

# Westboro Baptist Church

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Religious Opinion & Bible Commentary on Current Events

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## NEWS RELEASE

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## Signs of the Times: Shining Bible Light on Current Events

The Lord has wrought many blessed judgments in the world this week which can be seen plainly by any who have been given eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to understand by the gracious hand of God. Let's view some of this week's judgments from the proper perspective:

This week, as Russia's deadly invasion of Ukraine continued, world players began ratcheting up sanctions on Russia and its allies. The U.S. and other nations froze the Russian Central Bank's access to about \$400 billion of its \$640 billion assets. Several Russian banks were barred from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), an organization that enables global communication and financial transactions between banks. Many European countries have also sent weapons and aid to Ukraine while closing their airspace to Russian-controlled airlines and aircraft. A long list of companies, including Visa, Mastercard, Microsoft, Honda, Toyota, Apple, Nike, GM, and Disney, announced various forms of business closures with Russia. These sanctions have positioned the Russian economy for a recession and caused the value of the Russian ruble to plummet. The Russian stock market has been closed all week.

It's easy to be swept up in the narrative playing out in the media, because Russia's murderous intent is so clearly unscriptural and evil. But this narrative is not coming from a proper Godly spirit, it is in fact coming from the flesh. "Glory to Ukraine" is the rallying cry of all of Ukraine's allies around the world. Disgusting. They should be saying "Glory to God," but that would require them looking inward at the sin they all institutionalize and remedying that open wound. **"Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? The LORD'S voice crieth unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it. Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable?" (Micah 6:7-10).**

There are a couple of interesting reports that tie into the Russian invasion. One report from the New York Times is that, for three months in the lead-up to the invasion, Biden administration officials met with Chinese officials and presented intelligence showing Russia's troop buildup around Ukraine, pleading with them to help persuade Russia to not invade. In turn, the Chinese government shared this intelligence with Russia and told them they would not interfere with Russia's plans. On another front, several reports have come out in the last week about U.S. negotiations with Iran. The negotiations, which center on sanctions relief for Iran in return for not pursuing nuclear weapons, are indirect; Russia is the middleman between the U.S. and Iran. Apparently, one of the demands is that Iran not be punished for its trade and military agreements with Russia due to Russia's war on Ukraine.

This nation has so many powerful enemies that it must juggle them and try to leverage them against each other as though there is any good faith to leverage. It is in such a precarious spot because it has no thoughts of obedience to God, and God in turn is not blessing it with sound counsellors. **"Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings? Where are they? where are thy wise men? and let them tell thee now, and let them know what the LORD of hosts hath purposed upon Egypt. The princes of Zoan are become fools, the princes of Noph are deceived; they have also seduced Egypt, even they that are the stay of the tribes thereof. The LORD hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit." (Isaiah 19:11-14).**