

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC Newsletter

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In 1 Thessalonians 5:2 we are told that Jesus Christ will return like “a thief in the night,” instantly, suddenly, unexpectedly. He will come back for His own, rapture us up to Heaven, take us up into the clouds to be with Him. Heaven is our focus. That is our goal!

I am so thankful the Lord has let me live to see this ministry have a worldwide impact for the Gospel. It has been 12 years since my life threatening heart surgery and I feel better than ever! Praise the Lord!

How much time do I have left to serve the Lord? I don't know. But, I know I will do all I can to follow Christ's calling upon my life to be bold in my faith and carry on His Kingdom's work.

Thank you for blessing World Prophetic Ministry and The King is Coming telecast with your prayers and financial support! We continue to see souls saved and lives changed!

Apostasy on the Rise?

There have been a rash of popular members of the Christian community that have either apostatized from the faith or are leaning in that direction in recent months. For example, Joshua Harris, author of the Christian bestseller *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, first announced a split from his



Joshua Harris

wife and then the following week announced that he was walking away from Christianity. In an Instagram post, Harris stated “I have undergone a massive shift in regard to my faith in Jesus. The popular phrase for this is “deconstruction,” the biblical phrase is “falling away.” By all the measurements that I have for defining a Christian, I

am not a Christian. Many people tell me that there is a different way to practice faith and I want to remain open to this, but I'm not there now.”

He also posted an apology to the LGBTQ+ community in which he stated “But I specifically want to add to this list now: to the LGBTQ+ community, I want to say that I am sorry for the views that I taught in my books and as a pastor regarding sexuality.” This walk away from the faith was shocking to Harris' former church, Covenant Life in Maryland, which has asked for prayer for Harris that he would return to the faith.

In another occurrence, Marty Sampson, a worship music writer for Hillsong Worship, has also come out and

Rise of Anti-Semitism on the Left

Within the midterm elections of 2018, four new congresswomen were elected: Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) Ilhan Omar (D-MN) and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY). This group, along with others on the left, have led the way in both a rising wave of anti-Semitism against the nation of Israel and a rising wave against America's support and alliance with Israel. Ocasio-Cortez has consistently referred to the "occupation of Palestine" by Israel and has called Israel defensive operations in the Gaza area a "massacre". She also regularly praises British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, a noted anti-Semite who once sponsored a movement to "eradicate Zionism" in the 1980s and has had three members of the Labour Party resign after accusing the party of being "institutionally anti-Semitic."

Omar, a practicing Muslim who wears a hijab on the House floor, has tweeted anti-Semitic statements in the past, such as in 2012 when she tweeted, "Israel has hypnotized the world, may Allah awaken the people and help them see the evil doings of Israel." Omar also recently accused the American Israel Public Affairs Committee of paying American officials to be pro-Israel. Louis Farrakhan, a mentor to Omar according to *The New York Post*, came out in support of Omar's remarks. Tlaib, who was born in Detroit to Palestinian immigrants, has also made headlines by accusing U.S. senators who support Israel in any way of holding dual loyalties to both Israel and the United States and therefore are not fully faithful to their work as United States senators. She has also called to cut all US aid to Israel, claiming that it "doesn't fit the values

of our country." Both Omar and Tlaib have both called for boycotts of Israel and asserted this is no different than calling for a boycott of Nazi Germany during World War 2. This is ironic given that Israel's very existence as a nation can be linked to the Nazi Holocaust in which over six million Jews were slaughtered, thus leading to the establishment of the nation of Israel after the war.

The rise in anti-Semitism has also increased outside of the United States as well, specifically in Europe. A new CNN poll found that more than 25 percent of Europeans say Jews have too much influence in business and finance, while 20 percent said Jews have too much influence in the media and politics. Some of this may be due to the rise of Muslim populations in these nations. But, there has also been a long history of anti-Semitism in Europe. Even Martin Luther himself was anti-Semitic. This rise of anti-Semitism has also led to an increase in attacks against Jews. France has reported that anti-Semitic attacks have increased by 74 percent in 2018, while Germany reported a 60 percent increase.

The rise in anti-Semitism should not be surprising to those familiar with Biblical history. Satan has long tried to persecute and exterminate the Jewish people through some of the strongest leaders in world history. Pharaoh persecuted the Jews in Egypt before God rescued them through Moses and the Exodus. Haman attempted to exterminate the Jews in the book of Esther before God intervened through the influence of Esther to



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Israel-Iran Shadow War Escalates

Israel has carried out a string of aerial attacks on targeted regions throughout the Middle East in an effort to slow down a push from Iran to equip its Arab allies with new technology. Technology that includes precision-guided missiles, drones and other sophisticated weapons could spell a major challenge to Israeli defenses. The attacks were strikes by Israel to stop what they are calling a “shadow war” by Iran. In one 18-hour time-frame, Israeli airstrikes killed two Iranian-trained militants in Syria, a drone set off a blast near a Hezbollah office in Beirut and an airstrike in Qaim, Iraq targeted and killed a commander in an Iran-backed Iraqi militia. Israel asserts that Iran is trying to establish an overland route through Iraq and Northern Syria to Lebanon to supply their Arab allies with equipment to aid their attacks. The Israeli strikes were aimed at slowing Iran and signaling that Israel will not allow them to continue to move smart missiles and other advanced equipment to their border.

Sima Shine, a former head of research for Israeli intelligence and a scholar at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv stated “Iran is building something here in the region, what’s changed is that the process reached a level in which Israel has to act differently.” While Iran has not publicly acknowledged the movement of these missiles, an Iranian with knowledge of the situation has told the *New York Times* that Iran had shifted its focus from simply training its proxy forces in Syria and Iraq to instead equipping them with high-tech weaponry and training to use these devices. While the Israeli attacks and the Iranian movements continue, this shadow war and leaders on both sides say that they do not want an all-out war in the theatre.

Randa Slim, an analyst at the Middle East Institute in Washington, told the *Times*, “The military theater has been broadened by Israel



in terms of the targeting of its attacks, it is no longer about Iranian presence in Syria. It is about Iran’s network in the region.” This Iranian network, caused in part because of unrest and conflict in other Arab states, such as Iraq and Syria, has allowed Iran to build and strengthen its ties in the region. Hezbollah, Lebanon’s most formidable military force with tens of thousands of trained fighters and possibly 100,000 rockets and missiles, is the crowning achievement of this push by Iran. Iran calls this network the “axis of resistance” and believes it will help to both combat American, Israeli and Saudi Arabian influence in the region and shield Iran from strikes from Israel and the United States.

Tensions between Israel and Iran should not be shocking to followers of the Bible. Iran is listed as an enemy of Israel in Ezekiel 38-39. There is also two competing worldviews: Israel wants to survive and hold onto the land that was promised to them by God in the book of Genesis. Iran, due to its Islamic worldview, believes Israel should cease to exist. Christians should continue to pray for peace in the Middle East and a de-escalation of these tensions. We must also understand that true peace in the Middle East will probably not occur until the true King of Israel returns at the Second Coming of Christ.—PNL

PRAY: Continue to pray for peace and de-escalation of tensions in the Middle East.

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King Artaxerxes, who then turned the tables on Haman himself. Antiochus Epiphanes persecuted the Jews and desecrated the Second Temple and the Romans under Titus later destroyed the Second Temple. Every

time that world leaders have persecuted and attempted to eliminate the Jewish people, God has intervened and the Jewish people continue to exist according to the plan of God.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray that God will continue to protect the nation of Israel and that this increase in anti-Semitism will stop.

APOSTASY from page 1

announced that he is struggling with his faith and is close to walking away from Christianity. In a viral post from Sampson, he wrote that he was having difficulty and was “genuinely losing my faith, and it doesn’t bother me.” In the post, he listed several “issues” that he claims no one talks about, including pastors failing, judgmental Christians, supposed contradictions in the Bible, God sending people to Hell, that science has disproved much of the Bible and how Christianity is no longer unique. Sampson is clearly dealing with some tough questions in his spiritual journey and thankfully apologists have worked tirelessly over the generations to give valid and solid Biblical and philosophical answers to many of these issues. In positive news, Sampson has since walked back some of his statements and says “he hasn’t renounced the faith” and is working on finding some of these answers.

People walking away from Christianity should not surprise us for three reasons. First, as the Western world becomes more and more secular, it has become increasingly less popular to be viewed as a Christian in mainstream society. Thus, those that are looking to make a name for themselves in

the world are no longer going to see “being a Christian” as socially acceptable and, in fact, detrimental to their goals. Second, the Western educational system has radically turned against Christianity and moved towards secular humanism. This makes it much more difficult and confusing for young people to understand and believe their faith when they are constantly bombarded with these ideas from trusted teachers that have access to them for much of the week.

Finally, apostasy is not a new idea, but is present even in the pages of the New Testament. Judas himself traveled with Jesus for years and yet walked away from Him when it no longer suited his personal interests. Demas, in 2 Timothy 4, who was a traveler with Paul for years, walked away from his faith because he “loved the present world.” Paul even describes a time of great apostasy that will occur in the end times in 2 Thessalonians 2. However, there are many examples in the Bible of individuals who ran away from God for a time and returned to him, such as John Mark and Jonah. God is always willing to take those that run away from Him and restore them to the faith.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for those that are struggling with their faith and have very real objections that they may find the answers that are available and may return to God even stronger in their faith.

Illinois requiring LGBT history to be taught in public schools

Governor J.B. Pritzker signed into law a bill this past month that now requires public schools in the state of Illinois to teach students about the historical contributions of LGBT persons in U.S. history. The legislation reads: “Each public school district and state-recognized, non-public school shall, subject to appropriations for that purpose, receive a per-pupil grant for the purchase of secular and non-discriminatory textbooks. In public schools only, the teaching of history shall include a study of the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the history of this country and this state.” Supporters of the bill insist the curriculum will stop the bullying of students who identify as LGBT because it would normalize the idea to students. However, the law also states that the Illinois Board of Education must provide a list of textbooks authorized for purchase under the law each year. Effectively, the law censors what history teachers can use in their classrooms and leaves this up to lawmakers in Springfield.

However, Terry Schilling, executive director of the American Principles Project, a Washington DC-based nonprofit, argues that the LGBT activists are implementing something else under the banner of teaching history and are using this idea as an excuse to push their own sexual agenda on the next generation. He told the *Christian Post*, “I can’t think of anything weirder than being



obsessed with teaching young children about sexuality. Even most parents struggle with this topic because of its difficulty, but somehow we as parents are okay with a complete stranger teaching them. Parents need to reclaim their role as the primary educators of their children — especially as it pertains to their children’s sexuality. No one else has that right or responsibility.”

He also stressed that this new regulation will make it harder for teachers to teach the basics of American history because they will be too busy teaching these side projects. He cited research that globally the U.S. student is 24th in science, 39th in math and 24th in reading and, “Now, we are adding in completely irrelevant content to our schools which already are struggling with the current load.” This law will take effect in Illinois in July of 2020 and is joined by similar laws in New Jersey and California.

This type of law is simply another way that the sexual liberation movement, which itself has become its own version of a secular religion, continues to push to become more mainstream in America and the Western world at large. Those that do not hold to a traditional Biblical view of sexual ethics have targeted children through entertainment and now through the school systems. They desire to make their own sexual ethics “normalized” in the culture to the point that no other form of sexual ethics will be allowed in the public

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Proposed Pipeline Would Bring Israeli Gas to Europe

Israel has reached an agreement with the nations of Cyprus, Greece and Italy which will allow for the construction of an underwater pipeline designed to send natural gas from the eastern Mediterranean Sea to Europe, which will then be sold to the European markets to heat homes and businesses. The pipeline, called EastMed Pipeline, will be 1,350 miles in length. The project, which could cost a massive seven billion dollars, would take around 706 billion cubic feet of natural gas from Israel's offshore gas fields, called Leviathan and Tamar, to Europe each year, which could help to lower Europe's energy reliance on Russia. Israeli officials believe that the project could be completed in as little as five years and would bring considerable wealth to the nation's economy.

Proponents of the pipeline argue that it accomplishes two missions: it gives Israel a new place to distribute their natural resources and become a major world player in the energy

industry and also may help to reset European-Israeli relations, especially with the continued rise of anti-Semitism in many European nations. Israel also believes this pipeline will help to reduce Arab influence in Europe, who along with Russia, has long held control because of Europe's reliance on oil and gas, giving them political power on the European Union.

It is not a surprise that Israel has access to such a wealth of natural gas and economic resources. Even in the time of Joshua, the land of Israel was seen as a land that God had blessed with amazing natural resources, "flowing with milk and honey." Thousands of years later, God has blessed the land that will help Israel to not only become an economic power in the energy field and continue to grow the small nation's economy on the world stage, but also to hopefully allow those resources to create better trade and political partnerships between Israel, its neighbors and other world powers.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray that this pipeline will lead to better relations between Israel and the European Union and that it will help to stem the tide of rising anti-Semitism in Europe.

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square. This continued push by secularists should not come as a surprise to followers of the Bible. Paul himself in Romans 1 argued that when a culture turned its back on God and engaged in sinful behavior, it would lead to sexual immorality. The example of Sodom and Gomorrah in the Old Testament is a warning of what happens when mankind gives in to its

lusts and refuses to follow God's model for ethics. God himself established sexual ethics, both in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve and again in the Old Testament Law. Jesus and the apostles continued these sexual ethics into the New Testament and it is only the sinful rebellion of mankind that would push to change the demands of God.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for our students who are now under constant bombarding by secularists to change their worldview and steer them on a path that leads away from the God of the Bible.