

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC Newsletter

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DR. ED HINDSON

My dear friends,

Would you please join me in praying for the Christians caught behind the Islamic Curtain in Afghanistan? They are trapped, facing beatings and death for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture reminds us “*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood ... but against the rulers of darkness of this world...*” Ephesians 6:12.

Evil forces are at work to destabilize governments and bring about an Islamic Caliphate.

However, we must remember that God is on the throne! God is in control of what is happening in the universe!

And, through our ministry, God is using us to reach more souls for Christ than ever before. We cannot stop — and with your continued support — we will not stop sharing the hope of eternal life!

Until He returns,

Ed Hindson

MIDDLE EAST CHAOS

President Biden Defends U.S. Pullout of Afghanistan



Photo: Skynews

President Joe Biden defended his administration's handling of the pullout of U.S. forces from Afghanistan in a speech at the White House, where he thanked the troops for helping to evacuate American civilians from the country. Biden began the speech by announcing that "Last night in Kabul, the United States ended 20 years of war in Afghanistan, the longest war in American history." He also said his administration would continue to evacuate U.S. citizens who are seeking to leave Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover.

"Our Operation Allied Rescue ended up getting more

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Harvard Chaplains Elect Atheist as New President

John Harvard would be horrified by the actions of the school that bears his name. Greg Epstein, an atheist and humanist chaplain at Harvard University who says he doesn't look to God but people for answers, has been elected by his colleagues as the newest president of the Harvard Chaplains. Epstein, 44, was elected to the presidency of the university's organization of chaplains by more than 40 chaplains from some 20 different faith and spiritual traditions even though he is an atheist. He shared the news in an announcement on Twitter along with a profile of his election to the position by *The New York Times*.

Margit Hammerstrom, the Christian Science chaplain at Harvard, told the publication that while Epstein's election to such a role may have been problematic at a more conservative institution, the decision was unanimous at Harvard. "Maybe in a more conservative university climate, there might be a question like, 'What the heck are they doing at Harvard, having a humanist be the president of the chaplains?' But in this environment, it works. Greg is known for wanting to keep lines of communication open between different faiths," Hammerstrom said. This shows just how far Harvard has fallen from its founding, with its original purpose to train pastors for the ministry.

The new leader, who authored *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe*, is expected to coordinate activities for the corps of chaplains. He has served as a humanist chaplain at Harvard since 2005. Recent survey data highlighted by the Harvard *Crimson* shows that a

growing number of students enrolled at the Ivy League campus don't identify with any particular faith. In 2017, some 32.4% of incoming freshmen identified as either atheist or agnostic. By 2019, the share of incoming freshmen who identified as either atheist or agnostic increased to 37.9%.

"There is a rising group of people who no longer identify with any religious tradition but still experience a real need for conversation and support around what it means to be a good human and live an ethical life," Epstein, who was raised in a Jewish household, told *The New York Times*. "We don't look to a god for answers," he said. "We are each other's answers."

A study from the Pew Research Center published in late 2019 showed that only 65% of Americans identify as Christian, showing a 12% decline over a decade earlier. The number of Americans who identify as religiously unaffiliated also increased to 26%. "The changes underway in the American religious landscape are broad-based.

The Christian share of the population is down and religious 'nones' have grown across multiple demographic groups: white people, black people and Hispanics; men and women; in all regions of the country; and among college graduates and those with lower levels of educational attainment," Pew researchers reported. "Religious 'nones' are growing faster among Democrats than Republicans, though their ranks are swelling in both partisan coalitions," Pew added. "And



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Israel Preparing Other Options as Negotiations with Iran Stall

With negotiations regarding Iran's nuclear program stalled, Israel is working to strengthen its capabilities against the Islamic Republic, Defense Minister Benny Gantz recently stated. "We are allocating resources to strengthen our capabilities in the face of the challenges in the region, especially Iran," he told military reporters. Gantz's comments came hours after Prime Minister Naftali Bennett landed back in Israel following his first meeting with US President Joe Biden in Washington. Iran was a central topic of the meeting between the two leaders.

Following the meeting, Biden pledged that the US is committed to ensuring that Iran would never develop nuclear weapons but "if diplomacy fails, we're ready to turn to other

options." Though Washington continues on the diplomatic path hoping to bring Tehran to sign a new deal, the Americans are fully aware of Jerusalem's concerns of a future deal. However, it is clear after the dramatic and questionable withdrawal from Afghanistan, President Biden does not want to focus on sending more military personal into

the region. This means that if the diplomatic negotiations with Iran fail, then Israel may be alone if military action is needed in order to stop Iran's nuclear program.

Though the US and Israel share intelligence – and cooperation between the two allies is increasing following Israel's move to

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although the religiously unaffiliated are on the rise among younger people and most groups of older adults, their growth is most pronounced among young adults."

This is another example of the growing movement within the United States, especially among Millennials and Gen. Z, toward an abandonment of our Christian foundation and

a move to hard-line secularization. Whereas in the past places like Harvard, who have long abandoned any sort of Christian foundation, would at least keep up a charade of acceptance of Christianity, many of these groups now actively and openly share their disdain for Christianity and their complete acceptance of the secular worldview.— PNL

PRAY: Pray for our young people in America, that they would turn back to God and abandon the hopeless worldview of secularism.

than 5,500 Americans out,” he said. “We believe there’s about 100 to 200 Americans remaining in Afghanistan with some intention to leave. Most of those who remain are dual citizens, longtime residents who had earlier decided to stay because of their family roots in Afghanistan. The bottom line: 90% of Americans in Afghanistan who wanted to leave were able to leave.”

The president addressed the Americans remaining in Afghanistan, stressing that “there is no deadline” for working to evacuate them. “We remain committed to get them out if they want to come out.” Biden noted that Secretary of State Antony Blinken was leading “diplomatic efforts to ensure safe passage for any American, Afghan partner, foreign national who wants to leave Afghanistan.” Biden also defended abiding by the Aug. 31 deadline, which many groups urged him to push back as concerns grew that the U.S. military would not be able to evacuate all Americans who wanted to leave by then. “Leaving Aug. 31 is not due to an arbitrary deadline. It was designed to save American lives,” the president asserted.

Biden spent the remainder of his speech elaborating on his foreign policy philosophy, raising questions about the justification for the continued military presence in Afghanistan. “What is the vital national interest?” he asked. “In my view, we only have one: to make sure Afghanistan can never be used again to launch an attack on our homeland.”

After telling the American people that “I simply do not believe that the safety and security of America is enhanced by continuing to deploy thousands of American troops and spending billions of dollars a year in Afghanistan,” Biden added, “We will maintain

PRAY FOR



the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan and in other countries, we just don’t need to fight a ground war to do it.”

Biden said the U.S. was now going to “turn the page” on its foreign policy of the past two decades: “We must stay clearly focused on the fundamental national security interests of the United States of America. This decision about Afghanistan is not just about Afghanistan. It’s about ending an era of major military operations to remake other countries.”

Many have been critical of Biden’s pullout, especially leaving American citizens behind inside the country.

There is also a strong belief that this will only continue to weaken American influence in the Middle East and allow both China and Russia to increase their influence in the power vacuum. It will be much harder for the United States to negotiate and create allies in the region after many see the nation as abandoning both the nation at large and specifically the Afghans that allied themselves with the United States over the past 20 years.

Only time will tell how much damage this will do to American prestige in the region and what kind of long-term consequences this will lead to with Russia and China both pushing for greater influence in the region.— PNL

PRAY: Pray for peace in the region and for the Afghani Christians and women who will suffer under Taliban rule.

Massive Life-Like Statues Being Created Across the World

"And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed" (Rev. 13:14-15).

For decades people have wondered what this passage in Revelation 13 could be referring

to; an image that the False Prophet is able to bring to life in some way? An image that can move and speak? An image of the Antichrist that people will bow down and worship? What on earth is John describing? Well, it is possible that we are now seeing technology that is being developed that can mimic many of the elements of this passage.

Developers in Ireland have created a plan in which they will build 21 10 story tall statues around the world. Called "The Giant", it's a programmable, moving statue covered with millions of LED pixels that allow it to take the form of any person. The Giant's arms and head can move to a diversity of positions and its patented skin, a matrix of millions of programmable LED pixels gives it the ability to instantly take the form of any man or woman, boy or girl from historical figures such as Albert Einstein or Amelia Earhart to stars of today from Lionel Messi to Beyoncé.

The Giant can take on any image and can also sing and speak.

The idea was developed by entrepreneur Paddy Dunning, Berlin-based architecture studio Dan Pearlman and backed by the commercial real estate company Enterprise Ireland. Each "Giant" will cost \$18 - \$24 million to develop depending on the location and chosen size, according to a press release. The company estimates the sculpture to bring in about \$14 million in revenue for the host cities and that each of the statues

could be built within 18 months of the start of construction.

While the 21 cities have yet to be formally announced, Phoenix has been identified as a strong possibility for one location.

Speaking about the launch of The Giant, Dunning said; "With patents in place, we are excited to unveil our plans! We have already had interest from investors from Europe, Australia, Abu Dhabi and cities across the US. The beauty of this attraction is that its exhibition can be tailored to individual cities and cultures and the sculpture can be posed in a number of positions to suit the location."

While this is all highly speculative, it shows that the type of technology needed to create something similar to what John describes in the Book of Revelation is already present. People have long scoffed at John's claim that people during the Tribulation



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CENTCOM's area of responsibility – Gantz said that if there is no deal, "we are working to define what Plan B is and start other actions."

According to Gantz, a nuclear Iran would lead to a regional arms race that would be a danger to the entire world. "If Iran reaches a nuclear threshold, I have no doubt that many countries will also try to acquire this capability and it will lead to an arms race that will endanger many countries in the world and not just the Middle East."

Israeli Defense Force Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kohavi also told reporters that Israel's military is accelerating its operational plans against Iran due to the progress of its nuclear program. "The progress of the Iranian nuclear program has led the IDF to accelerate its operational plans and a good part of the recently approved defense budget is earmarked for that," he said. With no diplomatic options likely to push Tehran to stop its nuclear program, Israel's military believes that the Islamic Republic needs to be aware that should it continue with the program, it will face harsher sanctions and

a true military option to stop it. With America's strategy of moving out of the region, it will most likely be up to Israel if action is required.

The NIS 58 billion defense budget set for the IDF in the coming year is expected to allow the Israeli military to focus on the threats posed by Iran across the region, with some NIS 3.5 billion designated specifically for this. Israel considers Iran's nuclear program as its number one concern. Although Iran has consistently denied seeking to build a nuclear bomb, tensions have risen as the West seeks to resume talks on reviving the deal to curb Tehran's nuclear program. Many in Israel are worried that Iran is simply using the negotiations as a stalling tactic to gain reprieve from many of the sanctions that have crippled their economy while they will continue to work to nuclear capability. Regardless of the possible negotiations between Iran, Israel and the West, one thing is clear: between the Taliban's rise in Afghanistan and Iran's desire for nuclear capabilities, the Middle East will continue to be a source of great tension across the world.— PNL

PRAY: Pray Israel will be safe and that Iran's nuclear ambitions will be thwarted.

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would bow down to a little idol like they did in the ancient world.

However, it is much easier to see the Antichrist and the False Prophet creating something as large as Nebuchadnezzar's statue from Daniel 3, using technology to make it look like the Antichrist and demand that people bow down and worship it. This technology

even would allow the statue to speak through a computer program or a recording of the Antichrist's voice.

Technology continues to develop at an amazing rate. While much of it has worked to better lives, some of these technological innovations or others like them will no doubt play a major role during the Tribulation.— PNL

PRAY: As technology continues to advance, pray for world evangelization and for believers to be mindful of warnings mentioned in Revelation about the coming Antichrist.