

Today's News in Light of the Bible

# PROPHETIC Newsletter

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**DR. ED HINDSON**

I am so grateful for your faithful partnership with World Prophetic Ministry and the King is Coming telecast. Because of your generosity, our ministry can share the Gospel worldwide and inform Christians about prophecy and the End Times.

On December 21, I celebrate my 75th birthday. Some people might think this would be a good time to slow down or perhaps even retire, but that is not my plan. As long as the Lord gives me the strength, I will continue to teach and preach His Word!

I don't know how much time He has left for me here on earth. One day I will gloriously meet Him face-to-face!

In the meantime, will you help me continue God's work during my 75th year? Just imagine the global impact we could have if every partner of this ministry were able to send a gift today!

Until He returns,

*Ed Hindson*



## Russia-Turkey Collusion in Syria

Russia and Turkey have reached an agreement that would put a combined Russian-Turkish force into northern Syria after Turkey had invaded the region and in support of Russia's Syrian ally Bashar al-Assad, the leader of Syria. The agreement will allow Turkey to keep its holdings that it has already taken from its recent invasion and place a combined force in the rest of the border region. With the withdraw of United States forces from the region, this move fills the power gap and strengthens both Turkey and Russia's hold and influence in the region.

Russia has long been a supporter of Iran and now seems to be making greater headway into a Russian-Turkish

See **RUSSIA-TURKEY COLLUSION** on page 4

# Israeli Technology Brings Healing Cures

The Jewish people have long been known for technical innovation and their ability to create new and better inventions, including winning many Noble Peace Prizes. Recently, they have been very influential in the area of medical development and technology.



First, Haifa-based biotechnology company Bonus BioGroup is revolutionizing the future of bone healing with a new technology that can grow human bone grafts to heal fractures. In its manufacturing facility, Bonus BioGroup constructs bone grafts outside the body from the patient's tissue. It uses this tissue to grow a new bone in a bioreactor that mirrors a human body. In just two weeks, the new, healthy bone is ready to be implanted in the patient. This breakthrough could help patients suffering from diseases such as osteoporosis, which affects an estimated 200 million people worldwide and causes over 8.9 million fractures per year.

BonoFill, the company's method for growing a three-dimensional and high-density bone graft, requires the isolation of a unique kind of cell from the tissue with the ability to repopulate. From that cell, a new bone is grown in a laboratory bioreactor mimicking the human body. Within two weeks, a live and viable bone has grown and can be implanted back into the patient.

"Because every patient gets his own tissue and own cells back, the safety profile of this kind of therapy is very high," Dr. Shai Meretzki, chief executive and president

of Bonus BioGroup, told *The Jerusalem Post*. "There is no immune reaction to the implant, never mind rejection. The body doesn't know that the cells underwent a short cycle of two weeks outside the human body, and we see a very nice recovery

and complete healing of the bone gap."

With such positive results, the company expects to start a Phase III US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) trial at the beginning of 2020, with an outcome expected within two-and-a-half years. The company is also aiming to move its listing to the Nasdaq. "All the patients we have treated within the orthopedic indications have suffered at least three bone graft failures in the past," Meretzki said. "We take the hardest cases where people have already given up on them. They are all back on their feet or have full use of their hands. One patient, 13 months after he had a bone implant in his leg, completed the Ironman Triathlon." Meretzki believes that the technology will soon become the first line of treatment for large bone defects, a market worth approximately \$8 billion today and set to grow as the world's population ages.

Second, researchers at Tel Aviv University have created a breakthrough nano-vaccine to fight melanoma, the most aggressive type of skin cancer. Melanoma is the fifth most common form of cancer and affects almost 100,000 people in America alone each year. Using mouse models to treat primary tumors

See **ISRAELI TECHNOLOGY** on page 6

# China Destroys Church, Persecution on Rise

China Aid, an international nonprofit Christian human rights group based in Texas, reported that China recently destroyed a 3,000-seat church building and arrested its pastors. Chinese authorities provided no legal paperwork to justify the demolition or arrests. This is a common occurrence as China continues to raise persecution levels against religious groups within the nation. The church, located in Funan in the Anhui province, was destroyed and its two pastors, Geng Wimin and Sun Yongyao, were arrested under suspicion of “gathering a crowd to disturb social order.” China Aid President Bob Fu said in a statement that the incident was “yet another clear example showing the escalation of religious persecution today by the Chinese Communist regime.”

China’s persecution of religious groups has existed for many years. However, under President Xi Jinping a wave of crackdowns on religious practices has taken place, especially against Christian and Muslim groups. Christianity has grown significantly in China through underground church networks. Concerned about this growth, the Communist government made the move to destroy or damage several churches.

In the summer, True Jesus Church in Henan province was razed to the ground, according to persecution watchdog Bitter Winter. Police officers reportedly dragged out all believers from inside before they demolished the property. Bitter Winter also reported the Ten Commandments have been removed from nearly every Three-Self church and meeting venue in a county of Luoyang city. They were replaced with quotes from President Xi Jinping as part of the Chinese Communist Party’s efforts to “sinicize” Christianity.

Last month, the human rights group China Tribunal told the United Nations Human Rights Council that the Chinese government



is harvesting organs from religious minorities. There could potentially be hundreds of thousands of victims.

“Forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience, including the religious minorities of Falun Gong and Uighurs, has been committed for years throughout China on a significant scale, and that it continues today. This involves hundreds of thousands of victims,” explained China Tribunal lawyer Hamid Sabi to the UNHRC.

In a separate report by China Aid, 2017 saw 1,256 cases of religious persecution, up 66 percent from 2016. More than 650 church leaders were among the 3,700 people detained for faith-related offenses in 2017. But with the change in legislation, China has taken its control over religion to the next level and persecution continues to be on the rise.

It is clear the Chinese Communist government sees the rise of Christianity as a serious threat to their atheistic worldview. They will continue to do everything in their power to

See **CHINA DESTROYS CHURCH** on page 6

alliance. President Vladimir Putin of Russian and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey met for six hours to discuss the negotiations and formalized the agreement.

Erdoğan stated afterward, “I believe that this agreement will start a new era toward Syria’s lasting stability and it being cleared of terrorism.” However, pundits of the invasion view this as a move to increase Turkish power and influence in the region, with the support of their new friend Russia.

President Putin has emerged as the dominant force in Syria and a major power broker in the broader Middle East — a status showcased by Mr. Erdoğan’s hastily arranged trip to the Russian president’s summer home in Sochi. And it looks increasingly clear that Russia, which rescued the government of Syrian President al-Assad with airstrikes over the last four years, will be the arbiter of the power balance there.

*Reuters* reports “Russia is the Syrian government’s most powerful ally and helped it turn the tables in the country’s civil war by retaking much of the country from rebels in 2015. The Turkish-Russian deal last week allowed Syrian government forces to move back into border regions from which they have been absent for years.”

Putin already has strong ties in the region and has attempted to increase Russian influence through various means, including working with Iran. His goal is to make Russian the dominant influence in the region and secure both influence and resources, including oil, for Russia.

That Russia is working with both Turkey

and Iran should not come as a surprise to scholars of the Bible. This could easily be the beginning of the foundation of the alliance spoken of in the book of Ezekiel in chapters 38-39, called by scholars the battle of Gog and Magog. Ezekiel speaks of an alliance between several nations that invade Israel and are only defeated by divine intervention. Magog has long been associated with the Russian people, tying back to the table of nations in Genesis 10 to settling in the Caucus region that eventually became part of Russia.

Persia, ancient Iran, is also mentioned as an ally of Magog in the text and so is the Ethiopia, Libya and Gomer and Togarmah, both which would be associated with modern day Turkey. Today, outside of Russia, these nations are primarily Islamic and Russia has worked very hard to develop relations with both Iran and Turkey. Iran and Turkey both view Israel as an enemy in the region and hope to both lesson Israeli influence and territory while expanding their own.

While this does not necessarily mean that the battle of Gog and Magog will happen soon, it should alert us that the pieces of this battle described by Ezekiel are being put into place and could very easily occur, especially now that Russia and Turkey are becoming more aligned in their goals.

Turkey had long been a staunch opponent of Russia as a part of NATO, but is turning into a more cooperative Russian ally in the region. This combined Turkish and Russian alliance should send red signal warnings to us that something prophetically significant may be occurring in the region.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray God will remain sovereign in control and that His will continues to be done in this region.

# Saudi Arabia Banishing the Bible

Recently, the Christian persecution watchdog group Barnabas Fund released a report warning Christians traveling to Saudi Arabia to not publicly display their Bible while in the country or travel with more than one copy of it. Despite the kingdom's recent openness to tourism, Barnabas Fund warns, "The new regulations for tourists state that a Bible may be brought into the country provided it is for personal use only. Bibles must not be displayed in public and anyone found bringing a large number of Bibles will face 'severe penalties.'"

They also warn that the Saudi Arabian government follows a strict interpretation of Islam. Openly practicing Christianity in the kingdom is forbidden. This is a major challenge for churches within the nation and for Christian missionary groups that attempt to share the Gospel with the Islamic people.

This warning applies to both citizens and non-citizens. There are hundreds of thousands of Christians from other nations, such as the Philippines, as well as other parts of Asia or Africa, who are living and working in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi oil industry has created thousands of jobs for trained outsiders that are allowed into the nation. However, Christians must meet in private homes to worship, and risk harassment, arrest and deportation if they are caught. Saudi citizens who convert to Christianity face risk of execution by the state for apostasy if their conversion becomes known. For a Saudi citizen, a public Christian baptism could lead to disownment from family, arrest or even death.

This persecution comes at a time when

the Saudi Arabian government is attempting to increase their tourism industry in order to decrease their reliance on oil profits. They have relaxed some of their rules on foreign women. Those taking advantage of the visa program will not be required to adhere to the nation's strict dress code or will not need to be accompanied in public. However, visitors are still required to dress in a "modest" style. But, these regulations are still enforced on female citizens of the nation.

Saudi Arabia wants people to come and spend money in their nation for tourism, but do not want them spreading their religious beliefs in the Islamic nation.

Saudi Arabia has a history of persecution, ranking as the 15th worst persecutor of Christians in the world by persecution watchdog, Open Doors USA. They reported, "Christian churches in Saudi Arabia are continuously targeted. Three underground house churches were reportedly closed [in 2018], some after being raided by police. Christians—both Saudis and foreigners—risk imprisonment, physical abuse and serious threats because of their faith. Several were forced to leave the country because of their faith or faith-related activities."

It is easy to overlook Saudi Arabia's persecution because of their somewhat favorable interaction with the West. But they are still very Islamic and very intolerable of anything Christian.

Throughout history, people have tried to eliminate God's Word and God's influence in



See **SAUDIA ARABIA** on page 6

## ISRAELI TECHNOLOGY from page 2

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and metastases resulting from melanoma, the researches have effectively prevented the development of melanoma thus far. Professor Ronit Satchi-Fainaro told Israel 21c.org, “In our study, we have shown that it is possible to produce an effective nano-vaccine against melanoma and to sensitize the immune system to immunotherapies.” This leading research

continues to be developed and hopes to one day eradicate melanoma from existence.

God promised Abraham and his descendants in the book of Genesis that Israel would be a blessing to the world. These types of amazing medical and technological advancements show the Israeli people continue to be a blessing to the nations.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray for the success of these research projects and others like them that are attempting to cure physical conditions that impact individuals each day.

## CHINA DESTROYS CHURCH from page 3

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limit Christianity’s influence in the country.

This should not surprise us as Christians, as Jesus stated in John 3:19, “Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” The world will continue to persecute the church because they first hated Christ and persecuted Him unto

death. Christianity is a direct challenge to the atheistic worldview of our time. Many will try to silence and destroy it. We as Christians must be prepared to deal with persecution from the world. We must hold strong to our faith, no matter how challenging it becomes, and no matter how evil the persecution continues to become.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray for the persecuted church in China that is being attacked by their own atheistic government that wants to silence the Gospel of Jesus in their nation.

## SAUDIA ARABIA from page 5

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the world. However, God has remained faithful and has preserved His Word throughout the ages and will continue to do so.

We do need to be aware of persecution as it arises throughout the world and the anti-

Christian worldviews that are trying to silence the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We need to pray that God will continue to open doors into these nations and that His Word will be allowed to be used to impact lives and save souls.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray Saudi Arabia and other nations around the world will become more open to accepting Christianity and that the Gospel will be able to be preached in these cultures.