

Today's News in Light of the Bible

# PROPHETIC Newsletter

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**DR. ED HINDSON**

In Matthew 24:6, Jesus warns us that we will hear of “wars and rumors of wars” and that we should not be troubled. He has a purpose and a plan!

What a day that will be when He reveals all to us and returns to reign as King of Kings, Lord of Lords, ruler of creation. What can we do until that day arrives?

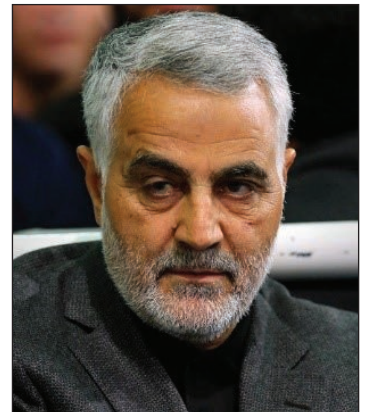
We can PRAY for peace, we can ALERT Christians to global events and we can purposefully and continuously SHARE the Gospel to a searching world.

Now is not the time to sit back and be an observer. We have been told “the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.” Please join me, World Prophetic Ministry and *The King is Coming* telecast as we labor for Christ!

Until He returns,

## Tensions Mount in Middle East after US Attack Kills Iran General

The Middle East, already under incredibly tension with the crisis in Syria and tension building between Iran and Israel, saw a new wave of escalation when the United States launched an assault in Iraq that killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani. Soleimani was the head of the Iranian Quds Force, a division primarily responsible for extraterritorial military and clandestine operations.



Soleimani was responsible for the killing of 608 American soldiers in Iraq, arming Hezbollah in Lebanon, and attacking the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. He was killed at Baghdad International Airport, along with several officials from Iraqi militias backed by Tehran, in a drone strike authorized by President Donald Trump. An American MQ-9 Reaper drone fired missiles into a convoy that was leaving the airport. He was reportedly the mastermind of nearly every significant operation by Iranian intelligence and military forces over the past two decades.

His death comes in the wake of the death of an American contractor in Iraq in late December. The Pentagon said he

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# ISIS Executes Christians in Nigeria

A terrorist faction in Africa claims it killed 11 Christian aid workers in Nigeria in retaliation for the killings of Islamic State leader Bakr al-Baghdadi and his spokesman in two separate U.S. military operations earlier this year. The group, Islamic State in West Africa



Province (ISWAP), released a 56-second video, published by the Islamic State propaganda media arm Amaq, shows the shooting of one man followed by the beheading of 10 others. According to those who have watched the video, jihadists wearing black masks and beige uniforms lined up behind the hostages — who were all blindfolded — and carried out the brutal executions.

In a *New York Times* article, the Washington-based SITE Intelligence Group viewed the video and reported that a man speaking over the video footage in both Arabic and the Nigerian language of Hausa said, “This message is to the Christians in the world. Those who you see in front of us are Christians, and we will shed their blood as revenge for the two dignified sheikhs, the caliph of the Muslims, and the spokesman for the Islamic State, Sheikh Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir, may Allah accept them.”

The group’s attack on Christians the day after Christmas was strategically planned, terrorism analysts told the BBC. While the location of the execution hasn’t been released to the public, *Reuters* reported that an earlier

video indicated that ISWAP jihadists took the men hostage in “Maiduguri and Damaturu in Nigeria’s northeastern state of Borno, where militants have been fighting for years to set up a separate Islamist state.” *Reuters* also noted, “In that video, the captives

pleaded for the Christian Association of Nigeria and President Muhammadu Buhari to save them.”

President Buhari condemned the terrorist group and their killings in a statement and series of posts on Twitter. In one particular post, Buhari said, “These agents of darkness are enemies of our common humanity and they don’t spare any victim, whether they are Muslims or Christians, and therefore, we shouldn’t let them divide us and turn us against one another.”

ISWAP split from the terrorist group Boko Haram in 2016 and declared its allegiance to the Islamic State. The group is also active in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Mali.

Earlier this month, *The Christian Post* reported that in 2019 over 1,000 Christians were killed in Nigeria. Attacks by Fulani extremists continue to plague rural farming communities in the Middle Belt, according to a report published by the U.K.-based nongovernmental organization Humanitarian

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# Iran Building Tunnels in Syria

Iran continues to stir up tension in the Middle East as they continue to find various ways to smuggle in weapons from their country into Iraq and Syria to be used against Israel. Iran has begun excavating tunnels at its Imam Ali base in Syria near the Iraqi border that will be used to store and

move weapons, according to new satellite images and a report from Fox News. The base has been under construction for more than a year and is a key part of Iran's infrastructure in Syria linking Iran via Iraq to Syria

and Lebanon. Syrian, regional Arabic media and Russian sources have accused Israel of airstrikes at or near the location going back to June 2018.

The tunnels are estimated to be 130 meters long and wide enough to drive a car through. Image Sat International (ISI), which provided the satellite images and wrote a report, noted that at least one tunnel is being excavated and that the construction accelerated "a few weeks after the base was attacked for the first time," on September 9, 2019. In the wake of that attack, an Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps group attempted to fire rockets at Israel from near Damascus. "The tunnel excavation began not only in spite of the compound airstrike, but even as a lesson learned from the mentioned attack," ISI wrote. Fox News said it consulted with Western intelligence sources which reviewed the information. The US has recently linked Iranian-backed groups to at least nine attacks near areas with US bases over the last year. These have involved rockets. In addition, Iraq's government

has accused Israel of several attacks in July and August. And Qais Khazali, leader of the Asaib Ahl al-Haq militia that was sanctioned by the US last week, has threatened the US and Israel. A New York Times report last week said that Iran transferred short range ballistic missiles to Iraq.



Iran is building the Imam Ali base near a new border crossing at Albukamal in Syria. The border was reopened at the end of September after many years when it was closed due to the war on ISIS.

But Iran's base is in the desert just over some sand dunes near the crossing. It is now linked to the crossing. A shed has been used to hide the entrance to the tunnel. "Large dirt piles appeared at the opposite end of the tunnel," Fox News reports. Western intelligence sources say that missiles and weapons will be stored in the tunnel. The tunnel now looks like the latest addition to a network of Iranian infrastructure near the border. It will add to Iran's entrenchment in Syria and Iran's "land bridge" or road to the sea that goes through several areas near the Euphrates River and then to waypoints on the road to Damascus and Homs, called T2, T3 and T4. The new Imam Ali base is a serious Iranian investment and shows its plans to link Syria and Iraq via Tehran's hand. This is also here precision guidance, which might be trafficked to Hezbollah, a key concern. Israel warned that Hezbollah is trying to upgrade its 150,000 rockets with precision guidance in

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was planning to take more American lives.

President Trump and Republicans in Congress hailed the attack as a great victory for freedom, citing Soleimani's many terrorist actions over the past two decades. Many top Democrats, while agreeing that Soleimani was a dangerous terrorist, both question if the attack was legal because Congress was not informed and question if the attack will lead to a greater war with Iran. Some Congressman, including Bernie Sanders and Rand Paul have called the attack an assassination.

Lt. Col. James Carafano, vice president for The Heritage Foundation's Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy, also praised Soleimani's killing in a statement to *The Christian Post*. "The reported deaths of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and the Iraqi commander of the militia that killed an American last week was a bold and decisive military action made possible by excellent intelligence and the courage of America's service members. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, led by Soleimani, was responsible for the deaths of more than 600 Americans in Iraq between 2003-2011, and countless more injured. ... His death is a huge loss for Iran's regime and its Iraqi proxies, and a major operational and psychological

victory for the United States," Carafano said.

Iranian officials have vehemently denounced the attack, calling Soleimani a martyr. "Soleimani's martyrdom will make Iran more decisive to resist America's expansionism and to defend our Islamic values. With no doubt, Iran and other freedom-seeking countries in the region will take his revenge. His departure to God does not end his path or his mission, but a forceful revenge awaits the criminals who have his blood and the blood of the other martyrs last night on their hands." said Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

This action clearly has tension flaring in an already hot Middle East. Iran has viewed some type of revenge attack on the United States or its allies in the region and many foreign aid experts expect tensions to continue to escalate, possibly even ending with a direct war between the United States and Iran. If that were to occur Israel would surely join the fray on the US side as they have been in increased tension with Iran themselves for years. Iran has called for the destruction of Israel on numerous occasions and Israel has made it clear that they will not allow Iran to develop technology, including nuclear weapons that could threaten their existence as a nation.— PNL

**PRAY:** Pray for wisdom and peace in the region and that a full-scale war can be prevented.

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August. These tunnels are just another way that Iran is trying to bolster their interests in both Iraq and Syria and eventually to create

more opportunities to launch assaults against Israel, who they have continued to threaten with complete destruction. — PNL

**PRAY:** Pray that Iran will stop these blatant attempts to stir up trouble in the Middle East and that peace will remain in the region.

# Trump Signs Executive Order to Combat Anti-Semitism

As we have recently reported, anti-Semitism continues to rise on college and university campuses across the nation. Liberal professors use their platforms to both attack the nation of Israel and advocate for the Palestinians.

In December 2019, President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at combating anti-Semitism.

The executive order directs federal agencies to treat anti-Semitism as a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars discrimination based on “race, color and national origin” for activities and programs that receive federal assistance.

“It shall be the policy of the executive branch to enforce Title VI against prohibited forms of discrimination rooted in anti-Semitism as vigorously as against all other forms of discrimination prohibited by Title VI,” the order states.

To define anti-Semitism, the order relied upon the definition crafted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA): “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

At a reception in honor of Hanukkah held in the East Room of the White House, Trump said the executive order, “Prohibits

federal funding to any college or university that spreads, promotes, tolerates, or supports anything having to do with anti-Semitism.



We’re delivering a powerful message to American academia. If you want to receive federal dollars, you must reject anti-Semitism. And if they don’t, they don’t get hundreds of millions of dollars. So we will not permit anti-Jewish bigotry on our college

campuses. And if they want to do that, it’s going to be extremely costly. It will be amazing how quickly they stop.”

Some critics have expressed concern that the executive order will threaten the federal funding of colleges that support the boycott, divest, sanction (BDS) movement. BDS is a growing movement across American campuses that is aimed at punishing Israel for policies they don’t agree with and what they perceive as Israel’s unjust occupation of territories belong to the Palestinians.

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), a nonpartisan group focused on defending free speech rights on college campuses, responded to the order by denouncing it as creating a “readily evident threat to expressive rights... its ambiguous directive and fundamental reliance on the IHRA definition and its examples will cause institutions to investigate and censor protected speech on their campuses.” While

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Aid Relief Trust (HART).

There was a rise in Fulani extremist attacks in the Kaduna state in 2019 after Christians were accused of a reprisal attack on a Fulani settlement that killed as many as 131 in February. According to the report, there were “five major attacks” in Kaduna between January and November, which resulted in 500 deaths.

A HART spokesperson told *The Christian Post* that the 1,000 death estimation counts “predominantly people killed in Plateau, Southern Kaduna and Taraba states by Fulani herdsman” but also includes killings by Boko Haram in Borno state.

This finding comes after a Nigeria-based

civil society organization reported that at least 2,400 Christians were killed in Nigeria in 2018.

In July, the international human rights nongovernmental organization Jubilee Campaign sent a report to the International Criminal Court warning the “standard of genocide has now been reached” in Nigeria. The Jubilee Campaign highlighted 52 attacks on farming communities.

Nigeria is ranked as the 12th-worst nation in the world when it comes to Christian persecution, according to Open Doors USA’s 2019 World Watch List. This is just another example of the increase of persecution against Christians throughout the world. — *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray for the genocide of Christians in Nigeria to stop. And continue to pray for Christians across the world that are under constant persecution for their faith.

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noting that the “apparent rise in campus anti-Semitism is a real problem,” FIRE warned that the executive order could “impermissibly threaten the expressive rights of students and faculty at institutions across the country.”

“FIRE supports legislative efforts to include religion as a protected class at institutions of higher education,” they added. “Doing so would better equip institutions to respond to anti-Semitic harassment and protect students of all religions subjected to harassment because of their faith.”

One area that FIRE fails to address is the

difference between the religion of Judaism and the ethnicity of Jewish people. They attempt to portray this as a religious rights issue when in many ways it is more so a cultural/ethnic racist issue. It is important that all ethnicities are treated equally on college campuses, especially if they are going to be supported by taxpayer dollars.

The American education system was supposed to have eliminated these types of racist allowances with the civil rights movement sixty years ago. It is time that the Jewish people are also covered under this protection.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray for our college campuses to become less hostile to Israel, the Jewish people and Judaism and for academia to treat them fairly in their evaluations and teaching.