

Today's News in Light of the Bible

# PROPHETIC Newsletter

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**DR. ED HINDSON**

My dear friends,

I have been proclaiming truths from the Word of God on *The King is Coming* broadcast for over 20 years. And, I plan to keep on doing it for as long as God provides the resources.

Approaching the end of 2021, we can sense God has graciously brought us through another year of challenges, hope and blessing.

Praise God that through it all, the Gospel continues to reach hearts, capture minds and transform lives!

As we herald the good news that Jesus is coming again, it is your support that keep us on the air and in print, year after year.

Today, would you prayerfully consider a year-end gift? It would be a tremendous blessing and would help us stand for the Gospel in the Last Days!

Until He returns,

## China's Weapon Tests Close to a 'Sputnik Moment'



China's testing of a hypersonic missile designed to evade American nuclear defenses was "very close" to a "Sputnik moment" for the United States, Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in the first official confirmation of how Beijing's demonstration of its weapon capabilities had taken American officials by surprise. The tests, which could revive fears of a Cold War-like arms race, come as Beijing is spending heavily to modernize its military and may be seeking to expand its nuclear arsenal.

Hypersonic weapons have a long history, going back

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# State Department Celebrates First Nonbinary Gender 'X' US Passport

The Biden administration announced that it has issued the first-ever U.S. passport for citizens who identify as nonbinary or intersex by using the “X” gender marker instead of “M” for male or “F” for female. Ned Price, the spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State, said in a statement that the department had “issued the first U.S. passport with an X gender marker. We look forward to offering this option to all



routine passport applicants once we complete the required system and form updates in early 2022,” Price added. “The Department also continues to work closely with other U.S. government agencies to ensure as smooth a travel experience as possible for all passport holders, regardless of their gender identity.”

Price said additional updates on the implementation of the X gender marker on passports for people who identify as nonbinary would be found on the website [travel.state.gov/gender](https://travel.state.gov/gender). Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced in June that the State Department would allow people to choose their gender identity for passports even if it contradicts with their biological sex or the gender identity listed on other official documents. “The Department has begun moving toward adding a gender marker for nonbinary, intersex, and gender non-conforming persons applying for a passport or [Consular Report of Birth Abroad],” Blinken said at the time.

“We are evaluating the best approach to achieve this goal. The process of adding a gender marker for nonbinary, intersex, and gender non-conforming persons to these

documents is technologically complex and will take time for extensive systems updates.” The policy change came partly in response to Dana Zzyym, a U.S. Navy Veteran who identifies as nonbinary and intersex who filed a lawsuit to get a passport that reflecting this new identity.

Previously, the State Department had defended the gender binary for passports by arguing that it ensured accuracy, helped identify eligibility, and made passport data useful for other agencies. The department had also previously contended that there was no medical consensus on determining intersex identity and that creating a third designation for sex, such as an “X” mark, was not feasible.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit ruled in May 2020 that three of the five reasons argued by the State Department “lacked record support” and sent the case back down to the district court level. The circuit panel still considered the reasons of helping identify individuals ineligible for passports and helping to make passport data useful for other agencies valid. According to a Rasmussen Reports poll from September, 54% of American adults disapproved of the State Department’s new gender identity passport policy, while 35% said they approved.

This move by the State Department creates two major challenges. First, it shows just how far America has slide from its Judeo-Christian foundation. Even simple facts like the amount

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# US and E3 Warn Against Dangerous Nuclear Escalation in Iran

The United States and the E3 (Germany, France and Britain) urged Iran to resume compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal in order to “avoid a dangerous escalation.” Leaders of the four countries, who are hoping to convince Tehran to stop enriching uranium to near-weapons-grade levels, said they wanted a negotiated solution. “This will only be possible if Iran changes course,” US President Joe Biden, German

Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a joint statement issued on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Rome.

The 2015 nuclear deal unraveled after then-US President Donald Trump withdrew from it in 2018, prompting Iran to breach various limits on uranium enrichment. Talks between Iran and world powers aimed at salvaging the deal, which started in April, are slated to resume at the end of November, the Islamic Republic’s



top nuclear negotiator said. A senior US official told reporters the meeting on Iran at the G20 gathering was suggested by Merkel with the aim of giving leaders an opportunity to review the issues ahead of the resumption of the talks.

In their joint statement, the four leaders said they call “upon President [Ibrahim] Raisi to seize this opportunity and return to a good faith effort to conclude our negotiations as a matter of urgency. That is the only sure way to avoid a dangerous escalation, which is not in any country’s interest.” They said that during their conversation they had shared their “grave and growing concern that, while Iran halted negotiations on a return to the JCPOA since June, it has accelerated the pace of provocative nuclear steps, such as the production of highly enriched uranium and enriched uranium metal.

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of genders, accepted for millennia, are now not only being questioned but are being changed because of the radicalization that has occurred. Things that would never even be dreamed about even twenty years ago are now being accepted. Satan is clearly on the offensive in America.

Second, the State Department’s actions will

make it very difficult to make any changes to this policy in the future. Once a number of people have these passports, then it will be difficult if not impossible to then say that they are no longer valid. American will most likely be flaunting this sin to the world for generations to come.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray our nation that was founded in many ways on the principles of God would turn back to Him.

to the 1960s. But while General Milley did not elaborate, the surprise appears to have arisen from how China joined two different technologies — the launch of a missile that completed a partial orbit of the earth, and a hypersonic vehicle that could plow a suddenly shifting path, maneuvering in ways that would render all current U.S. missile defenses obsolete. At least one of the tests was not completely successful; it reportedly missed an intended target by a wide margin. But the advances suggest that China might one day be able to arm a hypersonic vehicle with a nuclear warhead, launch it into a low orbit, and release it from anyplace — including, perhaps, an evasive flight path over Antarctica.

Existing defenses of the continental United States all point west and north over the Pacific, meaning they might fail in defeating an attack from the south. Even if there were antimissile bases pointed south, current antimissile technology is designed to intercept intercontinental ballistic warheads on predictable, parabolic paths in outer space — not hypersonic weapons that can zig and zag through the atmosphere.

“We just don’t know how we can defend against that technology, neither does China, neither does Russia,” said Ambassador Robert A. Wood, who is retiring in a few weeks as the U.S. representative at arms control sessions in Geneva. Mr. Wood, a longtime American diplomat, spoke before General Milley’s characterization of the test, but noted that hypersonic technology was “something that we have been concerned about” for a long time. “We have held back” from pursuing its military uses, he added, to avoid stoking a new kind of arms race.

The United States has an active hypersonic program of its own, as does Russia and, among others, North Korea. But the U.S. program has run into its own technical difficulties, including a booster failure. Both China and the United States have the resources to work out the bugs, and the concern of many arms control experts is that it could become a new form of competition — at the very moment that President Biden has been looking for ways to avoid a proposed trillion-dollar modernization of the American nuclear forces and delivery systems.

For its part, China said the flight test this summer — it has acknowledged only one, though U.S. officials say there were two — was of a reusable space vehicle, not a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile. “Any country that can put something into space could do this,” said David Wright, a physicist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who has long studied space developments. “And we certainly should not be surprised that China could do this given the sophistication of its space program.”

The tests may, however, have had a deeper resonance for Pentagon officials concerned with how China is flying sorties inside Taiwan’s air identification zone, digging hundreds of new silos for long-range nuclear missiles, building an arsenal of anti-satellite weapons and routinely firing more rockets into space than any other country. Mr. Kirby made clear that the United States was competing in the same arena as China, saying “our own pursuit of hypersonic capabilities is real, it’s tangible, and we are absolutely working towards being able to develop that capability. But I won’t get into the specifics of testing and where we are going.”— *PNL*

**PRAY:** As the world teeters on war, continue to pray for peace and for honorable people to step up and work to de-escalate tensions.

# Apple Takes Down Bible App in China to Appease Communist Regime

Apple has removed a popular Bible app in China after the communist country's regime deemed that the apps violated local laws on hosting religious texts. Bible App by Olive Tree, which has over 1 million downloads had been taken down due to compliance issues, the tech company told the BBC. Apple refused to comment but directed the BBC to its Human Rights Policy: "We're required to comply with local laws, and at times there are complex issues about which we may disagree with governments."

Apple also told the BBC that the apps had been removed because Chinese officials had stated they violated laws on hosting illegal religious texts. "Apple chief executive Tim Cook has been accused of hypocrisy from politicians in the U.S. for speaking out about American politics, but staying quiet about China," the BBC noted. Chinese authorities are also removing Bible apps and Christian WeChat public accounts as new highly restrictive administrative measures on religious staff went into effect earlier this year.

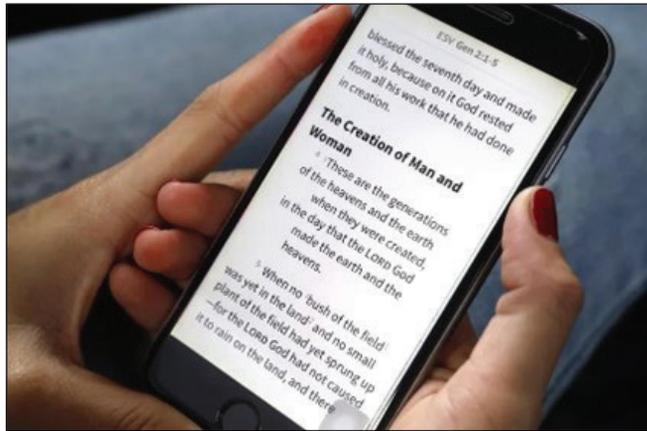
Open Doors estimates that China has more than 97 million Christians, many of whom worship in unregistered or so-called "illegal" underground churches. The U.S.-based persecution watchdog International Christian Concern documented more than 100 incidents of Christian persecution in China between July 2020 and June 2021 as the country's communist regime seeks to forcefully convert independent religious groups into mechanisms

of the Chinese Communist Party. ICC tracked 23 incidents of authorities demolishing religious structures and symbols during its reporting period, the group said in its report.

"The CCP has torn down, destroyed, and removed numerous churches in China, especially those that refused to submit to its control," the report said. The persecution watchdog added in the report that it recorded 14 cases of "Sinicization," which is a state campaign to forcefully assimilate religious groups into CCP-defined Chinese culture.

As an example, ICC highlighted the plight of a church bookstore that was forced to display Mao Zedong's Little Red Book instead of the Bible. The Administration for Religious Affairs also ordered Christians to study President Xi's book and memorize his speeches. Under the direction of President Xi Jinping, officials from the CCP have been enforcing strict controls on religion, according to another report released in March by China Aid.

This type of action by Apple is a very serious offense. In a digital world, many people use electronic Bibles for everyday use and many young people are so reliant on digital Bible apps that they do not even own a paper Bible. If China can tell Apple to remove these apps, then others could as well, limiting access to God's Word throughout the world. This should remind us how easily



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“These steps have only been made more alarming by Iran’s simultaneously decreased cooperation and transparency with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We agreed that continued Iranian nuclear advances and obstacles to the IAEA’s work will jeopardize the possibility of a return to the JCPOA,” the leaders stated. Separately, Merkel said “the clock is ticking. Uranium enrichment is occurring in Iran and this deeply concerns us.” Israel has similarly been concerned that Iran is playing for time in delaying the negotiations so that it can further its nuclear ambitions.

Recently, the US issued a fresh round of Iran-related sanctions tied to an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps drone program that it said threatened regional stability, the Treasury Department said. US officials, in a statement, said the IRGC has been providing UAVs or drones for use by Iran-backed groups, including the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah, and in crisis-hit Ethiopia. “Iran’s proliferation of UAVs across the region threatens international peace and stability. Iran and its proxy militants have used UAVs to attack US forces, our partners,

and international shipping,” Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said. “Treasury will continue to hold Iran accountable for its irresponsible and violent acts.”

The sanctions announced target four people, including Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Brig.-Gen. Saeed Aghajani, who the US says oversees the UAV operations of the Aerospace Force. The Treasury Department’s actions also target two companies – Kimia Part Sivan Co. and Oje Parvaz Mado Nafar Co. – that it said procured components for the program and provided other assistance. The sanctions will block access to property subject to US jurisdiction of the persons designated, while US persons are generally prohibited from engaging in transactions with the designated persons or their blocked property, the Treasury said.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told the country’s state media that “the imposition of new sanctions reflects the completely contradictory behavior of the White House (which) speaks of its intention to return to the nuclear accord and continues to impose sanctions.”— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray for Iran’s mission to achieve a nuclear arsenal to be thwarted.

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large corporations and governments could block access to many of the items that many use everyday in their walk with Christ.

In the future, the Antichrist will persecute believers throughout the world. It is both possible and highly probably if the Tribulation happens relatively soon, then the Antichrist and his minions would be able to either shut down any religious websites and applications that he

did not approve or even track those that access these websites and applications in order to track who should be persecuted. Therefore, this types of attacks against the Bible could be laying the foundation for further religious persecution in the future. While technology can be a great tool in our arsenal, we also must realize that the enemy could also use that same technology in his own evil way.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray for companies like Apple to stop limiting access to God’s Word.