

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC Newsletter

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God gave us signs and indications of what is going to happen in the future woven throughout Scripture.

I am so excited to share three offers this month that focus on the Messianic Prophecies. You do not interpret Bible Prophecy in light of current events. You interpret current events in light of Bible Prophecy!

As time moves on, we begin to see the development of political strategies, new attempts for peace in the Middle East, new weaponry, and a rise in violence against Jews and Christians.

We have to remind ourselves that Heaven is still our focus. We are sojourners, pilgrims passing through. Together we must continue to reach a hurting world for Christ and share the Gospel without ceasing!

Until He returns,

Trump Announces New Peace Initiative with Israel



President Trump has rolled out a new peace initiative with Israel that he has dubbed the “deal of the century”. The deal would include an annexation of parts of the West Bank and creates the possibility of a Palestinian state.

Pro-Israel politicians from both parties have stated that they are optimistic about the plan.

The proposal, which consists of over 50 pages of the administration’s ideas about resolving border disputes and Jerusalem’s status, has reportedly been in development since 2017. It would give Israel sovereignty over Jerusalem and the Palestinians would have control over some neighborhoods on outer parts of East Jerusalem and might control 70 to 80 percent of the West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged that Israel will annex much of the Jordan Valley, which borders Jordan and would encircle any future Palestinian

See **DEAL OF THE CENTURY** on page 4

Doomsday Clock Counting Down

The iconic Doomsday Clock symbolizing the gravest perils facing humankind is now closer to midnight than at any point since its creation in 1947. To underscore the need for action, the time on the Doomsday Clock is now being expressed in seconds, rather than minutes:

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Science and Security Board in consultation with the Bulletin's Board of Sponsors, which includes 13 Nobel Laureates, moved the Doomsday Clock

from two minutes to midnight to 100 seconds to midnight.

A statement issued by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists explains: "Humanity continues to face two simultaneous existential dangers—nuclear war and climate change—that are compounded by a threat multiplier, cyber-enabled information warfare, that undercuts society's ability to respond. The international security situation is dire, not just because these threats exist, but because world leaders have allowed the international political infrastructure for managing them to erode."

The Doomsday Clock has now moved closer to midnight in three of the last four years. While the Doomsday Clock did not move in 2019, its minute hand was set forward in 2018 by 30 seconds, to two minutes before midnight. The Clock was adjusted in 2017 to two and a half minutes to midnight from its previous setting of three minutes to midnight.

Rachel Bronson, president and CEO, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, said: "It is 100 seconds to midnight. We are now expressing how close the world is to catastrophe in seconds – not hours, or even minutes. It is the closest to Doomsday we have ever been in

the history of the Doomsday Clock. We now face a true emergency – an absolutely unacceptable state of world affairs that has eliminated any margin for error or further delay."

The Doomsday Clock statement



highlights three worsening factors:

Nuclear weapons. "In the nuclear realm, national leaders have ended or undermined several major arms control treaties and negotiations during the last year, creating an environment conducive to a renewed nuclear arms race, to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and to lowered barriers to nuclear war. Political conflicts regarding nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea remain unresolved and are, if anything, worsening."

Climate change. At UN climate meetings last year, national delegates made fine speeches but put forward few concrete plans to further limit the carbon dioxide emissions that are disrupting Earth's climate. This limited political response came during a year when the effects of man-made climate change were manifested by one of the warmest years on record, extensive wildfires, and quicker-

See **DOOMSDAY CLOCK** on page 6

Anti-Christian Violence in Europe at All-Time High

Attacks against Christians in Europe reached record highs in 2019, as hostility and vandalism against churches, Christian schools and monuments sweep the continent amid the surge of secularism, atheism and Islamic influence. Recently the Gatestone Institute International Policy Council published its research of anti-Christian violence after having reviewed hundreds of news reports and found that approximately 3,000 acts of vandalism, looting and defacement occurred last year alone.

The report stated, “Violence against Christian sites is most widespread in France, where churches, schools, cemeteries and monuments are being vandalized, desecrated and burned at an average rate of three per day. In Germany, attacks against Christian churches are occurring at an average rate of two per day. Those committing the crimes are rarely apprehended and the information about their identities are covered up by police and journalists. Because many suspects are said to have mental disorders, the acts of vandalism, through demonstrably anti-Christian, are not formally classified as hate crimes.”

The hostile acts include arson, defecation, desecration, looting, mockery, profanation, Satanism, theft, urination and vandalism. According to the Gatestone research, the perpetrators of the violence differ depending on the nation.

For example, in France and Germany, the spike in anti-Christian attacks lines up with the recent mass immigration from the Muslim world. However, in Spain, attacks against churches and crosses are overwhelmingly carried out by anarchists, radical feminists and other far-left activists who appear to be striving for Christianity to be permanently removed from the public square.

In July, the International Monument to

the Protestant Reformation, also called the Reformation Wall and located in Geneva, Switzerland, was defaced with several colors of paint the marked the international symbol



of LGBT activism. Another evangelical church was vandalized with spray-paint and a minibus sitting in front of the church was set ablaze.

Feminist Autonomous Cell later took credit for the incident. This same group also vandalized St. Elisabeth Catholic Church in Berlin and posted a letter online explaining that the attack was in response to the church hosting a March for Life rally.

The rise of secularism and anti-Christian influence in Europe is shocking as that area once stood as the bastion of Christianity throughout the world. Indeed, the Reformation began in Germany and Switzerland, two places now filled with violence against the Christian worldview.

Europe was once the greatest sender of Christian missionaries that the world had ever seen, men like Eric Liddell and CT Studd. However, the combination of secularism, radical feminism, LGBT activism and in influx of Muslim influence has made Christianity an afterthought to most Europeans and an enemy

See **ANTI-CHRISTIAN VIOLENCE** on page 6

DEAL OF THE CENTURY from page 1

state. According to Trump administration officials, under the plan neither Israelis nor Palestinians will be forced to leave their homes as Israel expands its borders.

Trump also met with Benny Gantz, Netanyahu's political rival and leader of the Blue and White Party, in a separate meeting to also discuss the proposal. Gantz and Netanyahu will face each other in a March 2 election.

Trump, standing next to Netanyahu at the White House, said, "This is an opportunity for peace. We'll show a plan that has been worked on by everyone. We'll see if it catches hold. If it does, that'd be great. If it doesn't, it's ok."

The proposal has met with both positive and negative reaction. Representatives from Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates attended the plans unveiling. Saudi Arabia, not in attendance, did voice support in a statement appreciating Trump's efforts.

Palestinian leaders were quick to condemn the deal, arguing that it favors Israel immensely. President Mahmoud Abbas said in response to the proposal, "We say a thousand times over: no, no, no."

Up until this time, the Palestinians have rejected every peace proposal offered. Many question whether the Palestinians will ever accept any plan that allows Israel to remain an independent state. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that the proposal will be accepted by the Palestinian leadership.

George Friedman, founder and chairman of Geopolitical Futures, said the peace plan revealed cracks in relationships between Palestine and its Islamic neighbors. He pointed out that the plan is much different from previous proposals, but "what really changes

was this pro-American coalition that formed. Under Trump, one of the most fundamental shifts in the Middle East is taking place, and it's certainly to the benefit of Israel."

Trump has made major efforts to establish stronger ties with Jerusalem during his time in office. In December 2017, he recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and moved the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem on May 14th, 2018. In March 2019, the United States also formally recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Critics point out these favorable actions toward Israel have alienated any possible peace talks with the Palestinians.

Evangelical leaders also reacted to the deal. Mike Evans, the founder of the Friends of Zion Museum in Jerusalem, was quoted as saying, "The plan does not give the Palestinians any air space or the ability to establish treaties," for evangelical Christians "the proposal is everything we were hoping for — everything."

Michael Brown, a Messianic Jewish scholar, was both positive about the proposal but also realistic about the eventual outcome. He acknowledged that some evangelicals will not like the deal because it takes away territory from Israel, which some interpret as a violation of God's Word. However, because it is favored by both the Israeli's and the U.S. ambassador to Israel, he tends to view it favorably as the greatest possible path to peace. He said, "Overall, I know that lasting, true peace can only come to the region through Jesus the Messiah. However, frankly, without massive pressure from the populace as a whole, joined by other Muslim nations, I do not see this happening. And this is the crux of the problem."— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray the peace talks will open new avenues for communication and for stability in the Middle East. Pray also for the upcoming Israeli elections.

Trump Becomes First President to Attend March for Life

In January, President Trump made history by becoming the first U.S. president to attend the March for Life rally in person.

Friday, January 24 marked the 47th March for Life that has been held since 1974, one year after the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* ruling led to legalized abortion nationwide.

In the past, Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush had addressed the marchers remotely, via telephone and satellite link, even though the event occurred in Washington D.C. within walking distance of the White House.

The former presidents, who themselves were pro-life and who courted the pro-life vote, had been told by Washington insiders that actively tying themselves to the pro-life movement would hurt them politically.

In opposition, the Democratic Party has fully embraced abortion on demand. Pro-life Democrats have largely disappeared on Capitol Hill because they know speaking out against the party line would destroy their career.

Even though it is one of the largest annual gatherings in Washington D.C., the national media largely ignores it and both sides have been unwilling to make an appearance.

However, President Trump put the spotlight on the event as a guest speaker. He told the crowd, "Every child is a precious and sacred gift from God. Together we must protect, cherish, and defend the dignity and the sanctity of every human life. When we see

the image of a baby in the womb, we glimpse the majesty of God's creation. When we hold

a newborn in our arms, we know the endless love that each child brings to a family."

While one can disagree with Trump's policies and demeanor at times, he has been a strong defender for the unborn in comparison to his predecessors. In 2018, he became the

first sitting president to address the annual Campaign for Life gala of the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List. He has put two pro-life Supreme Court Justices on the bench, not to mention many federal judges throughout the nation. He has also allowed states to defund Planned Parenthood, and he defunded the pro-abortion U.N. Population Fund and restored and expanded a ban, known as the Mexico City policy, on taxpayer funds for groups that perform abortions overseas.

This has not come without massive criticism from the Left, especially his address at the March for Life. Alexis McGill Johnson, the interim president of Planned Parenthood, attacked President Trump on Twitter and claimed that he was shaming people for seeking abortions. NARAL President Illyse Hogue argued that Trump does not actually care about the issue and only went to the rally to fire up his base amid the impeachment trial. Hogue's argument does not make sense based upon Trump's many earlier actions in support of the pro-life movement.



See **MARCH FOR LIFE** on page 6

DOOMSDAY CLOCK from page 2

than-expected melting of glacial ice.

Cyber-based disinformation. “Continued corruption of the information ecosphere on which democracy and public decision making depend has heightened the nuclear and climate threats. In the last year, many governments used cyber-enabled disinformation campaigns to sow distrust in institutions and among nations, undermining domestic and international efforts to foster peace and protect the planet.”

As Christians, we believe that God is in control of the world no matter how bad political

and environmental conditions occur. However, it should draw our attention that the world seems to be getting closer and closer to a time when chaos and destruction could occur. Thus, we need to be prepared for the imminent return of Christ at any moment. And, we must do all that we can to reach the lost in the time that we have left. Regardless if Jesus’ return is tomorrow or 100 years from now, we need to be prepared to meet Him when He comes, and these types of warnings may show that His return is very soon. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for and share the Gospel with the lost so they may come to Christ before it is eternally too late.

ANTI-CHRISTIAN VIOLENCE from page 3

to their worldview. Secularism does not allow for competing worldviews to exist. Where secularism thrives and advances, religious beliefs, especially Christianity, is downplayed, assaulted and erased.

Unfortunately, what happens in Europe tends

to make its way over to America. We must be alert and combat these radical ideals in our own culture. Today, European Christianity is all but dead in public life. One wonders how long it will be until it dies in America if we continue on the path to total secularization! — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray the secularization of Europe will stop and the light of the Gospel will once again penetrate the darkness of a continent that used to have such a vibrant passion for Christ.

MARCH FOR LIFE from page 5

Trump’s pro-life stance could be one of the reasons that Democrats were trying to impeach him. A second term would mean more conservative justices on the Supreme Court, more conservatives on the federal appeals courts and more opportunities to rescue babies from the abortionist’s hand.

Planned Parenthood has already announced that they plan on spending \$45 million dollars on

the next election cycle to not only try to unseat the President, but also take control of the Senate and block anymore pro-life judges from being put on the Supreme Court. This is triple the amount of money spent in 2016 and eight times more than it spent on the midterm elections, perhaps signaling that they understand that another pro-life justice could finally spell the end of *Roe vs. Wade*.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for the pro-life movement, both in the country and around the world.