

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC Newsletter

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DR. ED HINDSON

My dear friends,

It was an uncertain time with King Uzziah died, that the prophet Isaiah: *“I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up”* (6:1).

All too often believers look around at world events and lose their focus on the sovereign power of God.

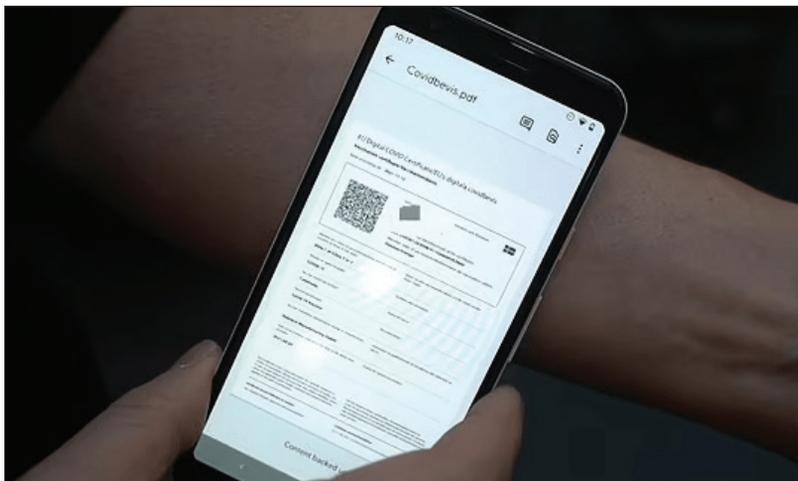
The prophet Daniel said: *“the most High rules over the Kingdom of men and gives it to whosoever he will”* (4:17).

No matter who is in charge of the earthly kingdoms of men, God is still in charge. He allows for man to rule in a limited sense, but also holds man accountable for that rule as the sovereign Lord of the universe.

The world urgently needs the Gospel. Thank you for helping us share the HOPE of salvation found in Jesus Christ!

Until He returns,

Swedish Company Creating a Prototype for the Mark of the Beast?



Epicenter, a Stockholm-based startup, unveiled a new way of carrying around a COVID vaccine passport – in a microchip implanted under your skin. The implant can be read by any device using the near-field communication (NFC) protocol – technology used for contactless payments and keyless entry systems. In a video shared by Epicenter, Hannes Sjöblad, chief distribution officer, has the chip in his arm and simply waves a smartphone over it to pull up his vaccination status.

“Implants are very versatile technology that can be used for many different things, and right now it is very convenient to have COVID passport always accessible on

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America's Foreign Policy Challenges

Critics of President Biden's foreign policy throughout his first year-plus in office say that his policies have been nothing short of catastrophic. America's enemies smell blood in the water and see weakness from the Oval Office.

Cal Thomas, in a recent article about this issue, stated, "Look how different the world appears after Donald Trump left office. Biden ordered a precipitous withdrawal from Afghanistan and all the administration could do is brag about what an efficient job it did in moving so many troops out so quickly, despite the 13 US service members killed in the last days and the translators and Americans left behind." To many of America's enemies, the terribly run withdrawal should that America, under the new administration, wanted nothing to do with being the world leader of freedom and simply wants to stay out of conflict.

This has caused a dramatic push by several nations to take over that political power vacuum on the world stage. Russia, under President Putin, has continued to push closer and closer to a possible invasion of the Ukraine. While President Biden has claimed that there will be "consequences" if this were to happen, Putin appears unflinching to his counterparts claims. In the meantime, China for the first time is building a naval base in the Atlantic Ocean, off the African coast. Beijing is also ratcheting up military flights over Taiwan and again threatening to invade the democratic island nation. Biden's response is to announce that he will not send government officials to the 2022 Beijing Olympics. That isn't likely to put fear into the heart of President Xi Jinping.

Critics also warn that Iran is simply stonewalling President Biden in the Iran nuclear deal talks and that they have no real reason or motivation to actually come to the table. They feel that Iran will only gain more time and resources from the negotiations, while America will eventually be left holding an empty bag at the end of the negotiations.



A recent *Wall Street Journal* editorial accurately put it: "The Biden administration's problem is that it came into office believing that the main threat to world stability was Donald Trump." The editorial adds: "China is buying Iranian oil in violation of U.S. sanctions, but the U.S. is also doing little about that. Biden officials said that was best handled "diplomatically" and that the President had taken it up directly with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Mr. Biden weakened Mr. Trump's maximum pressure campaign against Iran's nuclear program and has put nothing but diplomatic entreaties in its place."

Thomas also added in his article that, "Evil must be opposed, or it grows in nations, as well as in individuals...If Putin invades Ukraine, if China invades Taiwan, if Iran finishes a nuclear bomb, if North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un decides to move against South Korea, all of them may see this as the ideal opportunity to engage in behavior they might think twice about if America had a strong president. Just as criminals tend to avoid places where there is effective security and bullies' prey on people they perceive as unable or unwilling to fight back, so, too, do leaders of 'evil empires' feel emboldened when they conclude they will not be effectively opposed

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Russia Downplays Iran Nuclear Material Issue

Every now and then diplomats slip, say what they really think, and reveal to the whole world some inconvenient truths that most would rather ignore. This occurred when a Russian diplomat slipped and said what Russia really thought about the Iran nuclear talks. Russia's Permanent Representative to Vienna-based International Organizations Mikhail Ulyanov did just that in an interview with the publication Foreign Policy. He remarked that now is not the time to threaten Iran with greater pressure because "even if they produce a significant amount of nuclear material, so what. It cannot be used without a warhead, and the Iranians do not have warheads." Rejecting the setting up of some deadlines at the Vienna talks, he added: "This sense of urgency is a little bit exaggerated. Yes, it's urgent, but let's be prudent; let's not set up artificial deadlines."

So, what the Russians are essentially saying is that no one in the world should worry if next week or next month the Islamic Republic jumps to the 90% weaponized level because it has not yet solved the problem of how to deliver a nuclear weapon on a missile. True, pretty much all nuclear experts acknowledge that Tehran has work to do in the areas of detonation and missile delivery. But the estimates for how long



that would take – from six months to two years – are all guesses on the hopeful assumption that the regime has not advanced much in those areas clandestinely while the IAEA has been monitoring its declared facilities since 2015.

North Korea shocked the world in recent years, "suddenly" mastering a variety of nuclear skills that experts believed would take it several more years to nail down. Now Pyongyang does not just have one nuclear bomb, but a nuclear arsenal estimated to include up to dozens of bombs. Also, the whole reason the world has focused so much energy on monitoring uranium enrichment is that of the major nuclear

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by the 'strongest nation in the world,' a nation that under President Biden is increasingly seen by our adversaries as feeble."

If America is either too weak or too unwilling

to engage in actual consequences and stand up against these threats, then these regimes are only going to become more emboldened and continue down this dark road. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray America will once again become a world leader for peace and freedom and will stand up to these threats from around the globe.

“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.”

Revelation 13:17

your implant”, he said in a statement.

Many venues, restaurants, bars, concert halls and museums, across the US are requiring visitors present their vaccination status to enter the building and Epicenter wants to make presenting this information as easy as possible. “In case your phone runs out of battery, it’s always accessible to you. So of course, that’s how we use this technology today, next year we are going to use it for something else,” said Sjöblad.

The microchip sits directly beneath the skin, either in the arm or between the thumb and forefinger. According to Sjöblad, the procedure is “completely reversible” and does not require a special phone app. This technology in its current development is meant to allow for easier access to one’s vaccine passport, but it is easy to see how the technology could be further developed for other means.

Epicenter’s implanted microchip is not a new innovation, as the company has been using it for years – and with its own employees. In 2015, the company announced it had implanted the microchip in more than 100 of its employees, which allows them to open doors, operate printers, or buy smoothies with a wave of the hand. The chip is implanted with a simple injection of a syringe and with a click, a microchip is injected in the employee’s hand. When activated by a reader a few inches away, a small amount of data flows between the two devices via electromagnetic waves.

And although the microchip passports are not yet ready for market, it is safe to assume that is how they will be implanted.

While putting a vaccine passport on this type of technology is clearly not the mark of the beast from Revelation 13, the technology being developed could be laying the foundation for the future mark. If this technology is implanted into the human body, then it could not be faked. Unlike a tattoo or some other physical mark, this “mark” would be digitally read and impossible to fake. If this technology allows for your vaccine passport to be read, then other data could also be placed in this as well.

For example, if the technology is used to identify a person and can be used for payment or even for opening doors, it could easily be tweaked into a type of mark. Revelation 13:17 states, “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.” Perhaps in the future, this technology, or something like it, could be used to allow access to grocery stores or the technology could be used to check out through your bank account instead of using cash, ensuring that you had the mark of the beast before you were able to purchase your goods.

While the technology alone is not necessarily a negative thing and could be used for good in many cases, it may also be possibly laying the foundation for a future Tribulation period.— PNL

PRAY: As the world seems to move closer to the Tribulation period and the return of Jesus Christ, pray for the expansion of the Gospel and for people to come to salvation.

Did the United Nations Create the Beast of Revelation 13?



A new giant statue installed outside the United Nations headquarters in Manhattan is being likened to an End Times “beast” described by the Apostle John in Revelation 13:2, which states, “The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.”

The U.N. released a statement about the new statue. “A guardian for international peace and security sits on the Visitor’s Plaza outside #UN Headquarters. The guardian is a fusion of jaguar and eagle and donated by the Government of Oaxaca, Mexico ... It is created by artists Jacobo and Maria Angeles,” the U.N. says in a tweet that includes a photo of the statue.

This new statue has led many to identify it as the beast of Revelation. This has led to some confusion, with some wondering if this is a sign that we are now in the Tribulation. However, there are several problems with this idea. First, the two beasts in Revelation 13,

the beast out of the Sea and the beast out of the land, are not actual beasts but are symbolic representatives of actual people in the future. This is very similar to the four beasts found in Daniel 7, which are not actual beasts either but represented the nations of Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome. In Revelation 13, the beast out of the Sea represents the future Antichrist and the beast out of the land represents the future False Prophet.

The characteristics of these beasts are symbolic of their power and abilities. For example, the “ten horns” of the beast represented the power of the beast, given to him by ten future kings that will empower his empire. Much of the symbolism that John writes about in the Book of Revelation comes right out of the Book of Daniel. If the beasts in Daniel were symbolic, then it should be clear that the beasts in Revelation are similarly representative of other things. Thus, the beast statue should not alarm us into thinking that

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weapons' processes, enrichment is the easiest to monitor because it requires large facilities with thousands of centrifuges. Working on the detonation and delivery issues is easier to hide, certainly until a nuclear test – and once a test has been performed, a country is considered to have crossed the nuclear threshold. At that point, Iran would not only gain significant prominence on the international stage but would also be able to carry out its plan to destroy Israel.

What is crucial about what Ulyanov said is that even if Russia opposes Iran getting a nuclear weapon, it is not as disturbed to the same degree as the US, let alone Israel. It is willing to risk seeing the ayatollahs getting closer to a bomb than they are now without putting real pressure on them to cut a deal. Why are the US and the

EU pushing for the Islamic Republic to cut a deal “within weeks, not months”? Because Iran is up to 60% nuclear uranium enrichment and could jump to 90% weaponized enrichment in a month or a bit less. It is not that all nuclear issues must be resolved within weeks. Rather, it is that Tehran’s forward nuclear progress must be halted within that period to avoid a new level of risk from the regime.

This should come as no real surprise to those that have been following these events for some time. Russia, under President Putin, has continually covered for Iran and allowed them to continue their advance toward nuclear capability. Both the United States and especially Israel will be in danger as long as Iran continues on this trajectory. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray Russia will take the nuclear negotiations seriously and push Iran away from their nuclear ambitions.

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the Tribulation period has started in any way. There is no literal future beast figure that is coming that matches the physical descriptions given in Revelation, but instead the Antichrist and his False Prophet fulfill these future beasts.

Second, the assertion that this statue in any way means that we are somehow in the Great Tribulation is also inaccurate. The Rapture of the Church has yet to occur. The Antichrist has not risen to power. It is only with these two event that the Tribulation can occur. Therefore, we should not be worried about this statue representing any beginning of the Tribulation.

However, while we should not view this statue as any “sign of the apocalypse”, what it should do is alarm us at the increase of

wild speculation that the COVID pandemic has brought into our culture. Instead of being faithful to the Biblical text, people are jumping at whatever they see that vaguely resembles anything from the Bible and trying to make it fit into their narrative. They are reading the newspaper first and then trying to make the Bible fit with current events. Instead, what we must always do as good followers of the Biblical text is to try to understand it in its proper meaning. For example, the Beast of Revelation 13 cannot mean we are already in the Tribulation because the Bible makes it clear the church will not be in the Tribulation. We must be wise and biblical in our interpretation and make sure we are always following the true meaning of the text! — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for believers to be wise and biblical in interpreting the Bible and world events.