

Today's News in Light of the Bible

# PROPHETIC Newsletter

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**MAY 2022**

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 the winds of war swirl around the globe, we need to pray for God's divine intervention for the sake of believers who are caught in the middle. The church of Jesus Christ must rise up and minister to those in need.

No matter how or when conflicts are resolved, it will never be the end. Greed, corruption, and hatred are results of unregenerate and unredeemed hearts. Bible prophets warn His people that Satan is always prowling about seeking who he may devour. He uses leaders and nations to fulfill his evil desires.

Isn't it wonderful to be assured that *"greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world"* (1 John 4:4)! One day there will be no more sorrow, no more suffering, no more tears and **NO MORE WAR**. This is a message worth sharing, thank you for help us to do so!

Until He returns,

*Ed Hindson*

## Is America Becoming too Weak to Stand up for Freedom?



As the war between Russia and Ukraine has captured the attention of the world, one thing that has clearly stood out has been the great passion and love of homeland of the Ukrainian people. Thousands of Ukrainians have flocked to enlist in the military in order to defend their homeland, even many who did not reside in the country at the outbreak of the conflict. Regardless of the ultimate outcome of the war, the strength, passion and dedication of the Ukrainian people for their nation has clearly been demonstrated and has captured the attention of the globe.

This has led many throughout the globe to question how much of a love of homeland they themselves have. In

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# Bible Researchers Decipher Earliest Hebrew Inscription Known as ‘Curse Tablet’

Biblical researchers say they have decoded an ancient Hebrew inscription, known as a “curse tablet” that predates by centuries any known Hebrew inscription from ancient Israel. The inscription was found on Mt. Ebal, the mountain of the curse, mentioned in Deuteronomy 27 and Joshua 8. “Cursed, cursed, cursed — cursed by the God of YHWH, you will die cursed, cursed you will surely die, cursed by YHWH cursed, cursed, cursed,” reads the earliest proto-alphabetic Hebrew text recovered on a small, folded lead tablet, the Associates for Biblical Research announced at a press conference at the Lanier Theological Library in Houston, Texas.

“I believe the amulet dates to the Late Bronze II age, or as early as 1400 BC,” Scott Stripling, ABR’s director of excavations, told *The Jerusalem Post*. He added, “This is earlier than many skeptics believe the Bible existed, making this the earliest appearance of the word YHWH in Israel and it was found at a covenant site. The implications are enormous and will reverberate for many years to come.”

The amulet, known as a defixio or curse tablet, came to light in December 2019 when Stripling, also the director of the Archaeological Studies Institute at the Bible Seminary went with his team to wet sift the discarded material from excavations conducted in 1982-1989 in the West Bank. Those excavations were conducted by the late Haifa University archaeology professor Adam Zertal who discovered the altar of

Joshua on Mount Ebal near the city of Nablus in the West Bank.

“This amulet and its inscription do not predate the Bible,” Stripling said. “We believe it coincides with the biblical events. We talk about verisimilitude, a consistency between what we read in the text and what we find in the material culture. If the text were true, this is what you would anticipate finding, and indeed, it is what we found.” Haifa

University professor Gershon Galil told *The Times of Israel*, “This is a text you find only every 1,000 years.”

Some have raised concerns about the claims, with one unnamed academic telling *The Times of Israel*, “The fact that they are publishing it in the news before being published scientifically is a bit off.” However, the Associates for Biblical Research said an academic, peer-reviewed article will be published later this year. It is not uncommon for articles in the field of archaeology to take several years to go through the publishing process. The researchers include: Stripling, Galil, Ivana Kumpova, Jaroslav Valach, Pieter Gert van der Veen, Daniel Vavrik and Michal Vopalensky.

According to the Bible, Mount Ebal was the mountain from which the curses were called out for those who broke God’s law when the children of Israel made a covenant with God before entering the land of Israel. Deuteronomy 11:29 reads, “When the Lord



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# U.S. Sanctions Russia, North Korea after Pyongyang Launches New ICBM

The U.S. has imposed new sanctions on Russian and North Korean entities and individuals over the transfer of sensitive items to Pyongyang's missile program, the State Department announced. The move was made on the same day North Korea fired its most powerful intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) yet — the Hwasong-17 — under the orders of Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un. First revealed in October 2020, the Hwasong-17 is believed to be not only North Korea's longest-range weapon, but also the world's largest road-mobile ICBM to carry nuclear warheads.

During its 67-minute flight, the missile reached a maximum altitude of 3,880 miles (approximately 6,244 kilometers) and traveled 680 miles (approximately 1,094 kilometers) before landing in waters between North Korea and Japan, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), Pyongyang's official mouthpiece. The launch marked Pyongyang's first full ICBM test since 2017 and immediately drew responses from neighbors South Korea and Japan.

Seoul reportedly responded by launching



its own missiles from land, sea and air to demonstrate its “capability and willingness to respond immediately and punish.” On the other hand, Tokyo condemned the launch as “outrageous” and “unforgivable” and agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation with Seoul to counter the threat. Japanese media also reported that Hwasong-17 could reach the U.S. East Coast if launched on a normal trajectory.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki described the launch as a “brazen violation” of

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your God has brought you into the land you are entering to possess, you are to proclaim on Mount Gerizim the blessings, and on Mount Ebal the curses.”

This discovery, if proven accurate based on these early reports, would be a game-changer. Critical scholars argue that Israel as a nation did not even exist at this point in time, that the

Exodus never happened and that the text of the Bible was not written for centuries. Showing that the Hebrews not only could write at this time, but actually had portions of the Bible written in various forms would go a long way to establish the historicity of the Old Testament, something that has been greatly questioned by skeptics for the last few centuries.— *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray we will continue to see discoveries in archaeology that will help to strengthen the historicity of the Biblical text.

a recent poll, Americans were asked what they would do if they were in the same position as Ukrainians are now: stay and fight or leave the country? A majority (55 percent) say they would stay and fight, while 38 percent say they would leave the country. Republicans say 68 - 25 percent and independents say 57 - 36 percent they would stay and fight, while Democrats say 52 - 40 percent they would leave the country.

This has led many to question what exactly has happened to America? Why is there such a large percentage of the population not willing to stand and fight for their country?

In a recent Wall Street opinion, Matthew Hennessey wrote, "One can hardly imagine Americans of yesteryear exhibiting such high levels of yellow-bellyism. Where have all the Minutemen gone? The Molly Pitchers? The Audie Murphys? The Todd Beamers? In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor and 9/11, when the nation was on its knees, the call was answered without hesitation by rock-ribbed Republicans and true-blue Democrats alike. Even the turbulent Vietnam era didn't inspire such pusillanimity. Between 1964 and 1973, 2.2 million Americans were conscripted into military service. Another 15 million were granted deferments for one reason or another. Less than 2% of those who were eligible for the draft opted to evade it, either by going underground or emigrating."

Cal Thomas similarly wrote, "After

two generations where students in public schools and major universities seem to have been taught by mostly liberal teachers and professors that America is not an exceptional nation and is, rather, a country whose "original sin" of slavery and record wealth is an embarrassment, why would anyone want to fight to preserve sin and embarrassment? Maybe in Las Vegas they might ask where

these two qualities are in abundance... If the Quinnipiac survey is accurate – and given the current cultural condition, why wouldn't it be? – the willingness to act seems to be shrinking. Inertia can only last for so long before the power that launched it expires. We have been living off the

*"We have been living off the bravery and sacrifice of 'the greatest generation' for some time. It must be renewed if freedom is to be extended for us and for other nations."*

Cal Thomas

of 'the greatest generation' for some time. It must be renewed if freedom is to be extended for us and for other nations."

Now, some might say that love for one's country is not something that should be a high priority. However, we must remember that it was America that stood against the Nazis. It was America that combated atheistic communism for decades. It is America that has fought the War on Terror for two decades.

While America certainly has its issues and problems, God has used this nation as a restrainer on evil throughout the globe for many generations. If America no longer has the will or determination to stand up against the forces of evil across the globe, then trouble could be on the horizon.— PNL

**PRAY:** Pray that America will continue to show the determine to combat evil throughout the globe.

# America More Indifferent to Religion but More Accepting of Jesus

According to a new poll by Ipsos, nearly four out of 10 adults living in the United States believe that religion makes the country stronger, while fewer than one in 10 believe it makes it weaker. In a study titled “Jesus in America” released and written as a partnership between Ipsos and the Episcopal Church, 38% of respondents said they believe that religion in the U.S. “makes the country stronger,” which was the most popular response.

By contrast, 28% of respondents said they believe religion in the U.S. “divides the country,” while 20% said they did not know, and 7% said it had “no effect.” Only 6% said they believe religion “makes the country weaker.” Those who said they believe religion “divides the country” included 21% of Christian respondents, 38% of respondents belonging to other religions and 50% of non-religious respondents. For their data, they used a survey of 3,119 U.S. adults conducted from Nov. 22 to Dec. 2, 2021, with a margin of error of +/- 2.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

This 38% number is substantially smaller than previous polling. For example, according to a Pew Research Center report released in November 2019, 55% of respondents believed that religion did “more good than harm” to society. Thus, in only three years, a 15 percent decrease has occurred in the American mindset based on this data. It is also important to note that this is not Christian specific data, but shows that Americans are more hesitant to think any religious beliefs are of value.

Certainly, events such as September 11th and the War on Terror have impacted these figures as well. Many Millennials have grown up with

America at war for much of their lifetime and blame religion for much of that situation.

The data in the study backs up this idea. The study reported that Generation Z Americans — those born after 1996 — were slightly less

likely to be non-religious than millennials (Gen Y), who were born between 1981 and 1996. According to the survey, 24% of Gen Z respondents identify as non-religious, while 28% of millennials identified the same. By contrast, 12% of baby boomers and 18% of Generation X identify as non-religious. If this data holds up, then Generation Z would be the first generation to slow this rapid decline in several generations.

However, one of the dangers that comes with both Millennials and even Gen Z is that they tend to be more “spiritual minded” than religious. They may believe in a higher power or different aspects of spirituality, such as karma, meditation, etc., but not necessarily in an organized religion. Interestingly, even though the numbers believing religion is helpful for the nation have declined, the views on Jesus have shifted in a much more positive direction. Among respondents who said their opinion of Jesus had shifted within the last five to eight years, 76% of Gen Z said their opinion changed to be positive, while 65% of millennials said the same.

Therefore, there clearly seems to be a

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U.N. Security Council resolutions and urged Pyongyang to discontinue its actions. “The United States will take all necessary measures to ensure the security of the American homeland and Republic of Korea and Japanese allies,” she added. Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department sanctioned the following entities and individuals: Ardis Group of Companies LLC (Russia), PFK Profpodshipnik LLC (Russia), Igor Aleksandrovich Michurin (Russia), the Second Academy of Natural Science Foreign Affairs Bureau (North Korea) and Ri Sung Chol (North Korea).

“These measures are part of our ongoing efforts to impede the DPRK’s [North Korea’s] ability to advance its missile program, and they highlight the negative role Russia plays on the world stage as a proliferator to programs of concern,” said State Department spokesperson Ned Price. Additionally, the U.S. sanctioned Chinese company Zhengzhou Nanbei Instrument Equipment Co. Ltd. for supplying Syria with equipment from the Australia Group, an informal group of countries that ensures non-export of materials used to develop chemical and biological weapons.

Past U.S. punitive steps and international sanctions at the United Nations have failed to arrest North Korea’s weapons’ development over the years and Russia and China, which backed U.N. sanctions after North Korea’s last ICBM and nuclear tests in 2017, have since urged sanctions easing to encourage dialogue with North Korea. The United States and 10 other countries bemoaned the failure of the U.N. Security Council to condemn North Korea’s repeated missile launches this year, saying this eroded the credibility both of the council and the global non-proliferation regime. Russian media quoted a Russian foreign ministry official as saying that Russia understands North Korea’s decision to renew frequent missile launches and sees no prerequisites to restart de-nuclearization talks.

This is yet another example of how the Ukrainian Crisis, and the Afghanistan Crisis before it, have led to a complete destabilization around the globe. Russia and China have both amped up their aggression and are now allowing other nations, such as Iran and North Korea, to also continue their aggression without having to worry about international pressure or intervention. — *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray that God will intervene and help to deescalate all of these tense areas and situations around the globe.

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disconnect in younger generations between religion, even Christianity, and Jesus Himself. There is a much stronger acceptance of Jesus than Christianity or religion at large. Perhaps this has occurred from a misunderstanding of Jesus, viewing Him as a sage or teacher instead of God

Himself, or this could be simply a reaction to the many scandals that have unfortunately played Christianity over the past decade. Regardless of the reason, the data, while alarming at first, may actually point to a more acceptance of Jesus in the new generations. — *PNL*

**PRAY:** Pray younger generations will continue to show a positive acceptance of not simply the Jesus of culture, but the true Jesus of the Bible, the Son of God and Savior of the world.