

Today's News in Light of the Bible

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DR. ED HINDSON

My friend, we are living in ominous times. As we enter the year 2020, could this be the decade of destiny? I agree with others we are seeing signs of End Times on the horizon.

The world is searching for answers and there are many false teachers. People want to know what will happen next and the Bible gives us the answers. We counteract the lies by proclaiming the TRUTH!

On any given day, we never know who might be reading, watching or hearing our Bible teaching for the first time. Because of your financial support, we can continue to share on television, and through our outreach on the internet and with our printed materials.

I can only imagine what God has in store for World Prophetic Ministry and The King is Coming telecast in 2020. Thank you for helping us be prepared!

Until He returns,



Iran Begins Mass-Production of Submarine Cruise Missiles

Iran continues to build up its arsenal of new and more advanced weaponry as they recently announced that they will be mass-producing cruise missiles that can be fired from submarines through their torpedo tubes. The missiles, first tested in February by the Iranian Navy, are special because they can be fired from a submarine and then take off from the water. This will allow the missiles to be placed in all of the Iranian Navies' submarines and will greatly impact their ability to launch surprise attacks on their enemies.

The range of the Jask-type munitions is expected to be improved "substantially" in the future, Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi said, revealing that a 'Jask-2 project' was already underway. The expanded range of the missile

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State Department Changes Policy on Israeli Settlements

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the Trump administration's latest change in U.S. policy, saying the State Department is rescinding a 1978 department legal opinion



that viewed settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank as inconsistent with international law. That legal opinion, known as the Hansell Memorandum and crafted during the Carter administration, said that “civilian settlements in those territories is inconsistent with international law.” Pompeo said that over the years U.S. presidents have viewed the opinion different ways but that the Trump administration does not view the settlements as inconsistent with international law and leaves the issue of individual settlements up to Israeli courts. “Calling the establishment of civilian settlements inconsistent with international law has not advanced the cause of peace,” Pompeo told reporters at the State Department. “The hard truth is that there will never be a judicial resolution to the conflict, and arguments about who is right and who is wrong as a matter of international law will not bring peace.”

The move was met with mixed reviews from the international community. A statement from the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the Trump administration for backing the Jewish people's historic ties to the West Bank, which the Israeli government calls by the Biblical name Judea and Samaria. It said, “This policy reflects an historical truth - that the Jewish

people are not foreign colonialists in Judea and Samaria.” However, many Palestinians attacked the move.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat issued a statement saying: “Once again, with this announcement, the Trump administration is demonstrating the extent to which it's threatening the international system with its unceasing attempts to replace international law with the ‘law of the jungle.’” “The Trump administration “cannot and will not re-write international law,” said H.E. Dr. Raid Malki, Palestinian Foreign Affairs Minister. President Trump has attempted to broker peace in the region, but critics argue that he has favored Israel and therefore cannot be impartial in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

This move continues to bring heat to a very difficult situation that has left the Middle East in a state of tension for years. Israel believes that it controls the land and has the right to settle civilians there because it was taken when they were attacked in 1967 and took the West Bank region from their attackers. Palestinian officials want that land in part for the creation of their own nation alongside of Israel and refuse to allow Israeli settlements into the region, believing that it will destroy any hope of creating their own nation. Many Arab Christians feel caught in the middle, understanding the promises of God to the nation of Israel but also understanding the incredibly difficult political situation that has arisen in the region.

The Bible clearly shows that God promised that land to Abraham and his descendants thousands of years ago. Genesis 12 lays out the foundation for the Abrahamic Covenant

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China Increases Surveillance of Churches

Over the past several years, China has continually increased persecution against religious groups found within the nation. A new report from *Bitter Winter*, a publication that explores human rights and religious freedoms in China, writes that hi-tech surveillance devices, including face and fingerprint scanning equipment, are now being installed in churches throughout China.



The report states, “On October 6, Muyang Church in the central province of Hubei, which is also the home of the Two Chinese Christian Councils of Huangshi city, had two biometric devices set up on its second floor. Since then, congregation members have to stand in line to have their faces and fingerprints scanned before being allowed to enter the church. Around the same time, in the city’s state-run Tian’er Church, facial recognition equipment has been also installed to check the believers who attend gatherings.”

Another Christian told the organization that local authorities required every meeting venue established by Three-Self churches in Huangshi city to take the fingerprints of fellow believers and put on file their personal and family information. While the believer in question was disturbed that they were being constantly tracked for being a Christian, they were even more concerned that family members and relatives are implicated by association, even if they themselves have never

attended the church.

Other believers have reported that since October, multiple state-sanctioned churches in Huangshi began using fingerprint sensors and face

scanners to record their attendance at services. “In late September, members of a Three-Self meeting venue in the Nanzhulin community in Huangshi had their fingerprints taken. The person in

charge of the venue told them that all congregants have to have their fingerprints scanned to attend Sunday services,” *Bitter Winter* noted. “Just like employees punch in at work,” the person in charge of one church venue in the Nanzhulin community in Huangshi explained to a churchgoer. “In this way, the church can know clearly who attends the services and who doesn’t.” Chinese Christians believe this is yet another example of the ever-increasing amassing of power by the government.

These regulations present two significant challenges. First, China has continually increased their persecutions on believers throughout their communist history. If they build up a database of Christians throughout their nation, then it will be much easier to not only continue to persecute these individuals and their families, but will also deter many interested parties from attending churches for fear of being labeled, categorized and eventually prosecuted and persecuted for

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“will surely be a serious surprise for the enemy,” the official added.

The ultimate goal of the Iranian military is to use its fleet carrying missiles to launch hit-and-run attacks on adversaries along the Persian Gulf, with the intent to shut down passage through the Straits of Hormuz.

It is unclear if the submarines would have to surface or if they can fire them while underwater, but regardless the surprise impact will remain immense. Shallow waters are very favorable for these submarine operations. Interference from rocky shallows and loud surf reducing sonar detection ranges provide opportunities for the submarines to hide and wait in ambush.

The Iranian Navy could also place submarines in the Mediterranean Sea in order to try to launch missiles into Israel from a different direction, essentially without warning. If they are able to increase the range substantially, they could even move these submarines to the coasts of the United States and threaten to launch missiles into the mainland. This continues to show an increase in Iranian military technological advances, as they were only able to launch missiles from submarines at all for the first time earlier this year.

This is just the latest example of an Iranian military buildup. Besides the Jask cruise missiles, the event in Tehran also showcased other military projects involving the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy. The new sea-launched ‘Pelikan’ VTOL drone, the Balaban guided bomb, the Sadaf-2 naval mine as well as several other new systems were unveiled. These are

just small examples of the continued buildup of the Iranian Navy. They also have continued to strive in their weapons buildup in other departments, including possibly striving to create their own nuclear arsenal. The Iranian drone program has also been dramatically advanced in recent years, which has allowed them to strike at various targets throughout the Middle East, including allegedly using drones to strike at Saudi Arabian oilfields a few months ago.

Many of the Iranian military leaders have went on record announcing their plans to one day destroy the state of Israel and have also directed threats at the United States. They have become even more emboldened in recent years after receiving Russian protection and backing, allowing them to increase their presence and influence in other sections of the Middle East, such as Syria and Lebanon.

Iranian aggression against Israel, in combination with Russia, was foreseen in the book of Ezekiel. In Ezekiel 38-39, an Iranian alliance with Russia, Turkey and several other nations will attack the nation of Israel and will be defeated by divine intervention by God Himself. This has never occurred, and prophecy scholars believe it will one day occur in the future. Whether this Iranian military buildup is a forerunner to the Gog and Magog attack on Israel is unknown, but it certainly could lead to such an attack in the future. Regardless, of whether this buildup is a lead-up to the battle of Gog and Magog, it does continue to lead to increased tension in the region and could lead to an eventual war between Iran and Israel.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray that God will continue to protect the Jewish people and that their enemies will not find success in their work to destroy the nation.

Pagan Molech Statue on Display at the Coliseum

Christian visitors of the Roman Coliseum, viewed as a holy site for many Christians because of the martyrs that were persecuted and killed, were shocked when they arrived at the Coliseum to instead see a statue of the pagan god Molech recreated at the main entrance. The statue of Molech outside the Colosseum was billed as celebration of Carthaginian culture and art. A press release posted by the statue read, “A reconstruction of the terrible deity



Molech, linked to Phoenician and Carthaginian religions and featured in the 1914 film ‘Cabiria’ (directed by Giovanni Pastore and written by Gabriele D’Annunzio) will be stationed at the entrance to the Colosseum to welcome visitors to the exhibition.” The statue will be present in the gate leading into the coliseum until March 29th, 2020.

Many faithful Christians are outraged that a representation of the pagan god sits outside a place where Christians were brutally tortured and killed, Life Site News reports. “We were so excited the day we decided to go to the Colosseum,” Alexandra Clark told the outlet. “But the moment we got there the sight that greeted us was horrifying! Standing guard over the entrance was the colossal pagan statue of Molech. It was placed in that prime spot so that everyone that entered into the Colosseum had to pass it,” she said, noting that it felt as though it was placed there to mock where the martyrs were slaughtered.

Throughout the Old Testament God speaks

with disgust about the worship of Molech, particularly the offering of children in burnt sacrifices. God told Moses in Leviticus 20:1-5, “Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has

given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name. And if the people of the land do at all close their eyes to that man when he gives one of his children to Molech, and do not put him to death, then I will set my face against that man and against his clan and will cut them off from among their people, him and all who follow him in whoring after Molech.”

While it is understandable that statues of the pagan god would be displayed in museums to understand the ancient world, it seems very strange that a pagan god that endorsed child sacrifice would be placed in such an important location that thousands of tourists visit each year. In answering the objections, the exhibit stated that the piece was only one of 4,000 pieces of ancient Carthage culture that is displayed in the area and was not meant to insult anyone as they entered into the Coliseum. However, critics of the statue

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and Genesis 15 specifically identified the boundaries of the future nation. While much of these boundaries were held under King David and King Solomon, the covenant is viewed as an unconditional and eternal covenant and therefore the nation owns that land as a promise

from God. Many Old Testament prophets predicted a future return to the land for the nation and a restoration of the Abrahamic Covenant. While many will applaud the change in US policy, it certainly will not alleviate the incredible tension in the region.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray that peace will remain in the region and that both sides will be able to come to a position that will enable for a peaceful resolution.

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attending church. It will make evangelism within China very difficult as fear of religious persecution continues to increase.

Second, this may be a prototype example of how the Antichrist in the future would be able to persecute believers during the time of the Tribulation. People throughout history have speculated and wondered how any one individual or group could control the world's supplies and persecute anyone that reacted against them. Examples of how databases and other collective agencies through video

surveillance, fingerprinting, facial recognition and other technological advances might give a glimpse of how someone like the Antichrist could find and persecute believers. It also shows that the technology is advancing so fast that it is very possible now for the Antichrist to control a global economy (Revelation 13) and prevent purchases by his enemies through electronic databases and electronic banking. While this is speculation, it does show that technology is being created that can lead to some of the very activities described in Revelation.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for our brothers and sisters in China who are under persecution and surveillance by the Chinese government because of their faith in Christ. Pray that the new technology created would be used for the advancement of the Gospel instead of for evil.

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argue that the exhibit should have been more thoughtful before placing a pagan god in a place that many Christians deem as sacred to their faith. Regardless of the situation, it does show

that modern culture is accepting of placing gods that required human sacrifice in places of honor, while Christianity is downplayed and attacked at every turn.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for modern Western culture to turn back to Christianity. Pray that Europe, once the center of Christianity, would turn from its secular atheistic ways and turn back to Jesus.