

Today's News in Light of the Bible

# PROPHETIC Newsletter

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SEPTEMBER 2019

Published by World Prophetic Ministry, Inc. (800) 622-2767  
National Processing Center • PO Box 150439 • Grand Rapids, MI 49515



**DR. ED HINDSON**

I sincerely thank you for your faithful support of our international broadcast and prophecy ministry.

This summer I had the opportunity to speak in Jerusalem. It is your continued support of World Prophetic Ministry that enables me to share the gospel message worldwide. Every time I preach, I'm reminded that I couldn't do it without your help. Thank you for standing with us!

I believe God has put you and me here "for such a time as this" to proclaim the Gospel and warn of the judgment of God on unbelieving nations. Knowing that Christ could return at any moment, we **MUST** continue to share the Gospel message worldwide!

Thank you in advance for your prayers and continued support.

Until He returns,

## Reaching the Next Generation in Israel



In June, at the invitation of the Israeli Knesett, I had an incredible opportunity to speak along with former Minnesota Congresswoman Michelle Bachman and several Israeli leaders at the National Prayer Breakfast in Jerusalem.

I was so honored to be selected to participate in this four-hour event to pray for God's blessing on Israel. The Bible clearly instructs us in Psalm 122:6 to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee." This trip was such an encouragement for me to see a room of

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over 700 Jews and Christians praying in one accord, for one purpose – Israel!

My message, *Reaching the Next Generation*, was timely, especially in light of waning support for Israel by young evangelicals. Recent polls by Lifeway Research revealed that 32% of young evangelical “millennials” do not care about or support Israel. This is a significant drop from previous generations of evangelicals who whole-heartedly believed Israel was back in the Promised Land in fulfillment of God’s purposes.

I based my message on Elijah casting his mantle on Elisha and calling him to lead the next generation in Israel centuries ago. I challenged all of those in attendance who were under 40 to “pick up the mantle” in support of the nation and people of Israel for their generation.

The response was overwhelming. Young people shouting “amen”, standing, waving. It was overwhelming. One young man named Christian, an Israeli messianic believer, even asked if he could have the prayer shawl I used to demonstrate my message.

Then, a few days later, I spoke at the Jerusalem Assembly to nearly 300 messianic Jewish believers. This is one of the oldest

messianic congregations in Israel. I am continually amazed to see what God is doing in Israel today. Thousands are coming to faith in Jesus (Hebrew, Yeshua) as their Savior and Messiah.

The Bible makes it clear that Christians should be supportive of Israel. Israel as a nation is clearly identified as being special to God.

The prophet Zechariah indicated that God considers Israel – as a nation – as “the apple of His eye” (Zechariah 2:8). Moreover, Israel has a very special role in God’s eternal – salvific – purpose and plan. God’s eternal purpose is to bless the world through Israel.

He has already done so in Jesus’ incarnation that resulted in “salvation” being “from the Jews” (John 4:22).

However, the fullness of Israel’s future blessing to the world is

indicated in the wondrous promise of Isaiah 27:6: “In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit.”

Importantly, the Bible also records that God has promised that whoever blesses Israel will be blessed by God and whoever curses Israel will be cursed by God (Genesis 12:3). Therefore, we should take our support of Israel as a mandate from God.—PNL



**Former Minnesota Congresswoman Michelle Bachman speaking at the Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast.**



**Dr. Hindson gives his prayer shawl to Christian, an Israeli messianic believer.**

**PRAY:** Let us pray that God will soften the hearts of our younger generation toward Israel’s plight of being literally surrounded by enemies and become supportive of Israel’s special position in God’s plan and purpose.



# Russia Targeting Evangelicals Most Under Anti-Evangelism Law

In 2016, Russia passed the Yarovaya laws, which ban Russians from inviting outsiders to join their faith, even online or in their own homes, unless they have a government permit through a registered religious organization. Even with the permit, they can only evangelize



in designated churches and religious sites. Data has now come out on Russia's prosecutions of this act from 2018 and the data shows that Evangelicals have become the main target for this law. Of the 159 individuals and organizations prosecuted for demonstrating their faith in public, 89 were either Pentecostals or Baptists (56%), according to Forum 18, a news service covering religious freedom issues in Russia.

This has not slowed this calendar year. For example, in April, Russian authorities stopped a Baptist worship service and charged its 71-year-old pastor with illegal missionary activity because he did not have a permit from the government. In January, two Baptists were punished for merely discussing their faith at a public bus stop. Sergei Roshchin and Valery Turkin were charged for not having authorization from a religious group to conduct missionary activity, but they argued that they were merely sharing their personal beliefs. They tried to fight the fines in court, but lost their case and appeal because the judge ruled that they had invited others to a church service. Violators of the law can start with a 5,000 rubles fine for individuals or a 50,000 rubles fine for organizations. Pentecostal Union lawyer

Vladimir Ozolin told Forum 18 "Believers are afraid to carry the Word of God to the masses, because they fear fines. Law enforcement agencies assume that any church activity is missionary activity, which is certainly not true."

While critics argue that the churches should

simply follow the law, it is not that simple, as even following the law at times can lead to other violations. For example, last year a Baptist pastor in Perm region was found guilty for hanging a sign that read, "House of Prayer of the International Council of Churches of Evangelical Christian-Baptists, worship service every Sunday from 10am". The verdict against the church read, "The placement ... suggests that [the defendant] carries out missionary activity aimed at disseminating information about the beliefs of [the church] among other persons who are not members,"

In April, authorities arrived in the middle of a Sunday worship service near Novorossiik while the choir was singing "Jesus is My Lighthouse" and two days later the church received a summons alleging illegal missionary activity. Yevgeny Kokora, an elder of the church, told Radio Free Europe that investigators have now demanded that they receive summaries of pastor Korniyenko's sermons and attendance numbers for the church. US ambassador to Russia John

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# Chinese Schoolchildren Taught Christianity is “Evil Cult”

Christian parents in China have warned of continued persecution against Christianity, now focusing on schoolchildren. They assert that children are being taught in school that Christianity is an “evil cult” and have been encouraged to “hate God” by their teachers. China, as a Communist country, controls every aspect of the school system and, according to Chinese persecution watchdog Bitter Winter, has increased its attacks on Christianity in its school systems since the passing of its new Regulations on Religious Affairs legislation that was implemented last year.

In fact, students have been taught to question any religious beliefs from their family members and even report them to the authorities. One parent told Bitter Winter that their child told them “My teacher says that Christianity is an evil cult. [That] if you believe in it, you will leave home and not take care of me. You might set yourself on fire, too.” Another parent, upon finding anti-Christian rhetoric in her child’s textbook, felt she had to hide items around the house that identified her as a Christian so she would not place extra anxiety on her child. The child later found a religious leaflet in his mother’s bag, took a knife and poked holes in it and told his mother to “give up her faith because Christianity is an evil cult and she mustn’t believe in it.” The Christian mother, horrified by the event, told Bitter Winter, “Before starting school, I told my child about God’s creation, and he believed it. But after being taught at school, my child is like a different person. In atheistic China, these pure and innocent children have been taught to hate God.”

This is not merely something occurring in high schools or universities. Even kindergarten and primary schools are teaching children to oppose Christianity. In late April, a primary



Photo: Reuters/Thomas Peter

school in Xinzheng city in the central province of Henan encouraged young children to refrain from believing in any deity. “If your mom goes to church and believes in God, she doesn’t want you as her child anymore,” one teacher told her primary school students. Another school screened a propaganda video in which Christians were depicted as monsters and a teacher told the students that Christian relatives would cast spells on the children. A letter posted by the First Primary School of Chengguan stated, “No one may use religions to disrupt social order, harm citizens or impede the national education system. It is an offense for any organizations or individuals to guide, support, permit and condone minors to believe in religions or participate in religious activities.”

This has clearly led to problems for Christian parents trying to raise their children. For example, one parent said that her son would no longer let her read religious books in front of him. Another student begged his

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# British, Iran Tensions Rise Over Seized Tankers in the Gulf

On July 22nd, British officials warned Iran that they would not accept Iranian forces continuing to attack their shipping vessels. Dominic Raab, the British Foreign Secretary, told *Sky News*, “If the Iranians want to come of the dark and be accepted as a responsible member of the intentional community they need to adhere to rules-based system of the international community ... You cannot go about detaining unlawfully foreign vessels.” Iran officials wanted Britain to release an Iranian tanker in exchange for releasing the British vessel, but British officials have rejected the offer, stating to BBC radio, “There is no quid pro quo. This is not about some kind of barter. This is about the international law and the rules of the international legal system being upheld and that is what we will insist on.”

Iran’s elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps seized the British tanker, *Stena Impero*, on July 19th near the Strait of Hormuz, which is largely viewed as the world’s most important waterway for oil shipments. This seizing was a response to British forces capturing an Iranian oil tanker near Gibraltar two weeks before that was accused of violating sanctions on Syria. A recording of the event, published by *Tasnim News Agency*, shows footage of capture in which an Iranian helicopter dropping Guards onto the deck of the tanker. Audio recordings

show a conversation between Iranian Guards and the British sailors in which the British sailors stated, “This is British warship foxtrot two three six, I am in the vicinity of an internationally recognized strait with a merchant vessel in my vicinity conducting transit passage.” The Iranian Guard responded by telling the British sailor to back down and not to put their lives in danger.

This is just the latest in a series of incidents between Iran and the West as tensions continue

to arise both over the fallout from the Iran nuclear deal with the United States and from the support of Israel from the United States. On July 11th, three Iranian vessels attempted to block the passage of a British ship, the *British Heritage*, through the same Strait of Hormuz. They only withdrew after threatened with warnings by a British warship in the region.

This latest attack has led to Britain sending warships to accompany all British-flagged vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, something that they had rejected previously due to a lack of resources. This latest incident has led to a change in the policy and could lead to increased tension in the region.

The Bible speaks of continued turmoil in the Middle East, such as the future Battle of Gog and Magog from Ezekiel 38-39, which

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**In this July 21, 2019 photo, a speedboat of the Iran's Revolutionary Guard moves around a British-flagged oil tanker *Stena Impero* which was seized in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday by the Guard, in the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. (Morteza Akhoondi/Mehr News Agency via AP)**



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Huntsman has referred to the state of religious freedom in Russia as “very difficult and very troubling” and Russia was placed on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom list for the first time in 2017, largely because of these new restrictions on evangelism. Russia has tried to argue that the number of violations has decreased from last year, but that is only because Jehovah’s Witnesses have been banned from the country.

Evangelism is one of the hallmark beliefs within Christianity. Jesus himself set forth the call to evangelism and missions with the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, stating “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” —*PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray for the Christians in Russia who are trying to reach those for Christ but are under constant pressure from the Russian government.

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mom to stop reading the Bible because he was afraid she would be taken from him by the police. Parents are worried that their own children will turn them in to their teachers if they read the Bible or talk about God.

Jesus understood the great need for children to be able to understand the Gospel and would not let anyone refrain from teaching young people about God. Matthew 18:6 states, “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that

a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.” At another occurrence, the disciples rebuked parents who were trying to have their children see Jesus and Jesus said, “Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God” (Luke 18:16). It is vital that parents be allowed to teach their children about Jesus without a fear of persecution in their own home or without a fear that their children will turn them in to the authorities.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray for the Christian families in China that are dealing with this massive persecution. Pray that the Chinese government will relent and stop their attacks against the Christian home.

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names Iran (Persia) as an enemy of Israel. Thus, while we pray for peace in the Middle East and that this situation will be worked out without violence, we also understand that true peace

in the Middle East, something that has been attempted for decades, will only occur when the Prince of Peace returns and establishes peace throughout the entire world.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray for peace in the region and for the tension to de-escalate. Pray for wisdom for the leaders of the world on how to deal with these crises.