

# Is the War Between Russia and Georgia Prophetically Significant?

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As many know, a formal war broke out on Friday 8/8/08 between Russia and the small Parliament of Georgia. Clearly, the war is a profound mismatch between two, and at face value it appears to be yet another short-term flare up in the Middle East, and will eventually go away for a while. Russia is simply angry that Georgia has fought for its independence and Russia is even more angry that Georgia will likely find itself as a NATO member in the near future. NATO is perceived as a significant threat to Russian interests, and with the inevitable reality that Georgia would soon become a member, Russia realized that the combined presence of NATO forces and/or activity would be far greater to combat than simply confronting Georgia while it patiently waits for membership. So while this war appears to be a mad-dash opportunity to destroy a nearly helpless Georgia in an effort to avenge Russia's points of contention with them, I urge you to look a little deeper into the unfolding war.

While these factors clearly play into the rationale for the war, it is also not really surprising when you consider other events and issues that surround the conflict.

First, we know that Russia is a strong ally to Iran and has been supplying Iran with armed weapons and fuel for its nuclear facilities. We have read reports and headlines which profess, "You attack Iran, You attack Russia", so clearly this alliance is public and powerful.

We also know that Iran wants to destroy Israel, and that Iran wants to cripple the United States. If you ever take the time to listen to Iran's President Ahmadinejad, you will hear his plainly spoken words that Israel will soon be wiped off the map. I am of the opinion that this is not simply rhetoric, but that this is a direct threat to the existence of Israel, God's covenant land with the Jewish people. Ahmadinejad believes he has a divine, apocalyptic role in his presidency, and he believes that he has been chosen to usher in the Islamic Mahdi, which is a long-awaited religious figure that will mark the end-days (according to the koran).

Iran is close to producing sufficient enriched uranium to produce a nuclear weapon. I am not sure there is consensus on just how close they are, but without question, Iran is working feverishly to produce this weapon. Why? Well..I think Ahmadinejad has made it very clear...and that is to destroy and annihilate Israel.

Second, we know that the United States is currently a powerful ally to Israel, and we have professed to defend them. We also know that the relationship between the United States and

Iran is very poor, and that the relationship between the United States and Russia has significantly deteriorated in the past couple of years. So the alliances have shaped up and the confrontations between these alliances have built up--even in the mainstream media--you don't have to go looking for localized news coverage to assess the tensions.

Where does Georgia fit into this scenario, and what does all this have to do with the war between Russia and Georgia? Well, perhaps nothing, however, I am not dismissing these issues as significant underlying factors to the war.

Israel is surrounded by enemies. That is pretty much a no-brainer. However, they are allies with Georgia, and have even supplied Georgia with weapons. The United States is an ally to Georgia, and we have provided military training to Georgian soldiers. So, if you consider these elements, and then you look at where Georgia is on the map, you will see that it is located almost immediately north of Iran.

Then you consider Israel's position in relation to the not-so-veiled threats from Iran, and you can perhaps see why Israel may very well be ready to pre-emptively strike. The Jewish people were nearly annihilated during the horrifying Holocaust, and they have said loudly, "Never Again!". Israel will not sit back and allow Iran to produce a weapon that will destroy their land and people, so it makes sense that they would be on the verge of striking this enemy with a self-preservation mindset. Was Georgia about to allow Israel to use its land and facilities to set up a strike against Iran? Very possibly, and if you remember that Israel has very few allies in that region, they need all the help they can get.

With this in mind as a very real possibility, and not just speculation, I am reminded of the headline I read just last year when Russia said "You attack Iran, You attack Russia". Did Russia suspect that Israel was about to attack Iran from Georgia? Perhaps. Perhaps not. However, Russia was salivating at the opportunity to aggressively deal with Georgia, and perhaps this possibility helped them find justification in their "disproportionate" aggression toward the small country.

Is that all?

Hardly. Then there is the oil.

The only oil pipeline between Asia and Europe (which runs through Georgia) that does not pass through Russia, is a significant factor in this war as well, in my opinion. Israel needs access to this oil pipeline, and one can see how this might have been a motivating factor for Russia to engage in war with Georgia considering the other dynamics already touched upon.

How does this all factor into prophecy? Well, I am not completely sure that it does, however, I am aware of a yet unfulfilled prophecy spoken of by the prophet Ezekiel. Currently, I am of the opinion that some of these countries mentioned in this prophecy include Russia and Iran, who eventually attack Israel as a result of an "evil plan".

Ezekiel 38: 1-7 "Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, 3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. 4 I will turn you around, ***put hooks into your jaws***, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company *with* bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. 5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet; 6 Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah *from* the far north and all its troops—many people *are* with you. 7 "Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them. 8 After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword *and* gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. 9 You will ascend, **coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud, you and all your troops and many peoples with you.**" 10 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "**On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: 11 You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwallied villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'— 12 to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.**" 13 Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?" NKJV  
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This war is not currently directed at Israel (at face value), but it is not a far-fetched idea to consider that Russia might have developed a sinister plan to gain access to the oil pipeline which goes through its enemy, Georgia. Considering the other potential underlying dynamics of this war, it is easy to see how this may very well be a starting point of the brewing "storm that will cover the land" ultimately leading to a surprise attack on Israel as prophesized in Ezekiel 38-39.

I plan to continue watching the events unfold in this war and watch for any underlying motives that might be propelling this war to continue. Georgia has asked for a cease-fire, but for some reason, Russia is continuing its attacks and it is now spreading beyond its original area of focus.

My assessment may not be accurate, but if there is any appearance of accuracy to it at all, I will continue to add to this summary and share my thoughts in additional posts.