

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC Newsletter

www.TheKingIsComing.com

SEPTEMBER 2020

Published by World Prophetic Ministry, Inc. (800) 622-2767
National Processing Center • PO Box 150439 • Grand Rapids, MI 49515



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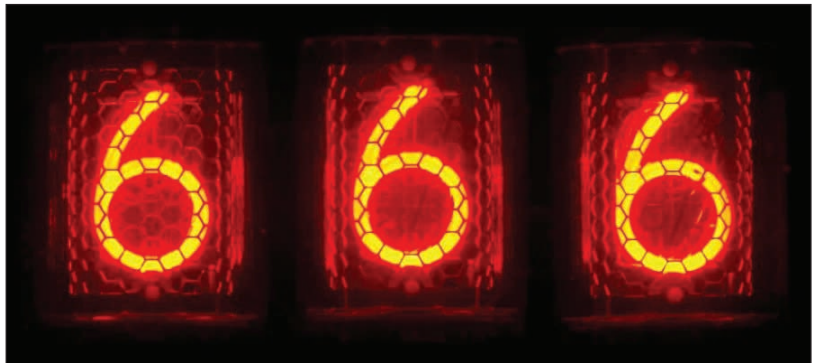
America is in serious trouble and only the power of God can save us. We desperately need His divine intervention.

My friend, we have **THE** solution: America needs a spiritual awakening and a genuine revival of repentance, regeneration, and re-engagement with the culture.

God has a plan and it can be found in His Word! To aid families who will be home educating their students, we have a wonderful resource to expand knowledge of the Bible. Please see the enclosed insert for ordering information.

In this time of isolation, people are searching our website, watching our messages, and responding to the Gospel! With your continued support, we will see worldwide revival, souls saved, and lives changed!

Until He returns,



Could the Coronavirus be setting the stage for the Rise of the Antichrist?

One of the questions that many Christians are asking is how the coronavirus could be impacting prophecy and the end times. While the virus itself is not a prophetic event, it could be setting the stage for the antichrist in three main areas: stronger government regulations (especially with regards to religious services), a push for a one world government and a possible move to both a cashless and global economy.

First, the coronavirus has created stronger government regulations throughout much of the world, even in most of the democratic nations that tend to be the most free. While some government regulations are necessary, continually increasing power and control in the hands of a few politicians and allowing them to make decisions on when people can leave their houses, which stores are allowed to be open and even when or if people are allowed to attend

Turkey orders Hagia Sophia be turned into Mosque

Religious and political leaders worldwide criticized Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for officially declaring that the Hagia Sophia site, originally the seat of Eastern Christianity for 900 years, is now a mosque open to Muslim worship. “Turkish people have no less right to Hagia Sophia than those who built it first 1,500 years ago,” Erdogan said in a televised speech after signing a decree transferring the management of the sixth century UNESCO world heritage site from the Ministry of Culture to the Directorate of Religious Affairs, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Istanbul’s Hagia Sophia, built in A.D. 537 as a Greek Orthodox church, was the seat of Eastern Christianity for 900 years before the city was seized in the 15th century by Sultan Mehmed II, who converted it into an Ottoman mosque. In 1934, modern Turkey’s founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, banned worship in Hagia Sophia and designated it as a museum. Erdogan’s declaration came within an hour after the Council of State, Turkey’s highest administrative court, ruled that the edict that converted the structure into a museum was illegal.

Erdogan said Hagia Sophia would reopen to Muslim prayer as a full-fledged mosque in July. “Like all our mosques, the doors of Hagia Sophia will be wide open to locals and foreigners, Muslims and non-Muslims,” he said, according to BBC.

Greece, where millions of Orthodox

Christians live, condemned Turkey’s move. The country’s Culture Minister Lina G. Mendoni called it an “open provocation to the civilized world. The nationalism displayed by President Erdogan... takes his country back six centuries,” she said in a statement, adding that the court ruling “absolutely confirms that there is no independent justice” in Turkey.

The United States also responded to Erdogan’s decision. “We are disappointed by the decision by the Government of Turkey to change the status of the Hagia

Sophia,” State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said in a statement, according to Reuters. “We understand the Turkish Government remains committed to maintaining access to the Hagia Sophia for all visitors, and look forward to hearing its plans for continued stewardship of the Hagia Sophia to ensure it remains accessible without impediment for all.”

U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman James Risch, R-Idaho, and ranking member Bob Menendez, D-N.J., called the move a “deep affront to Christians around the world who look to Hagia Sophia as a shining light and deeply revered holy site. We strongly denounce President Erdogan’s decision to convert Hagia Sophia from a museum into a mosque,” they said in a joint statement. “At points in its history, Hagia Sophia served as a place of worship for Muslims and Christians, and for decades has been an extraordinary and



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Twitter Defends Iranian Leader's Calls to Eliminate Israel on Platform

Twitter was held to account for a “double standard” of censoring comments by politicians that it has deemed hate speech while allowing Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to tweet calls to “eliminate” Israel. Israel Jewish Congress executive director Arsen Ostrovsky pointed out that twitter has been appending notices pointing out violations of their hate speech policies to tweets by US President Donald Trump, such as one where he wrote “when the looting starts, the shooting starts.” “Why have you not flagged tweets of Iran’s Ayatollah Khamenei who’s literally called for genocide of the Jewish people?” Ostrovsky asked.

Earlier this year, Khamenei tweeted calling for “the elimination of the Zionist regime” through “firm, armed resistance” and said he



will “support and assist any nation or any group anywhere who opposes and fights the Zionist regime.” Another recent tweet included a graphic calling for Israel’s destruction by referring to a “final solution,” which usually refers to the Nazi genocide of the Jewish people. A 2014 tweet included nine points on “why should and how can Israel be eliminated.”

Head of Twitter Policy for the Nordics and Israel Ylwa Pettersson, participating in the meeting via video link, categorized Khamenei’s tweets as permissible political speech. “We have an approach to world leaders that presently says direct interactions with public figures, comments on political issues of the day or foreign policy saber-rattling

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welcoming center to people of all faiths.”

The U.N. cultural body UNESCO called on Turkey “to open a dialog without delay in order to avoid a step back from the universal value of this exceptional heritage whose preservation will be reviewed by the World Heritage Committee in its next session. It is regrettable that the Turkish decision was not the subject of dialog nor notification beforehand,” it said.

Many believe Erdogan made this decision

as an attempt to gain support among his conservative base at a time when the opposition party has called for early elections. This is yet another example of Turkey’s continual push away from the Western world as it continues to reshape itself as a Muslim nation.

How this continued push will influence its relationship with both the United States and Israel is yet to be seen but it certainly is an alarming trend.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for the situation in the Middle East as tension continue to worsen for both Israel and Christians around the region.

religious services. While it is true that many of these regulations may be lessened if the virus lessens, it is also establishing a framework that would allow very few people massive control throughout the world. Perhaps the antichrist will one day be able to use this same type of structure to control and regulate the world, especially if people assume that the Rapture is some type of pandemic event.

Second, many, such as Al Gore, have taken the pandemic as an opportunity to push for a stronger one world government. When you combine this push for a single power in control with the stronger regulations that have occurred, it becomes very easy to see how someone like the antichrist could easily gain control of enough power to take control of the major nations of the world. Some have always wondered how the antichrist could possibly gain so much power and make so many changes so quickly during the time of the Tribulation. Perhaps this pandemic has shown us a blueprint of how something like this could occur. We would never have dreamed that so much of our daily life could be changed as quickly as it did in March. The Rapture, perhaps seen by the world as some type of pandemic, could very well be a catalyst that then allows the antichrist to rise to power in a similar manner.

Finally, the coronavirus has caused and will continue to cause dramatic changes

to not only the economy of the United States, but also the entire world. Many have already been pushing for a cashless society for years and the pandemic has even heightened these calls.

A recent New York Times article was published entitled “Our Cash-Free Future Is Getting Closer: The pandemic is propelling a shift toward a cashless society in ways that no other single event has.” Liz Alderman writes, “Cash was already being edged out in many countries as urban consumers paid increasingly with apps and cards for even the smallest purchases. But the coronavirus is accelerating a shift toward a cashless future, raising new calculations for merchants and enriching the digital payments industry.”

Why would this be important? For centuries people have wondered how the antichrist could

use the mark of the beast to control buying and selling of goods (Rev. 13:17). All of the different currencies and cash would make that a very difficult proposition. However, a cashless society makes this much easier, as the government could simply block off someone’s account and cards and completely cut off their ability to purchase goods. While it is not definitive that the coronavirus is setting the stage for the antichrist’s rise, these events do offer a blueprint on how his rise to power could occur in the future. — PNL

*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 13:17*

PRAY: Pray God will continue to move throughout our nation and our world and that ultimately His plan and purposes will be accomplished.

China Orders Christians to Stop Believing in God

House churches across China have experienced intensified persecution in recent months, with Communist officials telling Christians they are not permitted to believe in God in the atheist country. Bitter Winter, a publication produced by the Center for Studies on New Religion which covers human rights issues in China, documented numerous instances where Christians were threatened and harassed by Chinese Communist Party officials.

In June, a group of officials in the county-level city of Leiyang, in the central province of Hunan, raided a house church. They confiscated the church's donation box and destroyed 10 Bible verses on the walls, telling the Christians their actions were "the result of their disobedience" and that it was "illegal to hold religious gatherings without a permit or joining the Three-Self Church."

In May, the Religious Affairs Bureau in the province's Yongzhou city shut down a house church for "holding illegal gatherings without permits" and confiscated all valuables in the venue, including a computer, a photocopier, and Bibles.

In April, police in Dengzhou city in the central province of Henan raided a house church, confiscated its Bibles and hymnbooks, and took eight congregation members to a police station for interrogation. One Christian later revealed that a police officer said to him that they could "not believe in God in China." The believer also revealed that half a month later, police visited the eight arrested

members at home to ask if they had continued to attend religious gatherings. Officers warned them that they would be sentenced to three to five years in prison if they gather again.

"We don't break any law by believing in God, but the government treats us this way," the believer said. "The government wants to eliminate all religions and threatens us with

the future of our family members, forcing us to give up our belief. It's really shameless."

Protestant Christianity is one of five approved religions alongside Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, and Catholicism in China. Religious organizations must register with one of five state-sanctioned patriotic religious associations, which are supervised by the State Administration for Religious Affairs.

Christian churches that refuse to register with the government, known as "house churches," are illegal. However, even Three-Self churches — those registered with the government — have experienced an uptick in persecution in recent months.

Numerous reports have revealed the persecution Christians have endured at the hands of the CCP, including arrests, detentions, imprisonments, and church attacks. Such persecution is part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's efforts to abolish religion and enforce greater control over people's lives.

The magazine reported that "countless number of churches" were also ordered to remove their crosses in Jiujiang, Fuzhou, Fengcheng, Shangrao, and a few other cities



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on military and economic issues are generally not in violation of twitter rules,” Pettersson said. Blue and White MK Michal Cotler-Wunsh, who called the meeting, interjected: “Calling for genocide is okay, but commenting on political situations is not?”

Pettersson responded: “If a world leader violates our rules, but it is a clear interest in keeping that up on the service, we may place it behind a note that provides more information about the violation... That is what happened with Trump’s tweet... based on the historical context of the last line of that tweet and the risk that it could possibly inspire harm...It is important to leave up politicians’ statements “for citizens to see what their political representatives say and hold them accountable,” she added.

Cotler-Wunsh accused Twitter of a “double standard,” calling for Twitter and other platforms to make a change. After the meeting, the MK tweeted: “Wow. Twitter just admitted that tweets calling genocide against Jews by Iranian leaders DON’T violate its policy! This is a double standard. This is antisemitism.”

In another exchange, pro-Israel activist

Emily Schrader asked Pettersson about Holocaust denial on the platform, pointing out that Facebook and TikTok ban it. Pettersson said: “As our hateful conduct policy states, if the content tries to directly threaten or harass on the basis of religion, then that is something we would enforce.” Cotler-Wunsh also called on Twitter to use the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s full definition of antisemitism as a standard for hate speech against Jews, and Pettersson said it is used to train moderators. Schrader, however, pointed out that there is nothing indicating that in the hate speech standards written on Twitter’s site.

Following the meeting, Cotler-Wunsh said, “Twitter and others must be held to account lest they encourage a continuing culture of impunity on and offline.” While this may seem like a minor issue, Twitter is predominantly used by younger generations and therefore if Twitter continues to censure other political statements but allow statements about the destruction of Israel to go unpunished, it could normalize this type of antisemitic hate speech in future generations.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray the rise in antisemitism that is occurring throughout the world will be stopped.

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in the province in April.

Persecution watchdog Open Doors USA ranks China as one of the worst countries in the world when it comes to the persecution of Christians. The organization notes that all churches are perceived as a threat if they become too large, too political, or invite foreign guests.

This type of persecution should not surprise anyone. Everywhere communism has spread,

religious persecution has quickly followed. Communism, combined with the rise of secular atheism, has created a worldwide environment where persecution has risen dramatically. If the United States continues to become more secular and moves toward communistic ideals, then persecution could quickly follow and soon it could be illegal to go to church, read a Bible, pray or even believe in God. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray America will turn away from secularism and turn back to God. Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in China who are suffering for their faith.