

Today's News in Light of the Bible

# PROPHETIC Newsletter

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**AUGUST 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,

As America opens back up to more “normal” activities, it is apparent how desperately our nation needs spiritual healing.

Believers — black, white, rich, poor, and everybody in between — need to come together to pray, talk, act, and support one another. Let it begin with you and me!

Your gifts help our ministry equip the saints with the truths found in God’s Word as well as to continue to share the Gospel!

I believe the past year and half is just a precursor of things to come. It is a warning from God. The Book of Revelation predicts a series of global divine judgments that will occur.

In Matthew 24:42-46 Jesus encourages us to keep watch, be ready and keep serving. Thank you for enabling us to do so!

Until He returns,

*Ed Hindson*

## Pray for New Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett



**Naftali Bennett (left) and Yair Lapid (right) convinced eight parties across the political spectrum to work together. Bennett will serve as Prime Minister and Lapid as Foreign Minister. After two years, they will switch offices.**

As Naftali Bennett was sworn in as Israel’s new prime minister, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Hamas threatened to attack Jerusalem. Ending the rule of Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel’s longest-serving prime minister, parliament approved by a razor-thin 60–59 majority a new “government of change” to be led by 49-year-old Bennett. As part of a deal with his centrist and left-wing coalition, Bennett will be replaced as prime minister by 57-year-old Yair Lapid in 2023.

Netanyahu, 71, has pledged he would soon return

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# Harris Becomes First Sitting Vice President to March in Pride Event

Vice President Kamala Harris has made history once again, becoming the first sitting Vice President to march in a Pride event. Harris participated in a march with Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff during Capital Pride in Washington, D.C. She wore a “love is love” t-shirt as she walked with other Pride-goers to a rally at Freedom Plaza, telling them, “Happy Pride!”

She spoke briefly at the event, advocating for the passage of the Equality Act while expressing her and President Joe Biden’s commitment to advancing LGBTQ rights. “We need to make sure that our transgender community and our youth are all protected. We need, still, protections around employment and housing,” Harris said, according to NBC Washington. “There is so much more work to do, and I know we are committed.”

The Vice President also observed the fifth anniversary of the Pulse Nightclub shooting on Twitter, paying tribute to the 49 people who were killed at the Orlando gay club on June 12, 2016. “Five years ago, 49 LGBTQ+ people and allies were enjoying an evening out at Pulse Nightclub,” she wrote. “And then, in an instant, they were gone. Today, we remember those who died and their loved ones—and we recommit to building a world free from gun violence.”

Harris’ post came as President Biden issued his own statement announcing that he’ll sign a piece of legislation to name the nightclub a national memorial, which recently passed the House and Senate. He also advocated for stricter gun control and the passage of the

Equality Act, acknowledging that the LGBTQ community is disproportionately impacted by gun violence, particularly transgender women of color. “In the memory of all of those lost at the Pulse nightclub five years ago, let us continue the work to be a nation at our best—one that recognizes and protects the dignity and safety of every American,” Biden said in his statement.



The Biden/Harris administration has made LGBTQ issues one of their priorities, restoring transgender healthcare protections and removing Donald Trump’s ban on transgender military members. One of Biden’s first executive orders was calling for an end to discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation. “Children should be able to learn without worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room, or school sports,” the order read. “Adults should be able to earn a living and pursue a vocation knowing that they will not be fired, demoted, or mistreated because of whom they go home to or because how they dress does not conform to sex-based stereotypes. People should be able to access healthcare and secure a roof over their heads without being subjected to sex discrimination.”

Many Evangelicals had warned prior to the election that a Biden/Harris ticket would push for these types of progressive policies. The Left has completely accepted the LGBTQ cause, with few exceptions, and will continue

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# US Set to Delay Next Round of Iran Nuclear Deal Talks

The US is seeking to extend the time between rounds of indirect nuclear talks with Iran in order to talk to the new Israeli government more about its position. Washington feels that the negotiations to return to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal are worth delaying in order to better cooperate with Israel, a source with knowledge of the US President Joe Biden's administration's side of the talks said.

The new government plans to send experts to Washington to discuss ways to better enforce the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action's limitations on Iran's nuclear program, including which sanctions to keep intact as some will be removed if the US returns to the deal. This is a sharp departure from former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy, as he blocked any dialogue about the Biden administration's plan to reenter the JCPOA.

Middle East Program Director at the Kelman Institute for Conflict Transformation Ofer Zalzburg said that "the sense in Washington is that post-Netanyahu Israel...wants to prevent an Iranian nuclear weapon through a strong



Newly elected Iranian President, Ebrahim Raisi

agreement. The US is keen on cooperative relations with Israel on this, though it would mean taking time for dialogue with Israel's new government - and hence a delay in negotiations with Iran - and likely placing more demanding positions to Iran."

The new Israeli government is conducting a policy review on how it plans to handle the Iran nuclear threat and the likelihood that the

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to drive this agenda forward, regardless of how it impacts religious freedom for Christians, Jews and Muslims.

Women's sports are already being impacted, with many transgender females dominating sports across the country. As more and more of these policies become standard throughout the nation and as generations grow up with

this worldview enforced through the school systems, it will become much more difficult to both eliminate the policies further down the line and to hold to a Christian view on gender issues. As this agenda continues, it will soon impact many areas of life, including the workplace, public schools, universities and religious organizations. — PNL

**PRAY:** Pray this push against the ways of God will be stopped and that America will return to the biblical view of gender.



to power, *The Epoch Times* reported. Netanyahu's support has declined since 2009 since going through a corruption trial though denying any wrongdoing.

Bennett is not likely to introduce any drastic measures in relation to sensitive international issues, including policy toward the Palestinians, and has said he will focus more on healing the country's divisions and restoring a sense of normalcy.

The new prime minister's alliance includes a party that represents its 21% Arab minority, which has close family relations with the Palestinians, although Bennett is opposed to Palestinian independence and supports Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Bennett is also expected to maintain Israel's hard-line stance on Iran and oppose U.S. President Joe Biden's efforts to revive its international nuclear deal. He has briefly served as head of the West Bank settler's council, called Yesha, and as cabinet minister of diaspora affairs, education and defense in various Netanyahu-led governments.

On the day of his swearing-in, the PLO's Jerusalem Department threatened to carry out an "explosion" to push his administration to cancel a march called "Flag Parade," stating its violence could extend beyond Jerusalem to the Palestinian territories if the march takes place. Hamas reportedly issued a warning saying it had not ruled out resuming rocket fire at cities across the country.

Meanwhile, President Biden spoke to the new Israeli prime minister on the phone to congratulate Bennett and to continue to strengthen ties between the two countries, *The Jerusalem Post* reported. "On behalf of the American people, I congratulate Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Alternate Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, and

all the members of the new Israeli cabinet," Biden said in a statement. "Israel has no better friend than the United States. The bond that unites our people is evidence of our shared values and decades of close cooperation."

Biden added, "My administration is fully committed to working with the new Israeli government to advance security, stability, and peace for Israelis, Palestinians, and people throughout the broader region."

The Foreign Ministry of the United Arab Emirates also congratulated both Bennett and Lapid, saying, "We look forward to working together to advance regional peace, strengthen tolerance and coexistence, and embark upon a new era of cooperation in technology, trade, and investment."

Many Evangelicals have spoken out in support of both Netanyahu's time as Prime Minister and Bennett's new administration.

Author and Israel expert, Joel C. Rosenberg explains, "Netanyahu is the only Israeli premier that almost any evangelical knows. He is certainly the most respected and trusted." Even though evangelicals do not know much about Bennett or Lapid, trust can be developed "because above all, evangelicals love and support Israel unconditionally – they want the best for the Jewish state, regardless of who leads the country – but it will take time and a concerted effort."

Mike Huckabee wrote "It will take years for the new leadership to develop the depth of relationships that Netanyahu had fostered over his 12 consecutive years and 15 total. Having said that, Israel is where it is because of God, not any one man or political party." Huckabee said that he has known Bennett for over 10 years and has "high hopes that he will use his very significant executive skills to keep Israel stable and secure."— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray for the new leadership in Israel and for peace to continue in the region.

# Victory for Religious Freedom in the Supreme Court

The United States Supreme Court recently gave an important win for religious freedom. In a unanimous 9-0 decision, the US Supreme Court ruled decidedly in favor of what had been traditional understandings of the religious free exercise clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*. In this case, the City of Philadelphia had attempted to block a Catholic adoption agency from being allowed to function unless they would give children to LGBTQ families.

There are several important aspects of this decision that are very encouraging to those who cherish religious freedom. First, the decision was unanimous (9-0). Given the fractious nature of this Court, particularly on issues involving the LGBTQ community, this fact alone signals a significant Court shift on this issue. Second, the fact that the unanimous opinion was written by the Court's Chief Justice, John Roberts, adds to the signaled significance of this opinion given his perceived reticence in recent years to take decisive and bold action on contentious culture war issues.

Third, the decision amplifies the fact that elections have consequences. If Hillary Clinton had won the 2016 presidential election, Justices Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Barrett would not be Supreme Court Justices and a President Clinton would have appointed justices who would have ruled in a very different fashion and would have exercised a

gravitational pull on the more liberal justices: Kagan, Breyer, and Sotomayor.

Instead, we have a unanimous decision affirming the free exercise of religious rights of Americans and refuting the drumbeat of articles in law school journals and other venues over the last two decades. The argument was that when LGBTQ rights conflict with traditional religious beliefs, religious free exercise rights must always give way as if every issue was, and is, a “zero sum” game where one side must win and the other side must lose.

Many of those defending exceptions that respect genuine religious convictions have argued this is not the case and the rights of the LGBTQ community could be recognized while still respecting the religious convictions of their fellow citizens. The *Fulton* decision proves the “zero sum” belief of complete winners and complete losers was fallacious.

Chief Justice Roberts writes in his unanimous opinion “the City has burdened the religious exercise of CSS through policies that do not meet the requirement of being neutral and generally applicable.” He then significantly notes the decision “prohibits no one from serving children,” but rather “simply ends a state discrimination” against those with deeply held religious convictions. Roberts is arguing that both the LGBTQ and



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US will return to the JCPOA. Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid is expected to ask US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is what he means by seeking a “longer and stronger” JCPOA, as Blinken has repeatedly said.

The trip will be Lapid’s first as foreign minister and the first meeting between members of the new Israeli government and President Joe Biden’s cabinet. Blinken and Lapid have spoken twice and seek to meet in person as soon as possible. The meeting will take place in Rome, because Lapid does not want to upstage Prime Minister Naftali Bennett allowing him to have the first trip to Washington.

Iran is one of a number of issues Lapid and Blinken plan to discuss. Another is the US plan to open a consulate to the Palestinians in Jerusalem. IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi was in Washington recently, where he met with US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and other senior officials to discuss

regional challenges, foremost of which was Iranian aggression and its nuclear ambitions, and presented ways to block Iran’s nuclear capabilities, the IDF Spokesperson said. Kohavi was also expected to meet with CIA Director William Burns and Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines.

These talks are ongoing as recent changes in Iran also occurred. Ebrahim Raisi, the Iranian judiciary chief who was sanctioned by the US for human rights violations in light of his involvement in thousands of executions, won the Iranian presidential election and will begin his new administration in August.

It is expected he will continue Iran’s stance on the destruction of Israel and their continued disruptions in the Middle East. However, some Iranian officials have suggested Tehran may prefer an agreement before Raisi takes office to give the new president a clean slate and avoid blame if problems subsequently arise.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray these new administrations will do God’s will in this region and that ultimately, Israel will be protected from nuclear attack.

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Catholic Social Services (CSS) community can be accommodated and more needy children can be served.

As the Chief Justice also noted, CSS “seeks only an accommodation that will allow it to continue serving the children of Philadelphia in a manner consistent with its religious beliefs; it does not seek to impose those beliefs on anyone else.” One could only wish the LGBTQ community were as tolerant and as accommodating of their fellow citizens as CSS

has demonstrated itself to be.

This is indeed a decision to greatly encourage those who love and believe in freedom of conscience from government coercion in matters of religion. It shows at the very least the Supreme Court has a conservative majority willing to block overzealous governments that attempt to override the First Amendment. How widespread the Supreme Court will defend religious freedom in other areas is yet to be seen for religious groups.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray the Supreme Court will continue to defend religious freedoms in facing of continued opposition from the political left.