THE CHURCH OF GOD at JERUSALEM ACRES ● WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY
Pastor David W. Kramer • March 4, 2026

EZEKIEL 38:10-13,

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:"

- Who is the "YOU" God is referring to? It's the "northern" nations described in verses 1-7.
- These "northern nations" will ultimately attack Israel for her financial resources.
- This war is referred to as "The Battle of Gog and Magog" and it takes place 7 years BEFORE the Battle of Armageddon.
- God prophesies that a war involving Israel will start because of **ECONOMIC ISSUES.**

11 "You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people [the nation of Israel], who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'—

12 to take plunder and to take booty [financial resources, assets], 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?"

- **TELL YOUR NEIGHBOR: "Follow the money!"**

02/02/2026 – ARAB NEWS HEADLINE:

"European gas prices soar almost 50% as Iran conflict halts Qatar LNG output."

- What is LNG? It is Liquefied Natural Gas–which is natural gas cooled to a liquid state for easier storage and transport.
- Who are the world's largest producers of LNG?

» Qatar Energy is the number two producer behind the USA.
» Where is Qatar located? Between Saudi Arabia and Iran.
» All of its oil tankers sail through the Straight of Hormuz (which is controlled primarily by Iran) and has now been closed.

02/02/26 – LONDON: "Benchmark Dutch and British wholesale gas prices soared by almost 50 percent on Monday, after major liquefied natural gas exporter Qatar Energy said it had halted production due to attacks in the Middle East."

"Qatar, soon to cement its role as the world's second largest LNG exporter after the US, plays a major role in balancing both Asian and European markets' demand of LNG. Most tanker owners, oil majors and trading houses have suspended crude oil, fuel and liquefied natural gas shipments via the Strait of Hormuz, trade sources said, after Tehran warned ships against moving through the waterway. Europe has increased imports of LNG over the past few years as it seeks to phase out Russian gas following Russia's invasion of Ukraine."

» Can we see how the Russia/Ukraine war is contributing to this financial scheme?
» All of these events are interrelated.

02-06-26 – FROM ALJAZEERA (Arab News Agency):
"Analysis: Khamenei's killing leaves Iran's 'axis' in disarray as war widens."

"While Tehran warns it will 'burn everything', its proxies in Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq face a choice between suicidal revenge and local survival.

Resistance without a head

Khamenei's assassination has essentially shattered the command-and-control structure of the "axis of resistance". The network was built on three pillars:

1) *The ideological authority of the supreme leader (Khamenei),*
2) *The logistical coordination of the IRGC (Iran Revolutionary Guards Corp), and,*
3) *The geographic connection through Syria.*

Today, all three are broken. Yet, as Monday's events showed, a broken command structure does not necessarily mean silence. It means chaos. "The most important damage to Iran's security interests is the severing of the ground link (Syria)," Dareini said. With Khamenei gone, the "spiritual link" is also severed.

What remains is a fragmented landscape. In Lebanon, Hezbollah is launching preemptive strikes to survive. In Yemen, the Houthis face a potential domestic offensive. In Iraq, militias risk collapsing the state they live in.

When the dust settles in Tehran, the region will face a dangerous unpredictability. The "axis of resistance" is no longer a coordinated army. It is a collection of angry, heavily armed militias, each calculating its own survival in a world where the orders from Tehran have suddenly stopped coming–and where Tehran explicitly says it battles alone."

02/02/26 – FOX NEWS:
"FROM MISSILES TO MINERALS: The strategic meaning behind the Iran strike. The operation that killed Iran's supreme leader wasn't just about deterrence — it reflects a broader US strategy."

*"The death of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, following coordinated U.S.–Israeli strikes in late February 2026 marks one of the most consequential geopolitical moments of the decade. The operation appears less as an isolated military escalation and more as part of a broader strategic transition already underway: the integration of **ECONOMIC SECURITY**, **TECHNOLOGICAL DOMINANCE** and **SUPPLY-CHAIN RESILIENCE** into core American grand strategy.*

Over the past five years, Washington's strategic thinking has shifted decisively away from counterterrorism-era priorities toward competition defined by industrial capacity, infrastructure control and technological ecosystems. Energy routes, mineral supply chains, semiconductor inputs and data networks are no longer treated as commercial concerns alone; they are now regarded as national security assets. In *that framework, instability surrounding Iran intersected directly with several emerging pillars of U.S. strategy.* (PASTOR'S NOTE: Consider Trump's calls to annex Greenland. He wants to secure the island for military and economic stability and control.)

IRAN OCCUPIES A UNIQUELY SENSITIVE POSITION IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM. *The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world's most critical maritime arteries, carrying roughly one-fifth of globally traded oil and a substantial share of liquefied natural gas exports. Persistent uncertainty around the waterway has imposed structural costs on global trade. Energy volatility feeds directly into inflation, manufacturing competitiveness and industrial planning across allied economies.* (PASTOR'S NOTE: Iran's decision to close the Strait of Hormuz has affected my wallet! Local gas prices have risen close to 50 cents per gallon.)

At the same time, Iran's resource base places it squarely within the emerging competition over critical minerals essential for advanced manufacturing [remember Trump's tariff threats to China based on essential minerals]. From Washington's perspective, this convergence created a strategic contradiction: while the United States and its partners were attempting to build resilient industrial ecosystems independent of geopolitical rivals, a key regional actor sat astride both energy choke points and alternative resource flows benefitting competing economic blocs.

Parallel efforts expanded through what policymakers and industry leaders increasingly describe as "coordinated economic security frameworks". The expansion of mineral cooperation agreements under initiatives such as FORGE brought dozens of countries into shared financing, refining and procurement arrangements designed to stabilize access to critical inputs. Simultaneously, private-sector coalitions — often grouped under the emerging concept of "Pax Silica"—have begun aligning advanced economies across semiconductors, artificial intelligence infrastructure and materials processing.

Together, these initiatives signal a new organizing principle of U.S. grand strategy: secure the physical and digital foundations of economic power before systemic rivalry fully hardens. The timing of the strikes becomes clearer within this context. By early 2026, multiple pressures had significantly weakened Iran's strategic leverage. Years of sanctions targeting oil transport networks sharply constrained revenue flows. The Iranian rial (currency) experienced sustained depreciation amid high inflation, eroding purchasing power and amplifying domestic dissatisfaction. Informal trade mechanisms that once mitigated sanctions pressure faced increasing enforcement, narrowing fiscal space for the state.

Regionally, Iran's network of partner militias faced mounting operational strain following sustained military campaigns across several theaters. Analysts observed reduced coordination effectiveness and growing logistical stress among groups previously central to Tehran's deterrence posture. While still capable of retaliation, the broader network appeared less synchronized than in earlier phases of regional confrontation.

Taken together, these factors may have produced what strategists often describe as a narrowing operational window—a period in which adversary capabilities are constrained while competing infrastructure initiatives approach implementation milestones. February 2026 represented precisely such a moment. Mineral partnerships expanded, Gulf–India economic negotiations advanced, and major subsea cable investments linking North America, South Asia, and Middle Eastern data hubs moved from planning into deployment. These networks are designed to underpin artificial intelligence development, cloud computing markets and next-generation digital trade across rapidly growing economies.

In modern strategic competition, vulnerability no longer resides solely in territory but in systems: shipping lanes, refining capacity, data transmission routes and industrial inputs. Any actor capable of disrupting these systems acquires disproportionate leverage. From this perspective, the strikes addressed not only immediate security concerns but the perceived long-term risk that continued instability surrounding Iran could undermine *emerging economic architectures central to U.S. strategy. The question of "why now" therefore extends beyond battlefield calculations. Acting earlier would have risked confrontation while Iran retained stronger regional coordination and financial flexibility. Acting later might have allowed entrenched disruptions to harden around critical trade and technology networks just as allied investment accelerated. Whether this assessment proves strategically sound remains uncertain. Iran retains significant retaliatory capacity and the trajectory of its internal political evolution is far from predetermined. Elite consolidation could stabilize the system, while fragmentation could introduce new forms of regional volatility affecting energy markets and transit corridors alike.*

What is clear, however, is that global competition has entered a phase where military action, economic planning and technological infrastructure operate within a single strategic continuum. The United States increasingly frames national security not only in terms of territorial defense but in safeguarding the systems that sustain industrial production, digital connectivity and allied economic integration. The debate unfolding across social media often centers on immediate moral or political judgments. Yet the deeper transformation may lie in how power itself is being exercised. Security policy is becoming indistinguishable from economic architecture. If so, the events in Iran may ultimately be understood less as an endpoint and more as a signal of a wider transition—one in which great-power competition is decided not only by armies or alliances, but by who secures the energy routes, mineral flows and data networks that will define the global economy for decades to come."

02-02-26: What vital energy resources does Israel have?

Israel's natural gas fields, particularly the Leviathan and Tamar fields, play a crucial role in the country's energy independence and economic growth, with significant reserves and ongoing export agreements.

Located in the Mediterranean Sea, approximately 130 kilometers west of Haifa, the Leviathan gas field is one of the largest natural gas discoveries in the world, with estimated reserves of 22 trillion cubic feet (approximately 621 billion cubic meters) of recoverable natural gas. The Tamar field has proven reserves of 223 billion cubic meters and began commercial production in March 2013. It has been instrumental in reducing Israel's reliance on imported energy and has significantly contributed to the country's energy security.

SUMMARY: **Israel's natural gas fields, particularly Leviathan and Tamar, are pivotal to the country's energy strategy, providing substantial reserves that support both domestic consumption and export opportunities, significantly impacting the regional energy landscape.**

EZEKIEL 38:13-15,

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?"

» How valuable are Israel's natural gas fields? They are worth TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS.
» All of our modern-day electronic gadgets require ENERGY to operate.
» All of our elaborate defense systems require sources of ENERGY as well.

14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord God: "On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it?

15 Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army."

» Guess what name Israel gave to this military operation? **"OPERATION ROARING LION".**
» God is in control–even when it seems like the world is going crazy!
» Both the Russia/Ukraine War and the Iran War are pushing the world to an economic cliff.
» This pressure will ultimately culminate when a group of "northern nations" decide to attack Israel–the Battle of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38,39)–to steal their assets (including Natural Gas/Energy resources).
» This battle will take place 7 years before the final battle of Armageddon which will ultimately bring back the return of Jesus Christ at the 7^{th} Trump.