

# Russia's Aggression: A Bear's Ambitions and Targets

The sources you provided do not explicitly connect Russia's current aggression to the "bear" described in Daniel 7<sup>1</sup>.... The description of the "bear" comes from the biblical text of Daniel 7, which states: "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and *had* three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'"<sup>2</sup>. However, if one were to draw parallels based on the characteristics and actions attributed to Russia in the other sources, certain aspects could be seen as aligning with this imagery:

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"Raised up on one side": This could be interpreted metaphorically as Russia's current military focus and posture. The intelligence reports from Baltic and Nordic states jointly warn about Russia's reconstitution and strengthening of its armed forces, specifically an increase to 1.5 million personnel, with an additional 350,000 troops in land and airborne forces by the end of 2026<sup>9</sup><sup>10</sup>. These plans prioritize both existing and new units in the neighborhood of the Baltic states, Finland, and Norway<sup>10</sup>. Germany's chief of defense, General Carsten Breuer, notes that Russia is building up its forces to an "enormous extent," producing approximately 1,500 main battle tanks annually, with many going into stocks and new military structures "always facing the West"<sup>11</sup>. This suggests a strong military buildup and strategic emphasis on its western flank, which could be seen as being "raised up on one side."

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"Had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth": This imagery of specific targets or conquests could be likened to areas that the sources identify as vulnerable or potential next targets for Russian aggression:

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Moldova is frequently cited as the "next" country Russia might target after Ukraine, with discussions about Russia seeking a land bridge to Transnistria<sup>12</sup>.... Moldova has explicitly defined Russia as its "principal threat" and is experiencing an "intense hybrid war" waged by Russia<sup>2021</sup>.

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Georgia is also repeatedly mentioned as a potential next target for Russian influence or aggression<sup>15</sup>....

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The Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania) are viewed as highly exposed and vulnerable<sup>14</sup>.... There are warnings of a potential Russian attack on these NATO members by 2029 or even earlier<sup>37</sup><sup>38</sup>. The "Suwalki Corridor," which lies between Poland and Lithuania and is flanked by Kaliningrad and Belarus, is described as a "critical point of interest for NATO" and an "Achilles heel," as controlling it would cut off the Baltic states from the rest of NATO<sup>33</sup>....

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The "leaked 2030 plan" mentioned in the Reddit discussion suggests a sequence of aggression: "Take Ukraine, Annex Belarus, Take Moldova, Take Georgia/Caucasus, Baltics"<sup>17</sup>. These named countries could represent the "ribs" in the bear's mouth, indicating territories Russia aims to control or exert influence over.

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"Arise, devour much flesh!": This command reflects Russia's aggressive intentions and ongoing and potential future military actions:

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Russia's war against Ukraine is described as part of a strategy to "break the unity of Western countries and changing the security architecture in Europe based on NATO"<sup>41</sup>. This ongoing "war of aggression against Ukraine" is clearly a form of "devouring much flesh"<sup>4243</sup>.

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European officials warn that Moscow "could soon be in a position to attack NATO territory"<sup>44</sup>. German military leaders are urging NATO to prepare for a possible attack from Russia within the next four years, indicating Russia's intent to "devour" or seize territory<sup>3845</sup>.

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Russia is seen as "trying to find ways into our defence lines and it's testing it" through various means, including attacks on undersea cables, cyber attacks, and unidentified drones<sup>4647</sup>.

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Some Reddit users note that Russia's "existence and doctrine is to ALWAYS attack neighbours"<sup>48</sup>. In summary, while the sources do not directly link Russia to the "bear" in Daniel 7, the description of the bear as "raised up on one side" and commanded to "devour much flesh," along with its "three ribs," could be metaphorically aligned with the sources' depiction of Russia's rearmament and strategic focus on its western borders, its aggressive actions against Ukraine, and its perceived ambitions toward countries like Moldova, Georgia, and the Baltic states<sup>2...</sup>.