

Today's News in Light of the Bible

# PROPHETIC *Newsletter*

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**DR. ED HINDSON**

My dear friends,

The signs of the times remind us of two great truths:

1. Things will get worse as we get closer to Christ's return.
2. All these things tell us that His coming is near!

King Solomon said, there is "a time to keep silent and a time to speak" (Ecclesiastes 3:7).

The forces of Satan, secularism and evil are eroding the moral fiber of our nation. That is why I believe God wants me to speak up loudly and clearly to warn this generation of what is coming in the future.

Your continued support enables us to stay on the air with our telecast, in the mail with our newsletters, and in print with our materials. You help our work go forward just when it is needed most!

Until He returns,

*Ed Hindson*



## 2021: *Where Do We Go from Here?*

The New Year often brings new hopes, dreams and aspirations. We celebrate on New Year's with fireworks, make new resolutions on how the new year will be different and spend time with our loved ones. 2020 is certainly a year most Christians would like to put behind them. Pandemic fears, political divides, and social unrest have left many exhausted and exasperated. Many have been isolated in their homes for months and even when we can leave, we have to do so in fear and behind a mask. The New Year seems anything but hopeful. It has definitely not been a normal year or a normal New Year.

America is more divided than it has ever been. Columnist

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# Iran Nuclear Scientist Assassinated, Iran Blames Israel for Attack

Just one day into 2020, Iran's top general, Qasem Soleimani, and Iraqi Shi'ite militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis were killed in a drone strike outside Baghdad's airport. With just a month left, Iran's top nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, was assassinated east of Tehran. Following Soleimani's death, which the United States took responsibility for, the Middle East braced



itself for Iran's response. It came a week later when ballistic missiles targeted the Ain al-Asad airbase in western Iraq and an airbase in Erbil.

And now, once again, the entire region is bracing itself for what Iran will do in response to the assassination of Fakhrizadeh, who drove Iran's nuclear program. Project Amad is tasked with developing nuclear warheads for the ballistic missiles that would carry them.

Several Iranian nuclear scientists have been assassinated over the years in attacks believed to have been carried out by Israel. Though Iran never retaliated for those killings, Fakhrizadeh was by far the most important nuclear scientist to be assassinated to date.

In one response to the killing, Iran's parliament approved a vote to raise the rate of uranium enrichment to 20% and gradually withdraw from the nuclear agreement. But with its known capabilities to carry out attacks across the globe, Iran might be planning something more.

They can choose to target diplomats and other westerners in the Middle East or attack Israeli embassies and Jewish targets across

the world, using their international terrorist infrastructure that has been in place for decades. As such, Israeli embassies have gone on high alert.

Though the IDF is said to have not raised its alert, Israel's defense establishment is not going to let itself sleep at the wheel. Israel's military has already been on high alert along its northern border with Lebanon, bracing for a possible attack by

Hezbollah after an alleged Israeli airstrike in Syria on July 20 killed one of its members. Several improvised explosive devices have been discovered along the border with Syria, leading Israel to conduct airstrikes against Iranian and Hezbollah targets in the country.

But Iran knows any attack on Israel's northern border, be it by proxies in Lebanon or Syria, will result in massive airstrikes that would likely cause Iran and its proxies more damage than they are willing to incur.

Tehran could also use its arsenal of ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles to carry out an attack against Israeli targets in the Red Sea by the Houthis, their proxies in Yemen. The Houthis have threatened Israel more than once. While the distance between the two countries is great, the Iranian-backed group could carry out an attack involving cruise missiles and attack drones, similar to the one last September on Saudi Arabia's Aramco petroleum facility. Or the Islamic Republic might choose to carry out a cyberattack against Israel's water infrastructure as it did

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# U.N. Continues to Condemn Israel

A United Nations General Assembly committee has adopted a resolution that referred to Jerusalem's Temple Mount solely by its Muslim name of Haram al-Sharif, one of seven resolutions passed that single out or condemn Israel, with zero on the entire rest of the world.

"The UN today showed contempt for both Judaism and Christianity by passing a resolution that makes no mention of the name Temple Mount, which is Judaism's holiest site, and which is sacred to all who venerate the Bible, in which the ancient Temple was of central importance," said Hillel Neuer, executive director of UN Watch, a Geneva-based, independent non-governmental watchdog organization.

One of the other texts condemns Israel for "repressive measures" against Syrian citizens in the Golan Heights, another renews the mandate of the corrupt UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), while another renews the mandate



of the UN's "special committee to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories."

All 193 UN member states belong to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, or Fourth Committee, that each year adopts the texts with large majorities. Countries' votes are repeated in December when the GA plenary formally ratifies the texts. "The UN's assault on Israel with a torrent of one-sided resolutions is surreal. Just two weeks after the Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist group assaulted Israeli civilians with a barrage of rockets from Gaza—while the UN's General Assembly and Human Rights Council stayed silent—the world body now adds insult to injury by adopting seven lopsided resolutions, whose only purpose is to demonize the Jewish state" said Neuer.

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in April and July.

Beyond these scenarios, Tehran might also choose to do nothing for the time being to maintain some level of plausible deniability for anything it wants to do in the future. Not only is Iran patient, it is calculating and sophisticated. Iranians know they have to be smart about any retaliatory attack, especially before US President Donald Trump leaves office and is

replaced by Joe Biden. Any retaliatory attack by Tehran, especially if it causes casualties, might be the catalyst for Trump to strike Iran's nuclear sites, destroying their nuclear program and their greater strategic plans.

As tensions continue to mount in the region, could this be the foundation for a future Gog and Magog war between Iran and its allies against Israel? Only time will tell.—PNL

**PRAY:** Pray that tensions will lessen in the Middle East and that Iran's continued development of nuclear weapons will be stopped.

Cal Thomas has called us a “bipolar nation.”

Divisive labels abound everywhere—conservative/liberals, right wing/left wing, extremist/ socialists. Basic issues like the sanctity of life, dignity of marriage and freedom of religion are hotly contested. Many of the ideas and values that were once viewed as common practices in our culture are now being assaulted and many of the vices of our culture are now being praised and promoted. Many Americans feel like Lot “sitting in the gate of Sodom waiting for judgment to fall” (Genesis 19:1-14)!

The Psalmist asked: “if the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? (11:3). Then, he responded: “The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD’S throne is in heaven” (11:4). At the end of a difficult year and facing the uncertain challenges of the year ahead, we need to remember God is still on the throne of the universe.

It was at an uncertain time when King Uzziah died, that the prophet Isaiah said: “I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up” (6:1).

All too often believers lose their focus on the sovereign power of God. We put our focus on who is in the white house, the state house or the court house, but forget about who is sitting on the Heavenly throne.

The prophet Daniel said: “the most High rules over the Kingdom of men and gives it to whomsoever he will” (4:17). No matter who

is in charge of the earthly kingdoms of men, God is still in charge. He allows for man to rule in a limited sense, but also holds man accountable for that rule as the sovereign Lord of the universe.

When Jesus commissioned His followers to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19), they were living in a hostile environment of pagan unbelief and religious prejudice. Despite these obstacles, Jesus boldly predicted: “I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). God the Father is still on the throne and God the Son is seated at His right hand and God the Holy Spirit is still actively convicting the world of sin, righteousness

*“And I say also  
unto thee,  
That thou art Peter,  
and upon this rock  
I will build my church;  
and the gates of hell  
shall not prevail  
against it.”*

**Matthew 16:18**

and judgment (John 16:8).

As the year 2021 begins, I am more convinced than ever that God is at work! I am celebrating my twentieth year as the Bible teacher on *The King is Coming* telecast. Thanks to friends and prophetic partners like you, we have been able to spread the Gospel to the world with over 1,000 telecasts in these 20 years.

I am committed to keep on preaching until the trumpet sounds and the Lord calls us home to be with Him. Please stand with me. The world needs our message now more than ever before.

Time may be running out for America and the world. The time to act is now! Let me hear from you today. — PNL

**PRAY:** Now is the time for salvation! Pray for the Gospel to be spread far and wide and for unbelievers to have ears to hear and to receive God’s saving grace.

# The Death of the Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church might soon cease to exist, according to those who describe the denomination's future as bleak based on plummeting membership numbers. Attendance and membership numbers at churches within the mainline Protestant denomination have dropped significantly over the last decade, having lost one-quarter of worship attendees.

In 1966, when the church was said to be at its peak in the United States, approximately 3.6 million Americans identified as Episcopalian. The Episcopal Church's Office of the General Convention reported that in 2018, membership in the denomination had dropped to 1.676 million. Regular worship attendance in Episcopal churches in 2009 was approximately 724,000. By 2019, the figure was 579,000 on an average Sunday, a nearly 25% drop over a decade.

"The overall picture is dire," the Rev. Dwight Zscheile, an Episcopal priest and professor, according to ChurchLeaders. "Not one of decline as much as demise within the next generation unless trends change significantly." He said that at this rate, "there will be no one in worship by around 2050 in the entire denomination." Although offering pledges have risen, "the fact that fewer people are giving more money is not a sustainable trend over the long term," he added.

Approximately 55% of U.S. Episcopalians are age 60 and older, the highest average age of the largest 20 religious traditions in the nation, according to a demographic analysis by researcher Ryan Burge. In a recent episode of "The Holy Post" podcast, Burge said the Episcopal Church will be dead in two

decades. In a subsequent blog post, he noted that while it might not be gone completely, it will be "vastly diminished" and likely on "life support. A terrifying reality emerges" when looking at the mode as opposed to the average age, he added. "The modal age of an Episcopalian in 2019 was 69."



Burge estimates that by 2040, the denomination's membership could fall to 0.7% of the U.S. population, half of its

current size. Only 14% of all Episcopalians report being parents of children younger than 18, the lowest of all religious traditions.

The Episcopal Church has been hollowed out largely by secularization in regions where liberal religious traditions have long been visible, such as the Northeast, West Coast, and the Rust Belt.

Another reason that the decline has been so steep has been the denomination's progressive theological direction, particularly pertaining to marriage and sexual ethics. The 2003 consecration of an openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson, was a touchpoint in the denomination's history in that many theologically conservative congregations left in protest and formed Anglican churches under a new ecclesiastical structure, with dioceses based on theological orientation.

The Anglican Church in Canada appears to be on a similar trajectory as the Episcopal Church in the U.S. In a November 2019 presentation before the Anglican Church of Canada Council of General Synod, the Rev. Canon Neil Elliot said the denomination would effectively cease to exist by 2040.

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“While France, Germany, Sweden and other EU states are expected to support most of the estimated 20 resolutions to be adopted against Israel by December, the same European nations have failed to introduce a single UNGA resolution on the human rights situation in China, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Turkey, Pakistan, Vietnam, Algeria, or on 175 other countries,” said Neuer. “Where’s their supposed concern for international law and human rights?” “One of today’s resolutions—drafted and co-sponsored by Syria—falsely condemns Israel for ‘repressive measures’ against Syrian citizens in the Golan Heights,” said Neuer. “This is but the latest act in the UN’s theater of the absurd.”

The resolution condemns Israel for holding on to the Golan Heights, and demands Israel hand the land and its people to Syria. “It’s astonishing,” said Neuer. “After the Syrian regime has killed half a million of its own people, how can the UN call for more people to be handed over to Assad’s rule? The text is morally galling, and logically absurd.”

Several European nations recently have

given token support of looking at UN bias, but have failed to make any real impact. Last year, after 155 German MPs called on the German government to oppose “politically motivated initiatives and alliances of anti-Israeli Member States” in the UN, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called out UN bias against Israel and committed to oppose “any attempt to isolate or delegitimize Israel” in UN bodies.

Likewise, after the Dutch parliament resolved to “actively oppose UN organizations that devote disproportional attention to Israel,” the Dutch foreign minister declared last year that the Netherlands would “make an active effort to combat disproportionate attention” on Israel at the UN.

Yet both countries largely went along with the ritual singling out of the Jewish state, as did most other EU states. This is yet another example of the rise of anti-semitism that has run rampant across Western Europe. This type of environment could be laying a foundation for a future Antichrist to once again persecute the Jewish people during the future Tribulation.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray that God will continue to protect Israel and that they will be able to stand firm during a continual rise of anti-semitism.

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This decline should be a sign to other denominations in the West. Many within this movement thought that by moving further into progressive, often unbiblical ideas, the church would gain new followers who also help those views. However, all this did was alienate those within the denomination that wanted to stand firm on biblical truth while failing to reach out

to the secular community because the church had lost its message to reach the lost.

Standing firm on the truths of Scripture is the only way for a denomination to survive. Giving into cultural concepts that are inherently unbiblical will not save a denomination, but will only lead to its destruction as it walks away from God’s ways.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray that God will continue to sustain and build on those denominations that are faithful to His Word and turn those that have strayed back to a biblical foundation.