahead.

'It is very clear why Turkey has bought this air defence system, under what conditions it has bought them and how it will be used,' Erdogan said in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir.

'Everyone knows that this issue has nothing to do whatsoever with NATO, the F-35 project and the security of the US,' he said during the televised speech. The 'issue was not about the S-400s' but about Turkey 'taking actions on its own accord', especially in Syria, he added.

Ankara's push to buy the systems from Moscow has caused tensions with its NATO ally, as Washington has raised questions over the equipment's compatibility with the alliance's established weapon systems..."

### **U.S.-Backed Forces Launch Final Assault to Wipe Out Islamic State Enclave**

**March 10, 2019** voanews.com reported: "Clashes and fierce fighting are being reported in northeastern Syria, where U.S.-backed forces say their final assault on the Islamic State terror group enclave of Baghuz is underway.



A spokesman for the Syrian Democratic Forces made the announcement on social media Sunday, writing the offensive to wipe out the last remnant of the terror group's self-declared caliphate resumed at 6 p.m. local time.

Earlier, he tweeted the last chance for any fighters or civilians still holding out in the small path of land on the banks of the Euphrates River to leave had come and gone.

'The timeline that we give it for ISIS to surrender themselves is over,' the SDF's Mustafa Bali wrote, using an acronym for the terror group. The SDF is 'ready now to start and finish what is left in ISIS hands,' he added..."

### **N. Korea may be preparing a missile or space launch: NPR**

**March 9, 2019** spacedaily.com reported: "North Korea may be preparing for a missile or space launch, US news outlet NPR has reported, based on satellite image analysis of a key facility near Pyongyang.

NPR said the images of Sanumdong, one of the facilities Pyongyang has used to produce inter-continental ballistic missiles and space rockets, were taken days before US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met in Hanoi for their high-stakes summit, which ended in failure.

The photos by the firm DigitalGlobe show the presence of cars and trucks at the site on February 22, said NPR -- which has exclusive access to the imagery. It added that rail cars and cranes can also be seen at a yard.

"When you put all that together, that's really what it looks like when the North Koreans are in the process of building a rocket," Jeffrey Lewis, a researcher at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, was quoted as saying by NPR on Friday."