



## Lesson 114

### The Battle Over Ukraine part 2

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In the previous lesson we looked at the history of Ukraine beginning with its separation from the USSR when it fell. Since 1991, Ukraine has been trying to be independent from Russian influence. We looked at how the last few presidents of Ukraine have been working towards or against that goal. We also looked at Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014 and how Russia wants Ukraine to still be under its influence. In this lesson, we are going to look at the latest push by Russia to bring Ukraine under its influence. This all began with the build-up of troops on Ukraine's border in 2021. We will see how the build-up was the fulfillment of the battles of Beneventum and Panium and a major part of the Second Coming waymark on the Priests' line. We will also look at the war that began after the build-up.

## **Panium and Beneventum**

### **Two battles in history**

The battles of Panium and Beneventum are two ancient battles that were repeated in 2021. In 2018, the Midnight Cry message arrived and provided many prophecies on the next waymark-2019. But it also gave us insight on the events of 2021, notably the battle between the King of the North and South (United States and Russia) that would take place. We learned this battle would happen in 2021 because of ancient battles that parallel the waymark of 2021 on a line. The first of these ancient battles was the Battle of Panium in 198 BC, Ptolemy Epiphanes (King of the South) had just become king of Egypt and he was very young. In response, Antiochus Magnus (King of the North) began to prepare to attack him. Rome had been called to help guard Ptolemy against Antiochus but in 198 BC, when the two armies clashed, Egypt was defeated. It was so utterly destroyed that Egypt ceased to be a world power after the battle. The second of the two ancient battles presented in 2018 was the battle of Beneventum in 275 BC. Previous to the battle a king called Pyrrhus (King of the South) had been called to Italy to help a city-state called Tarentum fight off Rome (King of the North). Pyrrhus won the first two battles against Rome because he used war elephants and the Romans had never seen elephants before. But while Pyrrhus was on the island of Sicily he heard Rome was marching on Tarentum again. He returned to Italy to fight Rome in their final battle, the battle of Beneventum. However, history accounts that something sparked Pyrrhus' elephants to turn against his own army and trample them. Thus Pyrrhus was defeated by his own elephants. These are the two battles in history that prophesied a battle to take place in 2021. Today, the King of the North is the United States and the King of the South is Russia, and in 2021 they will battle. Additionally, we can identify three important aspects to this battle based on Panium and Beneventum. The first is that Russia will lose the battle and be crippled as a country. The second is that the King of the North is actually the one that starts the battle, we saw this in 275 BC when Rome marched on Tarentum first. Finally, the third point is that the King of the South's main mode of warfare (which in the case of Pyrrhus was elephants) is used against it. As we will see, the war in Ukraine fits this model perfectly.

# War in Ukraine

## February 2021- Zelensky and the Oligarchs

In the early months of 2021, Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelenskyy went after Viktor Volodymyrovych Medvedchuk, a Ukrainian oligarch. Viktor Medvedchuk and Vladimir Putin are close friends and allies. They are both friends personally, to the extent that Putin is Medvedchuk's daughter's godfather. They vacation together and like to compare how similar their countries are. Both men also have a distinct dislike of the West. But they are also friends politically—businessmen allies. "Short of war, one of the best ways that Putin has to influence Ukraine is through Medvedchuk and his political party." "Inside the Power Struggle Breaking up Russia and Ukraine." *TIME magazine*. Medvedchuk was the voice of Russia in Ukraine, so it did not go over well with Putin when Zelensky began his campaign against Medvedchuk by removing his TV stations and seizing his assets. The fact that he was the voice of Putin in Ukraine was the reason that Zelensky targeted him first. He was removing Russia's control over Ukraine. Medvedchuk wasn't the only oligarch that Zelensky targeted. His war against oligarchs was a part of his campaign against corruption, not just against Russia.

## March 2021- Troop build-up

In March of 2021, Putin started to send Russian troops to the Ukrainian border. By the end of the month over 100,000 Russian troops were at the Ukraine border and in Crimea. There were also Russian naval forces in the Sea of Azov (the Sea of Azov is connected to the Black Sea and bordered by Ukraine, Russia, and Crimea). This was a huge mobilization of Russia troops - some even say it's bigger than when Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014. The troops were gathered from all over Russia. Putin also sent weapons to the border like tanks and missiles. At that time no one really knew what Putin and Russia was doing, whether he was just trying to intimidate Zelensky, or he was actually preparing for war.

## May 2021- Treason charges

Ukraine escalated the conflict with Russia soon after troops arrived at its border. On May 11, 2021, Viktor Medvedchuk was said to be arrested by Ukrainian authorities on charges of treason. Medvedchuk, as we know, has been the voice of the Kremlin in Ukraine. He has fueled opposition to the West and attracted pro-Russian groups. In addition to arresting him, authorities also raided Medvedchuk's house in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital. Although he denies any wrongdoing, Medvedchuk is said to have done two things that qualify as treason. He reportedly gave Russia oil and gas production licenses, and he leaked secret Ukrainian military information. These charges could potentially amount to a sentence of fifteen years in prison. Ukrainian President Zelensky offered Russia the opportunity to trade Medvedchuk for Ukrainian captives. But the Kremlin spokesman refused, citing that since Medvedchuk is a Ukrainian citizen, he has no connection with Russia and thus there is no need for a trade. In response to the charges, Putin said Ukraine was becoming "some anti-Russia," and earlier he mentioned Russia would respond "promptly and properly, bearing in mind all the threats posed to us."

## **June 2021- Partial troop withdrawal**

In June, Putin had a portion of his Russian soldiers that were on the borders of Ukraine withdraw, leaving their heavy weapons there. "Ukrainian estimates provided to the OSCE in June 2021 show that only 12,000 Russian forces were removed from the border, and the rest remain in place. As a result, the number of troops remaining is more or less the number of troops that was at the border before the exercise," "The Russian and Ukrainian Spring 2021 War Scare" *CSIS*. Russians claimed that they were only on the border for a routine military exercise, and when they withdrew the exercise was over. Of course, now (and then) we knew that that wasn't true-they were planning for the invasion, which is why they left their heavy weapons.

## **July 2021- Putin's paper and Medvedev's paper**

Even though Putin partially withdrew his army his mind was not changed. On July 12, 2021 he published an article in Russian, Ukrainian, and English on the Kremlin's website. Putin titled the article "On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians". In this article Putin tried to prove his belief that Russians and Ukrainians were the same people - and therefore they should be one country. He wrote that the friction between them at the present time was due to past problems between the two countries and foreign interference. He wrote that Russians and Ukrainians were descendants of the same group of people, and he also mentioned how they have the same religion. Putin included the history of the USSR, and that after its fall Russia helped Ukraine become independent. Putin pointed to 2014 as the year everything began to change (he wrote that the people of Ukraine were not in favor of these changes); he wrote that people believed Russia and Ukraine would stay close after the fall of the USSR, but that was not the case. Putin also included that Ukrainians were denying their past and getting closer to the West, therefore making it into a "springboard" for the West to get to Russia. Putin wrote that Russia was open to talk with Ukraine, and that it would support Ukrainian culture and freedom - but Ukrainian sovereignty can only be truly reached when it is in partnership with Russia. On October 11, 2021 this same sentiment was expressed by Dmitry Medvedev (who was president from 2008 to 2012) the deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council. Zelensky wanted to have an in-person meeting with Putin, but the subject of the meeting could not be decided. Medvedev wrote an article titled "Why contacts with the current Ukrainian leadership are meaningless" where he outlined five reasons that that premise was true. Medvedev wrote that Ukraine was completely dependent on foreign powers, also the Kremlin should not try to work with a "vassal" ("a person or country in a subordinate position to another"). People other than Putin share his worldview that Ukraine should be a part of Russia, and that Western powers are controlling it, even though he withdrew some of his troops, his mindset did not change.

## **October 2021- Second troop build-up**

Both information and hot war had a consequential event in October of 2021. During that time Russia began to re-deploy troops on Ukraine's border. After the partial withdrawal, the new deployment brought new soldiers to both occupied areas, and new fronts across the border. It was during this time that the United States was ramping up its information war against Russia. The Battle of Beneventum showed us that the King of the South's own weapons turned against him. As prophesied, the United States in partnership with Ukraine launched information war tactics. Russia was accustomed to being the sole user of such a weapon and this

threw Putin off balance. Biden has released Russia's sensitive plans before Russia had even acted upon them. Releases like these and others have become very frequent; they show a deliberately more aggressive approach to fighting information wars not seen from the United States in decades. Tim Weiner, an author who studies conflict between the United States and Russia commented on the information war. "It's the most amazing display of intelligence as an instrument of state power that I have seen...since the Cuban Missile Crisis...it has certainly blunted and defused the disinformation weaponry of the Kremlin." The United States' intelligence was able to stay a step ahead of Putin, and may have even delayed the beginning of the invasion. "By being careful about this," CIA Director William Burns said of information warfare "we have stripped away the pretext that Putin, in particular, often uses." This information war led by the United States and Ukraine is still taking place, but some analysts say it began back in October of 2021, making it the second consequential event.

### **October 24-26- Internal message**

In this Movement we know that the internal and external connect with one another. It was during the time that the second Russian troop build-up on the Ukraine border happened that Elder Tess presented about feminism. But not just any kind of feminism - radical feminism - and explained why the other two types of feminism (cultural and mainstream) weren't really feminism. This was from October 24-26, 2021 in Australia. Just as major external events were happening, major internal messages were being presented. Understanding that there were different kinds of feminism is important because the other two types of feminism approve of forms of sexism. And sexism is the test for our time.

### **February 2022- Invasion of Ukraine**

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, again. Many western countries feared that this would happen. There were almost 200,000 Russian troops at the border and at 4:50 in the morning on February 24<sup>th</sup>, Putin said that Russian soldiers would conduct a special military operation in Ukraine. Putin had already recognized two parts of Ukraine that are controlled by pro-Russia separatists as independent on the 21<sup>st</sup> and sent troops into those regions, but it was on the 24<sup>th</sup> that the war actually began. Russian troops crossed the border into Ukraine, some even entered through Belarus. Shortly after 5:00 in the morning they had already begun missile strikes. One of the first things Putin did was to try to take the capital: Kyiv, but by early April the Russian troops gave up. They left fighting in Kyiv to go, mainly, to the east. Western countries have supplied weapons to Ukraine and put sanctions on Russia to help in the war. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, Ukraine officially applied to join the European Union, and in June the European Union put the country on a path to do so. Over 14.8 million people have fled Ukraine since the war began (that doesn't include internally displaced people) and tens of thousands of civilians have been injured or killed. Throughout the war the Ukrainian soldiers have proven that they are stronger than the Russians, even though Putin refuses to see it. On September 30, 2022, Putin announced that Russia annexed four separatist regions in eastern Ukraine (all of which he recognized as independent), even though Russian troops do not fully control those regions and many western countries do not approve of it. The war continues today mainly in eastern and southern of Ukraine.

## In summary:

Feb 2021	Mar 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Oct 2021	Feb 2022
Zelensky targets oligarchs, specifically Putin's ally in Ukraine-Medvedchuk	Putin begins building up troops on the Ukrainian border	Ukraine charges Medvedchuk with treason	Russia withdraws a portion of its troops from the Ukrainian border	Putin and Medvedev write important papers	Putin begins building up troops on the Ukrainian border for a second time — Information warfare began to be used — The message on radical feminism is presented	Russia invades Ukraine

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Link to YPG Zoom meetings which are at 10:00am Pacific Time on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87170293849>