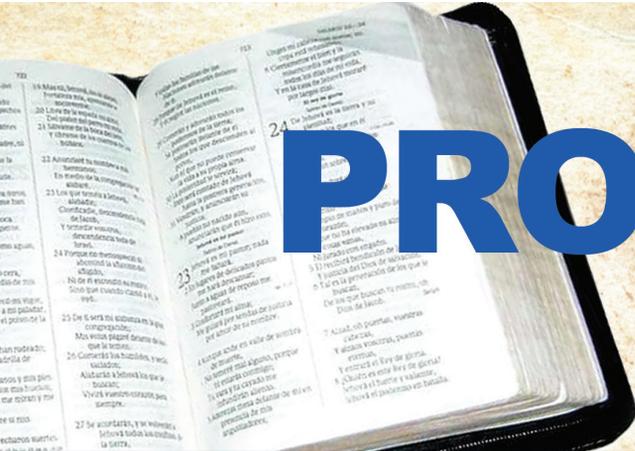


Today's News in Light of the Bible

# PROPHETIC Newsletter

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## Interim Iran Nuclear Deal on the Horizon?



**DR. ED HINDSON**

My dear friends,

A question I frequently face is “How much time is really left?” Jesus told the disciples in Matthew the end of the age will come when the task of world evangelization is complete – when the message of the Gospel has been preached in all the world for a witness to all nations.

As Bible prophecy is being revealed all around us, we need to remind ourselves that we cannot determine the future based on the news alone.

**You do not interpret Bible prophecy in light of current events. You interpret current events in light of Bible prophecy!**

At World Prophetic Ministry and the King is Coming telecast, we are serving and sharing the Gospel until the day of Christ's glorious return! Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Until He returns,



All of the messaging by Iran, the US and most especially by Russia and China is that an interim new Iran nuclear deal on the road to returning to the 2015 JCPOA is moving ahead at full steam.

The Mossad, according to sources and foreign reports, hit the Islamic Republic's nuclear facility in Natanz big time, yet the deal is still progressing. Tehran jumped to 60% uranium enrichment, an unprecedented nuclear violation, and the deal is going forward. The how and when seems to be getting clearer. The how is through an interim deal that will forecast what a return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action's (JCPOA) terms some months or more into the future will look like.

The US does not want to look like it rushed back in

# US Embassies Allowed to Fly LGBT Pride Flags Again

The LGBT movement within the United States again declared victory after the U.S. State Department has authorized embassies worldwide to display the rainbow pride flag on embassy flagpoles along with the American flag, which reverses the Trump-era policy. In a State



Department cable, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the diplomatic outposts are not required to fly the LGBT pride flag but can decide if it is appropriate to display on the flagpole “in light of local conditions.” The rainbow pride flag can be displayed before May 17, the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, through the end of June, according to the cable and a State Department official who spoke with the New York Times.

June is officially recognized as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City, which are viewed by many as the beginning of the gay rights movement. In the cable, State Department officials were told to follow the “do no harm” policy to prevent backlash against the local LGBT population. “Posts should support efforts to repeal [criminalization] legislation, while ensuring that ‘do no harm’ remains our overarching principle so U.S. efforts do not inadvertently result in backlash or further marginalization of the LGBTQI+ community,” the cable was quoted as stating.

Franklin Graham criticized the decision on Facebook. He said just because something is “authorized” does not make it right. “Why should a flag representing one group of people and a specific agenda be literally raised up above all others and allowed to fly at our embassies and consulates?” Graham wrote.

“The embassies represent the United States of America on foreign soil—only the U.S. flag should be flown. Not the gay pride flag, not the Christian flag, not any other flag.”

“The previous administration had a one-flag rule that the Biden administration has rescinded,” he continued. “Our U.S. flag represents the sacrifice, the honor, the unity, the patriotism—and the blood—that made America great. Pray for our nation and our leaders.” The Trump administration denied requests from U.S. embassies to display the rainbow flag on the embassy flagpole to celebrate LGBT Pride Month and only allowed the American flag to be flown on the flagpole.

In defense of former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s one-flag rule, former Vice President Mike Pence told NBC News in June 2019 that he and the president believe only the U.S. flag should be displayed on the embassy flagpole. “We both feel that way very passionately, but when it comes to the American flagpole, and American embassies, and capitals around the world, one American

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# Iran's Election to UN Women's Body Draws Outrage From Rights Activists

Iran's election to the U.N.'s top women's empowerment body despite having a poor record has drawn outrage from rights activists who criticized the Islamic republic's treatment of women. The result of the secret ballot also has been met with silence from the U.S. 43 of the 54 nations in the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) elected Iran to the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning next year. The commission is the U.N.'s principal intergovernmental body dedicated to "the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women."

Iran received the smallest number of votes of the five nations elected to the body. Of the other four elected nations, China and Japan were already commission members while Lebanon and Pakistan will be new additions. Iran currently is not a member of the commission. Iran's poor record on women's rights was under fire at the world body as recently as last month.

In his annual address to the U.N. Human



Rights Council, U.N. Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran, Javaid Rehman, noted "some positive steps" for Iranian women and girls in education and in citizenship rights. But he also said, "egregious gender-based discrimination persists in law, practice and societal attitudes, disempowering women and girls from

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flag flies," Pence proclaimed. The Trump administration's State Department reportedly denied requests from U.S. embassies in Brazil, Germany, Israel and Latvia to fly the rainbow pride flag for LGBT Pride Month.

During the Obama administration, embassies were allowed to fly the rainbow flag under the American flag on the embassy flagpole. Blinken pledged to support the LGBT agenda by flying the pride flag at U.S. embassies and reinstating the special envoy for the human

rights of LGBTI persons upon being sworn in this January. This is a sad change of affairs, as America, once was a beacon of Christianity to the world, used its influence to spread Christian values and traditions and sent missionaries around the globe. Instead, it now supports and spreads an anti-God agenda around the world. America, like many nations in the Old Testament, has decided to flaunt its sin. We will only see if God chooses to bring judgment on the nation in a similar manner. — *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray America will turn from its sinful ways and back to God.

and wants to hold on to some of the sanctions leverage to get Iran to agree, at least in principle, to some kind of further negotiations to lengthen and strengthen the JCPOA at some point in 2022 or 2023. Washington also wants whoever the next president of Iran is after June 18 to be on board with the deal and does not want to finalize it before that point.

So the Biden administration was not going to complete a return to the JCPOA before the June Iranian elections – as predicted by former IDF intelligence chief Aharon Ze’evi-Farkash to *The Jerusalem Post*.

But on May 21, a three-month postponement of Iran’s conflict with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) nuclear inspectors will expire. The Islamic Republic’s parliament had demanded that its government cut all ties with the IAEA on February 21.

The three-month extension – not coincidentally ending in time for Iranian elections – was a way to gain space for negotiations, but not too much space. With an interim deal, the pragmatist camp in Iran hopes it can keep control of the presidency, even though Hassan Rouhani cannot run for a third term.

The rest of the terms of the deal still appear up in the air. But the heading back to capitals appears to be to get authorization to cut the deal upon a return to negotiations. Also, leaks indicate that Iran will agree to the US formula

of simultaneous and sequential lifting of sanctions for returning to the JCPOA nuclear limitations, provided the upfront “payment” in releasing frozen Iranian funds is many more billions of dollars than merely the unfreezing of Iranian assets in South Korea.

Recent leaks indicate Iranian funds in Iraq and possibly elsewhere may also be added to a down payment, which the pragmatists can wave as a victory during the June elections.

Many things could still topple the apple cart before May 21, or they could block a full return to the JCPOA post-May 21. For one, it is blatantly false that Iran can return in a matter of days, given that it could take months for it to sell and otherwise dispose of its stock of enriched uranium that is several times above the 300-kg. JCPOA limit. But if both the US and Iran are so devoted to a return that the major events of the last couple weeks did not disrupt them, Israel may need to already start preparing its strategies for a JCPOA 2.0 reality.

If this deal does go through, it will create some tension in the region, as Israel has actively denounced the possible deal. Also, if Iran does receive the type of funds being discussed, they could very easily use some of that funding to continue to put pressure on Israel, both economically and militarily.— PNL



**PRAY:** Pray that peace will happen and Israel will remain safe.

# Amazon Unveils New Palm Technology in Retail Stores

Amazon, alongside Apple, has been one of the major companies developing new technology to allow for making purchases without cash or a physical credit card. They are expanding to its biggest area yet: the company is now testing its palm-scanning payment technology in Whole Foods, starting with a single store in Amazon's home city of Seattle. The company has been using Amazon One payment technology in its Amazon-branded stores in the Seattle area (including Amazon Go and Amazon Books), but the Whole Foods rollout will make the most substantial expansion of the technology yet. The company says that thousands of customers have already signed up with Amazon One.

Amazon's palm reading starts at the grocery store, but it could be so much bigger. According to an Amazon FAQ, the palm-scanning technology analyzes "the minute characteristics of your palm — both surface-area details like lines and ridges as well as subcutaneous features such as vein patterns" in order to identify a customer, allowing them to use the biometric scan as an alternative method of checking out instead of credit card or cash. It is essentially using a "palm print" instead of a finger print to make purchases.

Customers will be able to register their palms at kiosks in the supported Whole Foods stores, allowing them to associate a physical credit card to that palm scan. After that point, the palm scan will serve as the physical card when checking out at the store. Amazon One will debut at the Madison Broadway Whole Foods in Seattle as an additional payment option for customers, with plans to expand it to seven other Whole Foods stores in the Seattle area over the next few months. Amazon hasn't announced plans to further build out the palm-scanning payment system



outside of the Seattle area.

All of this, of course, assumes that people are okay with Amazon building an ever-larger database of biometric information linked to its customers, something that some experts have raised concerns about. That's particularly true given that Amazon's data — unlike other biometric security systems, like Apple's Face ID — is stored in on the cloud, rather than secured locally on a specific device.

While this technology itself is not necessarily a bad thing, it is easy to see the trajectory the economy is moving toward. More and more companies are pushing for a "cashless" society. Credit and debit cards have already replaced cash for many. This new technology could lead to an even further delve into this movement. It seems if the trajectory continues, it will not be long before currency becomes a thing of the past.

Why does this impact prophecy? Revelation describes a global economy and the mark of the beast, which will be used to control the global economy. People will not be able to "buy or sell" unless they take the mark of the beast. While this technology itself is not the mark of the beast, it does show that

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participating and contributing in society.”

Austria-based Iranian rights activist Sholeh Zamini denounced Iran's election to the commission as “shameful.” She said Iran will be the only country in the 45-member commission to have not ratified the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. “Not only has Iran not done this, but it is acting quite systematically to violate women's rights,” she said.

Other Iranian women's rights activists expressed similar sentiments on social media. Hillel Neuer, the executive director of the Geneva-based group UN Watch, said in an online statement that while ECOSOC typically rubber-stamps regional groups' nominations for the Commission on the Status of Women, the U.S. exercised its authority as an ECOSOC member to call for a vote. “I commend the Biden administration for forcing the vote, but they should also speak out to condemn the obscene election of [Iranian Supreme Leader] Ayatollah Khamenei's regime to a women's rights body,” Neuer said.

Since only 11 of ECOSOC's 54 members did not vote for Iran in Tuesday's secret ballot, Neuer noted that at least four of the council's

15 European Union (EU) and Western Group democracies voted in favor of Iran. The State Department did not respond to a request for comment on how the U.S. voted and what it thinks of votes by its allies. Neuer expressed disappointment in the U.S. “going silent” on the issue. “Those who believe in the founding values of the United Nations cannot be silent when they are subverted,” he wrote.

In the Biden administration's first report on Iran's human rights record published last month, the State Department highlighted multiple issues with women's rights including a “lack of meaningful investigation of and accountability for violence against women” and “significant legal, religious, and cultural barriers to political participation” for women. “I hope that the U.S. & EU states negotiating with the Iranian regime over its nuclear weapons program did not make a Faustian bargain to betray women in Iran who are subjugated, discriminated against in law and practice and criminalized if they sing, dance or show their hair,” Neuer said.

This is yet another display of the United Nations favoring Iran, even though they have blatant rights violations and constantly attacks Israel over every move that they make.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray nations will be held accountable for their actions and that justice will prevail.

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the technology and mindset is moving in that direction. This technology is especially notable because it specifically marks your purchase based on your unique identity.

If this kind of technology expands, it would be easy for the Antichrist to control a global economy. He could flip a switch and make

it to where only those who are identified in a database as having taken the mark of the beast could make purchases. For centuries people have questioned how the Antichrist could deny those that refuse to be marked the ability to purchase goods. Perhaps we are seeing the technology that will lead to this ability.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray for emerging technology and its role in prophecy and the End Times.