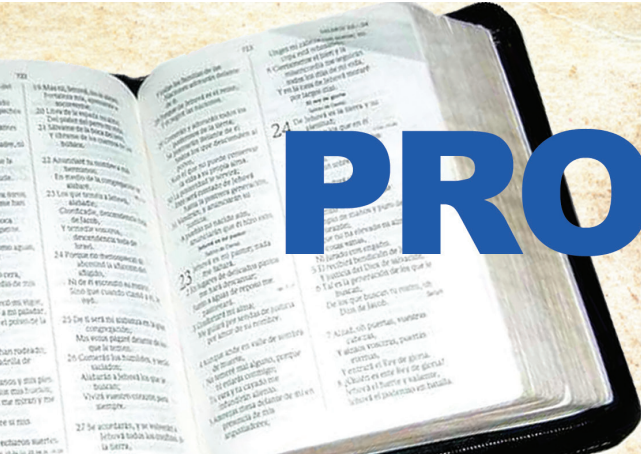


Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC Newsletter

www.TheKingIsComing.com



MARCH 2021

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



DR. ED HINDSON

My dear friends,

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27.

One phrase stands out, *“Let not your heart be troubled.”* If we take our focus off of Christ and only dwell on the political, social, and spiritual divide raging across the world, the future would look so bleak.

Thank you for your faithful support which enables us to use our resources to clearly present the Gospel.

Through World Prophetic Ministry and The King is Coming telecast, we have an international platform to share the HOPE and TRUTH found in God's Word.

Until He returns,

Rise in Christians Killed Worldwide in 2020



In their annual report, Open Doors USA, a Christian persecution watchdog group, noted that in 2020 there continued a global rise in persecution and repression of the Church. The report revealed a 60% increase in believers killed due to Islamic violence against Nigerian Christians as well as anti-Christian governments around the world using COVID-19 restrictions to persecute Christians.

“This past year 2020 has been a year of uncertainty and fear. We’ve been all fighting a virus that we cannot see with the naked eye. Less known but equally as viral has been the discrimination, isolation and violence against Christians by using COVID-19 as a leverage and as justification,” Open Doors President and CEO David Curry stated.

In Nigeria, over 2,200 Christians were murdered by radical Islamists. This number makes up slightly less than half of the 4,761 Christians killed for their faith worldwide, according to Open Doors statistics. Most of

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European Central Bank Discussing a Digital Currency

The push for a digital, cashless society continues to gain momentum as European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde signaled that her institution could create a digital currency within years in what would be a dramatic change to the euro zone's financial sector. "My hunch is that it will come," Lagarde said during a virtual panel discussion hosted by the ECB. "If it's cheaper, faster, more secure for the



users then we should explore it. If it's going to contribute to a better monetary sovereignty, a better autonomy for the euro area, I think we should explore it."

The president said it might be two to four years before the project could be launched as it addresses concerns over money laundering, privacy, and the technology involved. That's still fast compared to its peers. On the same panel, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell and Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey reiterated their caution. Powell said the Fed will "carefully and thoughtfully" review the issue, and Bailey said there's a "lot of hard work to think through the implications."

The ECB took a major step by launching a public consultation that runs until the middle of January. Policy makers intend to decide around mid-2021 whether to initiate a full-fledged project and prepare for a possible launch. China is also advance with plans for a central-bank digital currency. "We're not racing to be first," Lagarde said. "We are moving ahead diligently, not incautiously. We will be prudent."

There is little doubt that digital currency is

safer in many ways. As ECB President Lagarde says, it will contribute toward the fight against international money laundering crimes. This is just one step closer to total financial control. The world has progressed from bartering to hard currency, and later paper money. BankNoteWorld.com reports that paper money originated in China during the Tang Dynasty. It was the famous traveler, Marco Polo, who visited China sometime in 1275

and discovered Chinese paper money.

Today, the whole world uses this system, although much more sophisticated and technologically advanced ones exist. It's still just a piece of paper; or in Australia, plastic. In actual fact, it's intrinsically worthless; you can't eat it, you can't put it in your fuel tank, but people the world over have faith in their currency. Subsequently, it became the powerhouse that drives the world economy.

Digital currency is just the next logical step. But all that is being worked on in conjunction with personal identity—for example, a credit card. When one opens an account with a company, the number becomes the decisive identity. From that point on, the possessor of the card can go shopping. While this would make it very easy for a person to shop and keep track of their money on their smartphones, it also would make it incredibly easy to control who can buy and use this system. Just like when you lose your debit card and you then contact your bank and stop that card from being used, someone in

See **DIGITAL CURRENCY** on page 3

Return to 2015 Iran Deal a Mistake

There is strong concern in Israel that new President Joe Biden will return to the Iranian Nuclear Deal that he helped to create while he was Vice President in 2015. Iran has long declared that President Trump's abandonment of the deal was illegal and only increased tension in the region. Iran is now pushing for President Biden to return to the deal and remove sanctions against their nation.



maintain all sanctions and pressure because Tehran is at its weakest and closest to making real concessions,” he added.

Kochavi said he had ordered operational plans to strike Iran's nuclear program to be ready if necessary, but whether to use those plans and under what circumstances was a decision for the political echelon. Israel's strikes

However, a return to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, or a “slightly improved” one, would be an operational and strategic mistake for the world, IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Aviv Kochavi said recently. “If Iran's progress in developing advanced centrifuges and enriching uranium are not stopped, it could eventually be “only weeks” away from a nuclear bomb.

The Iran deal would still allow the Islamic Republic to break out to a nuclear weapon in 2030 when the agreement expires”, he said at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) annual conference. “The US and others must

in Syria and other undefined parts of the Middle East had created the greatest deterrence Israel has ever known against its enemies. The IDF had tremendous success in blocking or slowing Iran from transporting advanced weapons into Syria, but it could never let its guard down. Moreover, the normalization trend is isolating Iran in ways that it never expected and was not prepared for, declared Kochavi.

Regarding other challenges, Kochavi warned Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, saying in the event of a war, Israel would

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the future would be able to stop certain bank accounts from accessing their funds.

This reminds us of Revelation 13:17: “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.”

Today in a society still based upon paper

currency, one can still put their cash under their mattress and then go to the store to buy goods or even go to a neighbor and make purchases. However, in a truly cashless society, this ability could be dramatically limited, which would seem to fit well with what Revelation describes during the Tribulation period. — PNL

PRAY: The time is short. We do not know the time or day of Christ's return; therefore, today we need to pray for worldwide revival and for the salvation of unbelievers!

the Christians killed in 2020 gave up their lives to extremist groups, not governments, Curry said. “Extremists [...] are emboldened by government weakened by COVID-19 restrictions, knowing that they can steal food and medical supplies from already embattled Christian communities around the world,” he continued.

Violence by Islamists in Nigeria amounts to genocide, Curry said. Attacks have spilled over into neighboring countries. Across Africa, even countries with sizable Christian majorities like Mozambique and Burkina Faso have suffered from Islamic persecution. It only takes a few extremists to commit violence against Christians.

Other persecution hotspots around the globe include China and India, Open Doors announced. In China, the Communist Party has cracked down on Christians by using surveillance technology. In the last year, it has integrated its social credit and video security system, enabling it to track its people and punish them for attending church.

In India, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party has encouraged persecution of Christians by sanctioning Hindu extremism, Open Doors research found. The party has told its nation that only Hindus are truly Indian. Political leaders have discouraged police from responding to attacks on Christians.

“I put the responsibility at the feet of the ruling party, the BJP, which is very nationalistic. Their message to the population

has been, ‘we want India to be a Hindu nation,’” said Curry. “I have a strong belief that if most Indian citizens knew what was happening in these Christian communities they would vote for different people.”

In many countries, Christians lose their jobs because of COVID-19. Then, governments

refuse to provide aid to believers and employers don’t hire them back. It looks like more suffering caused by COVID-19, but it’s a quiet persecution. “In the northeast of Nigeria, Christians have been reporting only 15% of the emergency rations that others have gotten. COVID has clearly affected all of us around the world, yet for some their faith has

made them more vulnerable,” Curry noted.

For the first time, every country in Open Doors’ list of the top 50 persecutors has very high or extreme levels of persecution. And, it seems that this trend will likely continue.

“The embedded forces that are driving these scores up, religious extremists, Hindu extremism in Nepal, Hindu extremism in India, the Islamic extremist groups which we most recognize as ISIS or al Qaeda, that’s an ideology that does not need a territory. When ISIS was conquered, that cancer has metastasized around the world. That trend is growing in strength. You also have governments now who have the ability to use surveillance to watch private behavior,” said Curry. “Christians face the most persecution worldwide because they are the largest minority faith in many countries.” — PNL

*“Who shall separate us
from the love of Christ?
shall tribulation, or
distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness,
or peril, or sword?”*

Romans 8:35

PRAY: Pray for the persecuted church throughout the world as many put their lives on the line every day for the cause of Christ.

Florida Humanist Gives First Secular Invocation During Meeting

A Florida county that previously prohibited secular invocations at public meetings had its first non-religious invocation following a years long court battle. The Brevard County Board of Commissioners meeting opened with a secular invocation given by local humanist David Williamson.

“As we begin the day in service together, we remember the solemn responsibility we have to our shared community,” said Williamson in his invocation.

“Knowing that our words, our decisions, and our actions directly impact so many others, we strive to make compassion the foundation for our important work here today and that we serve with integrity and kindness toward one another and to all those you serve as representatives in local government.”

Williamson closed his statement by calling on all to “incline our ears toward reason, apply our heart to understanding, and seek knowledge we can use to find common ground among the citizens for the betterment of the county.”

In 2014, David Williamson of the Central Florida Freethought Community asked the Brevard County Commissioners to do a secular invocation at the start of an official meeting.

In response to the request, Brevard commissioners unanimously approved a measure prohibiting atheist invocations, but they agreed to allow them during the public comments portion of public meetings.

“The prayer is delivered during the ceremonial portion of the county’s meeting, and typically invokes guidance for the County Commission from the highest spiritual authority, a higher authority which a substantial body of Brevard constituents believe to exist,” wrote Brevard County Chair



Mary Bolin Lewis to Williamson in 2014. “The invocation is also meant to lend gravity to the occasion, to reflect values long part of the county’s heritage, and to acknowledge the place religion holds in the lives of many private citizens in Brevard County.”

Williamson and others sued the county over the ban in 2015, being represented by Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the Freedom From Religion Foundation, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

In September 2017, a district court ruled against the county and in July 2019, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit unanimously upheld the decision. Circuit Judge Stanley Marcus wrote the panel’s opinion, arguing that while the county was allowed to have sectarian invocations at public meetings, they cannot exclude certain groups.

“Brevard County has selected invocation speakers in a way that favors certain monotheistic religions and categorically excludes from consideration other religions solely based on their belief systems. Brevard County’s process of selecting invocation

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strike every house that holds weapons “with a deluge of strikes. “These “terrorist armies” have decided to conceal their weapons in civilian areas on purpose and in every fifth house in Lebanon”, he said, adding that all civilians in those areas must immediately evacuate as soon as a war starts because Israel will not give the terrorists immunity just because that is where they are hiding.

“We will follow international law,” he said. “We will warn them in Lebanon and Gaza to let them leave. I already warned you in Lebanon and Gaza: Once war starts, we will let you leave the places you are in, the places you are in have missiles, and you know this.”

New cutting-edge intelligence and technological capabilities that help the IDF uncover hidden weapons with unprecedented accuracy would help destroy enemy rockets and

avoid civilian deaths, Kochavi said.

“The pace for gathering targets is much faster than ever,” he said, adding that more than 200 officers are dedicated to the sole purpose of vetting selected targets “to help get to a much more decisive point” in battling our enemies. Kochavi cited the IDF’s targeted killing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) commander Baha Abu al-Ata and responding to every rocket by hitting targets of significant value to Hamas and PIJ.

On a related note, Israel is under constant cyber threat from a range of radical Islamists, Kochavi said. To meet this challenge, the IDF “significantly increased its cyberattack capabilities and operations” this past year. Recently, Israel has also signed normalization agreements with four Arab countries, agreements that strengthen Israel within the region. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for wisdom for both Israel and the United States in how to move forward with Iran and their desire to become a nuclear power.

SECULAR INVOCATION from page 5

speakers thus runs afoul of the Establishment Clause,” wrote Judge Marcus.

“Secular humanists are far from the only group viewed with disfavor ... some of the Commissioners and former Commissioners have testified unambiguously that they would not allow deists, Wiccans, Rastafarians, or, for that matter, polytheists to deliver prayers, and that they would have to think long and hard before inviting a Hindu, a Sikh, or a follower of a Native American religion.”

In February 2020, the county agreed to a

settlement allowing secular invocations and paying \$430,000 in court costs and legal fees, as well as \$60,000 in damages to the plaintiffs. Alex J. Luchenitser, associate legal director for Americans United who helped represent the plaintiffs, expressed support for the settlement in a statement released at the time. “This settlement protects the religious freedom of everyone in Brevard County. No one should be excluded from participating in local government because of their beliefs about religion,” said Luchenitser. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for our nation as secular humanism continues to rise and replace Christianity as the dominant worldview within our culture.