

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC Newsletter

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DR. ED HINDSON

These are turbulent days! I believe Bible prophecy is being revealed all around us.

In the midst of a global pandemic, Israel quietly marked their 72nd anniversary of the rebirth of their modern nation Truly a miracle of our times!

We can see how Satan has done everything to stall the promise of God to the nation and the people of Israel, and to fight against the very purposes of God Himself. God's truth and His Word is needed now more than ever!

Even during quarantine, we are not slowing down! We continue to share the connections between world events, Bible prophecy and Israel's role in End Times.

We walk by faith and trust God to touch the hearts of faithful friends like you. Your prayers and support are well invested here. Thank you for your help!

Until He returns,

Ed Hindson

Israel Leaders Agree to New Coalition 'Emergency' Government



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will continue in his role after forging a deal with his chief rival, Benny Gantz, to create an "emergency" coalition government, ending more than a year of political deadlock.

After the third election on March 2 ended without a clear winner, Netanyahu and Gantz, a former military chief, agreed to try to form a unity government to deal with the coronavirus outbreak.

The deal averts what would have been a fourth consecutive election in just over a year as the country fights its coronavirus outbreak. While the terms of the unity deal were not immediately clear, Israeli media reported that it called for a three-year period with Netanyahu serving as prime minister for the first half, and Gantz taking the job

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Virus Used to Push Secular Agenda

With coronavirus sending much of the world into lockdown, changes in the environment are beginning to surface in some cities. The internet is full of news and tweets about how the lockdown has caused a positive environmental difference. Many such articles have a common theme: Humans are evil; we destroyed the planet, and now Nature is paying us back.

Some people are happy about emission reductions caused by the lockdown. But, they must remember that the purpose of all their efforts to reduce emissions is to make the planet safer and healthier for people to live, not to see those people die. Their rejoicing for “environmental progress” at the cost of lives reveals their true colors. If they have no concern for the lives of people, they defeat the purpose of setting out to reduce these emissions. The philosophy of radical environmentalism is dangerous. It instills anti-human ideas in the minds of our children. It must be exposed for its apathy towards human suffering.

In a similar vein, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said that people, not God, are responsible for the fact that COVID-19 cases in his state have plateaued. His comment stirred reactions among some Christian leaders, including Franklin Graham. Cuomo told reporters while comparing society’s coronavirus response to being on a diet that the social distancing effort of people in his state is responsible for the plateauing of coronavirus cases.

As governor of the state that has been by

far the most affected by the pandemic, Cuomo stressed that the number of new cases is down “because we brought the number down. God did not do that. Faith did not do that. Destiny did not do that,” he stressed. “A lot of pain and suffering did that.” The 62-year-old governor stated that the data is a “direct result of what we



do.” He warned that if people “do something stupid,” the numbers will “go right back up tomorrow.” In an interview with CNN the next day, Cuomo reiterated his claim.

“Our behavior has stopped the spread of the virus,” he said. “God did not stop the spread of the virus.

And what we do, how we act, will dictate how that virus spreads. We changed the trajectory of the virus by our actions. And that’s the real important lesson to me,” the governor said.

Cuomo’s remarks drew responses from Christian leaders online. Evangelist Franklin Graham, who leads the evangelical Samaritan’s Purse humanitarian charity that since April 1 has operated a field hospital in New York City’s Central Park, wrote on Facebook that “we always must be careful what we take credit for. Yes, we must be cautious and combat the spread, but make no mistake — God can help us. His power is as infinite as His love.” Graham, who also serves as president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, added that millions of people have prayed for New York and for an end to the virus.

“We continue to see answered prayer in

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Famines threaten greater devastation than coronavirus

The coronavirus pandemic has killed hundreds of thousands of people worldwide but far worse could be in store. Catastrophic food shortages and mass starvation are threatening greater devastation than the virus itself. According to a report released by the UN last week, the number of people in acute food insecurity – the point where people are facing famine – is expected to double from 135 million to 265 million by the end of 2020, unless dramatic steps are taken.

The world is facing “multiple famines of biblical proportions” in “about three dozen countries” killing up to 300,000 people a day, warned David Beasley the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP).

Experts say a multitude of factors are coming together to in a ‘perfect storm’ for many developing countries especially in sub-Saharan

Africa and South Asia, as well as in countries already facing crises, like Yemen, Venezuela, and Congo.



All the things that were driving global hunger before the coronavirus – wars, refugee crises, a dearth of sanitation, locust swarms in east Africa and devastating water shortages in southern Africa and Pakistan – are still here. But,

now the pandemic and accompanying national lockdowns are throwing tens of millions who lived on the edge into poverty and battering delicately balanced food supply chains.

At the same time, any fiscal headroom poor countries had before the crisis is rapidly closing as swathes of the international economy goes into free fall. Plummeting oil prices is laying waste to the national budgets of states already

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our field hospital,” he said. “Gov. Cuomo, I urge you — don’t dismiss the power of prayer and the ability of God to work in this crisis and in the ones we will face in the future. He is our hope, and we continue to pray for His mercy on our nation.” DeWayne Hamby, an executive pastor of Southside Church in Winter

Garden, Florida, wrote in a tweet that he is not sure why Cuomo “felt the need to make this highly offensive point the day after Easter.” These types of statements would have been unheard of thirty years ago but are becoming more commonplace as the nation veers more and more toward secularism. — PNL

PRAY: Pray the United States would turn away from naturalism and secularism and turn back to its Christian roots.

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for the second half.

“I promised the State of Israel a national emergency government that would work to save the lives and livelihoods of Israeli citizens,” Netanyahu tweeted.

“I will continue to do everything for you, citizens of Israel.” Gantz tweeted: “We prevented a fourth election. We will protect democracy. We will battle corona and we will worry about all the citizens of Israel.”

In early May, this decision passed the last obstacle when Israel’s Supreme Court rejected petitions seeking to disqualify Netanyahu and declined to block the power-sharing arrangement. *The Washington Post* reported that “the High Court, while expressing unease over Netanyahu’s alleged ‘violations of moral integrity,’ said it could find no legal basis to keep him from office.

Both Netanyahu and Gantz faced heavy criticism while negotiating the deal. Netanyahu, who has served as prime minister for more than a decade, was accused of using the coronavirus crisis to shield himself from prosecution against corruption charges. Gantz was accused of abandoning his central campaign promises after he repeatedly vowed never to sit in a government with Netanyahu due to the alleged corruption. The impending deal fractured Gantz’ Blue and White party.

“You don’t fight corruption from within. If you’re inside, you’re part of it,” said Yair Lapid, Gantz’s former political partner, who withdrew from the Blue and White alliance. Netanyahu is awaiting trial on charges of accepting bribes, breach of trust and fraud. He has denied any wrongdoing and portrays himself as a victim of a media and judicial

witch hunt.

Another bilateral agreement reached by the two leaders is that no legislation unrelated to the fight against the coronavirus pandemic will be brought before Parliament for a period of six months without full agreement between the two political groups. Furthermore, if Netanyahu is found guilty, new elections are the only solution envisaged by the deal. Based on the deal, however, in this case Gantz would immediately become Prime Minister and keep his post for only three months until the new elections would occur.

While this deal is very complex and is not seen as an ideal solution by either side, it does offer some semblance of temporary stability for a nation that has already had three elections within the past year, all ending without a winner with enough seats in the Knesset (Israel’s version of Parliament).

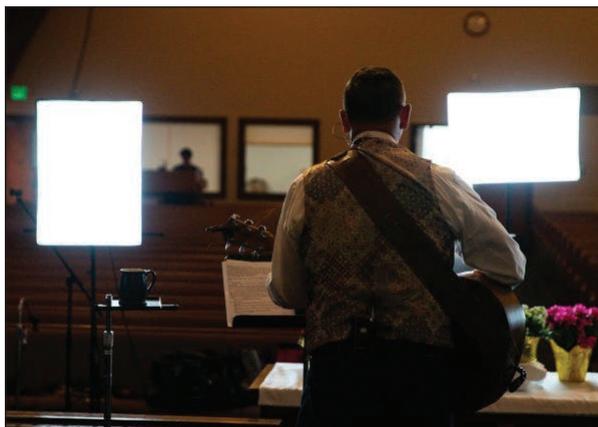
The deal is important for two reasons. First, Prime Minister Netanyahu will have the power and ability to fight the coronavirus for the foreseeable future. While Israel has been one of the most effective nations in the world in combating the virus, no one knows what the future holds if the virus expands and mutates. This allows the Israeli government to focus on combating this threat.

Second, the Israeli government has been greatly weakened over the last year throughout this election process and Iran and its proxies have attempted to use this time to build up stronger opposition to Israel throughout the region. Government stability, even temporarily, offers the nation a much greater ability to combat Iranian aggression in the region.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray that Israel will be able to regain a strong footing in the region and that their government will be able to work in unity.

Chinese Christians Arrested on Easter

Several members of China's heavily persecuted Early Rain Covenant Church (ERCC) were arrested by communist authorities and ordered to cease all religious activity. Persecution watchdog group, International Christian Concern (ICC) reports that the Christians were participating in an online Zoom worship service from their homes on Easter Sunday. Six leaders were arrested and detained by the Public Security Bureau.



The 5,000-member Sichuan house church, led by imprisoned pastor Wang Yi, has not been able to gather in person since the communist regime shut down the church in 2018 and arrested their pastor and other leaders. Since then, it has opted to gather online.

A member of ERCC told ICC, "At that time I was also in the Zoom call, but there was a long period of time where I did not hear a thing. I thought it's the network connection issue at first, but I soon heard a quarrel erupt. Our co-worker Wang Jun was questioning some people, [saying], 'Who are you to do this [to us]?'". She added that in addition to Wang, other key church leaders including Guo Haigang, Wu Wuqing, Jia Xuewei, Zhang Jianqing and Zhang Xudong were also taken away. One member's home had its electricity cut off, while others received phone calls that "police [were] coming to visit them soon."

Her account was corroborated by Zhang Jiangqing, who was warned by the police at his house, saying, "Don't participate in already banned [religious] activities anymore! Don't listen to pastor [Wang]'s sermons anymore! If you do this again, we will deal with it seriously

and take you away!" The six Christians have since been released, and their electricity was restored in the afternoon.

Gina Goh, ICC's regional manager for Southeast Asia, condemned the government's actions, pointing out that local authorities have continued to monitor and harass ERCC members since 2018 "with the hope that the church will disperse itself. In a time when the Chinese people are suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic, the heartless regime chose to inflict more trouble on its citizens," she said. "The U.N. should immediately suspend China's appointment to the Human Rights Council for its lack of respect for human rights."

In China, where the novel coronavirus originated, isolating in place has presented an opportunity for communist authorities to ramp up its campaign against Christianity.

On Easter Sunday, the state-sanctioned Donghu Church in China's Qinghai province was demolished. According to China Aid, a team from the Xining City Chengxi District Urban and Rural Construction Bureau demolished the church in just two hours, labeling it as illegal while citing "safety concerns."

On April 2, Bethel Church pastor Zhao Huaiguo was arrested after being criminally detained since March 14 for "inciting subversion of state power."

According to China Aid, a local Christian shared that the authorities have been hostile toward pastor Zhao since his church refused

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facing major malnutrition and security problems like South Sudan, Chad and Nigeria.

Locust swarms in east Africa had already been driving food shortages. On top of this, international tourism has ground to a complete stop and overseas remittances are drying up fast as family members in the developed world cease to make money. Some European money transfer companies have reportedly seen a decline of between 80 and 90 percent in payments made to Africa.

Experts say there are two things could make the hunger crisis far worse. First, some fear as the pandemic puts more strain on national resources, key food producers – like India, Indonesia, Thailand and Russia – will start to block exports. This would be catastrophic for many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, which rely heavily on imports of staple foods like rice and wheat.

The second thing experts fear is what happens if the virus spreads into rural areas in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Food production in poorer countries is far more labor intensive

than in the mechanized West. Farmers do not have motorized machines to plow their fields and must do it by hand. Aging and vulnerable farmers often make up the backbone of the economy and local food supplies in developing countries, making food systems very vulnerable to shock from diseases.

Famines were common in the ancient world, including those documented throughout the Old Testament. Indeed, a famine was the way God empowered Joseph to become the second most powerful man in Egypt and move his family at the end of the book of Genesis. The book of Revelation speaks of great famines during the Tribulation (Revelation 6:8).

Prior to January, very few people in the Western world could have dreamed of famines as we simply have access to grocery stores and food chains. However, the coronavirus has shown just how quickly stores can run out of supplies during difficult times. This coronavirus then serves as just a tiny example of the types of difficulties that will be found during the time of the Tribulation.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for those across the world that are fighting for food daily.

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to join the state-sanctioned church and rejected government officials' intervention. "He was accused of proselytizing and distributing Gospel tracts, which were considered illegal acts. After the Lunar New Year last year, the religious bureau forced the church to disperse, to which it refused. The official ban arrived last April," said the local Christian.

China is ranked on Open Doors USA's World Watch List as one of the worst countries in the world when it comes to the persecution of Christians. China has also been labeled by the U.S. State Department as a "country of particular concern" for "continuing to engage in particularly severe violations of religious freedom."— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for our Chinese brothers and sisters who are under constant persecution from their government.