

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC Newsletter

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My dear friends,

America is in turmoil!

What can we do? God commands us to obey those who have legal authority over us and to pray for them.

I realize there may be times when Christians will be at odds with government when the dictates of our leaders are immoral or anti-Christian. There will be a time when the choice may have to be made to follow God rather than obeying the government.

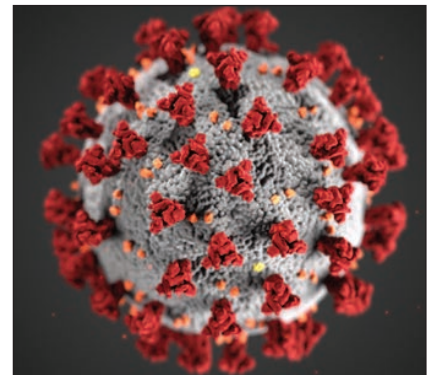
Until that day, we must PRAY and continue to tell the TRUTH from God's Word.

During these troubled times, we have the opportunity to share answers from the Bible with people who are searching and hungry to learn. Your continued partnership with our ministry makes this possible!

Until He returns,

Is the Coronavirus a plague of the Tribulation? Is a Vaccine the Mark of the Beast?

While the coronavirus has ravaged much of the planet, causing widespread death and disease and crippling economic shutdowns, some have asked the question, "Is the virus a plague of the Tribulation?" Some have even tried to tie it to the 3rd and 4th horseman of the apocalypse. While the pandemic certainly has had horrific effects, it is not unique to this generation.



The world has survived numerous plagues including the Plague of Justinian of 541-542 (killing 30-50 million people); the Black Death of 1347-1351 (killing as many as 200 million people); the New World smallpox outbreak of 1520 (killing 56 million); the Third Plague of 1885 through the 1950s (killing 12-15 million); the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-1920 (killing 40-50 million); and the emergence of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in the late 1970s (killing 25-35 million).

While it is common to reference plagues as proof of prophetic fulfillment in present times, the truth is,

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Erdoğan's Move Toward an Islamic Caliphate

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan recently declared that his decision to convert the Church of Hagia Sophia, Istanbul's massive sixth-century Byzantine cathedral, into a mosque foreshadows a future pan-Islamic reconquest of Jerusalem. The Hagia Sophia was dedicated to Jesus Christ as the Word, or Logos, of God and was consecrated in 537 in Constantinople by Byzantine Emperor Justinian the Great. It

was the most important church in the Eastern Christian world (Byzantine Empire) for nearly 1,000 years until Ottoman Sultan Mehmet II conquered Constantinople in 1453 and turned it into a mosque.

After the Ottoman Empire collapsed in 1922, the founder of the secular Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, transformed the Hagia Sophia into a museum in an effort to westernize Turkey. On July 24, exactly 97 years to the day after the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne, in which Turkey gave up all claims to the former Ottoman Empire, Erdoğan turned the Hagia Sophia into a mosque, fulfilling long-standing Islamist demands.

In a tweet to the non-Muslim world, Erdoğan said, "Hagia Sophia's doors will be, as is the case with all our mosques, wide open to all, whether they be foreign or local, Muslim or non-Muslim."

To the Muslim world, however, he tweeted, "The revival of Hagia Sophia is a harbinger of the return of freedom to al-Aqsa Mosque." The al-Aqsa Mosque, of course, stands atop the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Israeli analyst Zvi Mazel warned that

Erdoğan's true ambition extends far beyond Turkey. It includes reconstituting the Ottoman Empire and recapturing Jerusalem for Islam: "Today the Turkish leader is uniquely poised to . . . advance his grand design of reviving an Islamic caliphate under his rule. It is no secret that he sees himself as the rightful heir of centuries of Ottoman rulers, and as such, intends to extend anew Turkey's influence over countries and territories



formerly part of the Ottoman Empire.

"Erdoğan is downgrading links with Israel to curry favor with the Arab world, hosting meetings and conferences of Islamic organizations bent on condemning the Jewish state and mobilizing Turkish aid organizations—ostensibly to provide food for the needy in eastern Jerusalem and restore Islamic sites. But, in fact, he is agitating and inciting against Israel."

"This serves a dual purpose," Mazel said. Erdoğan is "positioning Turkey as a defender of Islam and challenging Jordan, which by virtue of its peace agreements with Israel, has a special status regarding Islamic institutions and the Temple Mount."

Israeli analyst David Koren added, "Turkey is the most active and important foreign country operating in eastern Jerusalem," adding that Erdoğan "regards influence in eastern Jerusalem, particularly the Temple Mount, as a major strategic goal."

Israeli author Nadav Shragai wrote, "The president of Turkey, who sees himself as the

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The Dutch government took yet another step down the very-slippery slope of euthanasia when the national health minister, Hugo de Jonge, proposed doctors should be permitted to euthanize “terminally ill” children under the age of thirteen. In a letter to the Parliament, he wrote, “In a small number of cases, palliative care isn’t sufficient . . . Because of that, some children suffer unnecessarily without any hope of improvement.”

Given the path the Netherlands (and Belgium for the matter) have been on for so long, such an appalling announcement shouldn’t surprise anyone, even if it is from someone tasked with national health. It was only a matter of

time before countries killing the elderly, the infirm, and the preborn would also begin killing children outside of the womb... and all in the name of “compassion.”

While the United States has not been on the path nearly as long, we may find ourselves in a similar place before too long. Our failure to protect the vulnerable elderly during the COVID-19 epidemic may prove to give us more than a nudge in the wrong direction.

Approximately 220,000 Americans have reportedly died from COVID-19. Weary from lockdowns, changing headlines, and the blame

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patron of the Muslim Brotherhood and a knife of the Ottoman Caliphate that will one day return to Jerusalem, has decided to take action to implement his vision of restoring Islam’s glory throughout ‘Palestine’ as a whole and Jerusalem in particular.”

While this should not be surprising to Christians familiar with the Old Testament, it should wave red flags. In Ezekiel 38-39, called by many the battle of Gog and Magog, Turkey

is listed alongside Iran, Russia and others in a future invasion of Israel in which God Himself will have to intervene to protect His people.

Turkey, who for many decades has had strong ties with Western Europe and America, is moving away from those ties. If Turkey is truly becoming more radical and has plans for a future Islamic takeover of Jerusalem, then it is possible that we could be seeing the foundation being laid for this invasion. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the protection of Israel and the Jewish people.

pandemics have been occurring throughout the course of human history. None can deny the devastation of the plagues and pandemics throughout history; however, they pale in comparison to those of the Tribulation period.

No plague throughout history has any comparison to the type of magnitude of devastation that will occur in the future. The Tribulation plagues will be somewhat similar to the plagues that God rained down on Egypt during the Exodus event, but with a much stronger impact and a global emphasis instead of a limited national focus.

Nevertheless, some might wonder if the Mark of the Beast will arise from a coronavirus vaccine. Several reasons can be given as to why a coronavirus vaccine is not the Mark of the Beast. First, the Antichrist is not on the scene. The Mark of the Beast is a demonstration of allegiance to the Antichrist. However, the Antichrist will not be revealed until after the Rapture of the church (2 Thess. 2). Thus, the vaccine cannot be a mark of allegiance to a figure who has yet to be revealed and church age believers do not have to worry about taking the Mark of the Beast.

Second, receiving the Mark of the Beast during the Tribulation period will be the deliberate rejection of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and cannot be received accidentally

(Rev. 13:12). It is a seal that ultimately aligns the person with the worship of the Antichrist and Satan himself. God would not allow someone to align themselves with Satan in some type of accidentally occurrence. Instead,

receiving the Mark of the Beast will be clearly seen as aligning one's self with satanic forces. Receiving the coronavirus vaccine is not choosing to identify with or worship the beast, but is intended to save lives. Finally, many people, especially in the Western World, have already received other vaccines in their lifetime. For example, the smallpox vaccine, the polio vaccine, the chickenpox vaccine or even the common flu shot are commonly distributed. In a study published by AIMS Public Health, researchers estimate that more than 450,000 lives have been saved by virus vaccines, and 200 million

people have been prevented from contracting possibly deadly diseases.

The coronavirus, while significant in our time, is but a glimpse of the type of world devastation that will occur in the Tribulation period. While we as Christians can take comfort in knowing that we will not have to endure this type of devastation, it should also motivate us to witness to others so that they too can avoid this time of Tribulation if Christ chooses to return soon.— PNL

“And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

Revelation 13:15-17

PRAY: Now is the time for salvation! Pray for the Gospel to be spread far and wide and for unbelievers to have ears to hear and to receive God's saving grace.

Switzerland Constitutional Rights for Monkeys?

A Swiss region will ask citizens to vote on a proposal to incorporate the fundamental rights of primates into their constitution after their supreme court ruled the text was permissible. The proposal, launched by an animal rights activist group called Sentience Politics, called for an amendment to the constitution in the northern half of Basel City.



The animals are “highly complex beings, possessing an intrinsic, essential interest in living a life of bodily and mental integrity,” the group stated. “Non-human primates need to be protected by fundamental rights which guarantee that their essential interests are respected,” the proposal states, pointing to a right to life, as well as to physical and mental integrity. Campaigners collected the required 100,000 signatures needed to put an issue to a popular vote in Switzerland’s direct democratic system.

This is not a surprising development for a nation such as Switzerland, which prides itself as being the richest, freest and most progressive nation on the planet. It also shows the eventual destination of continuous teaching of evolutionary theory, taught as fact in most institutions of education throughout the world.

For decades, students have been indoctrinated into the belief that evolution is not only true, but any other idea presented should be viewed as “anti-scientific.” This goes all the way back to the Scopes’ trials of the 1920s.

The implications of this “scientific”

worldview are massive. No longer are people created in the image of God and unique among God’s creation (Genesis 1:26). Instead, humans are merely another species in the animal kingdom, an accident of pure chance with no design or purpose. It is no wonder that individuals are so quick to be depressed and suicide rates are at an all-time high. These types of beliefs have

led to humanity losing its sense of purpose.

If this theory is true, as the evolutionary secularists claim, then primates are viewed on the same plain as humans, which is the exact reason for the proposed legislature. However, is this a Biblical concept? Certainly not!

In the Bible, God is the creator of all, but mankind is seen as a special, created in the image of God and in a direct level than the animal kingdom. Humanity is given the command to “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:28).

Mankind is given the ability to have dominion over the animals. This means that humanity has a responsibility to care for God’s creation, but also places mankind as special in relation to the rest of God’s creation. In fact, Adam ultimately was responsible for naming the various animals and it was Noah and his family that was responsible for the deliverance of the animal kingdom from the global flood.

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game, it's easy to lose sight of the scale of this tragedy. We ought not miss just who is dying from the coronavirus.

In the United States, people over 65 account for 80 percent of all COVID-19 deaths. On a state-by-state basis, the percentage ranges from over 90 percent in a handful of states to 70 percent in others. We might say these deaths largely resulted from a pre-existing condition. However, it also means that, even before COVID-19, Americans weren't doing well caring for our elderly.

Theologian Stanley Hauerwas has written that hospitals should be "first and foremost a house of hospitality along the way of our journey with finitude... our sign that we will not abandon those who have become ill." Instead, hospitals are mainly our "means of isolating the ill from the rest of us," places where we can keep the reality of aging and death out of sight and out of mind. In recent Western culture, we handle old age and dying primarily by denial.

Denial becomes harder during a pandemic. At the same time, two underlying conditions of our collective soul have been exposed. The

first is our aversion to suffering. Dying from COVID-19 is often painful and, at least in how things have been handled thus far, nearly always lonely. Advocates of euthanasia and assisted suicide always insist, especially in a culture like ours that fails to see dignity in the midst of suffering, that so called "death with dignity" is a "compassionate" necessity. And thus, they will argue that it should be offered for the elderly who contract COVID.

The second condition is the financial one. Insurance companies and government bureaucrats tell us money won't be a factor in end-of-life decisions. However, studies continue to show money is a consideration, especially for individuals who don't want to be a "financial burden" on their families. The economic costs of COVID-19 are still being realized and have placed financial pressure on decision makers. As seen in the Netherlands, once the principle is conceded that some lives are not worth living, the list of those eligible for euthanasia grows.

Christians must not have any part in this. In fact, we must push back on the culture of death anywhere and everywhere we can.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for leaders in the Netherlands to reverse course and to work to protect the divine sanctity of life. Pray for Christians to see this as a call to strengthen their relationship with their heavenly Father and spread the message of His love to their unbelieving countrymen.

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God loves all of His creation, but it does not mean that all creation is viewed in the same manner. While mankind has a mandate from God to care for our environment and the animals under our care, we must be wary of placing animals into the same category of humanity as it directly contradicts the Scriptures. We

need to recognize the implications of this push by secularists, both in our culture at large but especially in our public schools. If we fall asleep at the wheel and allow the culture to indoctrinate our children into these viewpoints, we will lose the next generation to these types of beliefs.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for the generations of children who have been and will be indoctrinated with this secular worldview. Pray they will realize they are uniquely created in the image of God.