

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC Newsletter

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DR. ED HINDSON

My dear friends,

We are dealing with spiritual warfare that is playing out in the politics of the world.

When the Bible talks about what is going to happen in the future, the Scripture reminds us, Satan is at work, motivating world leaders to create crisis after crisis. Ultimately, we know that all focus will one day be on the city of Jerusalem. The prophet Zechariah foresaw the day when all nations would be gathered against Jerusalem to do battle (Zechariah 14:2-3).

In the meantime, it is our responsibility to share the Gospel message and truth of the Bible. I am so thankful the grace of God is longsuffering. He has waited so much longer that we would as humans because He is giving people an opportunity to come to faith in Christ. Your support enables us to faithfully reach out to a lost world.

Until He returns,

46 Retired Generals, Admirals Urge Against Iran Nuclear Deal



In an open letter to President Biden, 46 retired U.S. generals and admirals voiced their opposition to the ongoing negotiations with Iran on striking a nuclear deal. "In Ukraine, we are bearing witness to the horrors of a country ruthlessly attacking its neighbor and, by brandishing its nuclear weapons, forcing the rest of the world largely to stand on the sidelines," the letter, penned in coordination with the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA), said. "The new Iran deal currently being negotiated, which Russia has played a central role in crafting, will enable the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism to cast its own nuclear shadow over the Middle East."

Retired Air Force Gen. Charles Wald, who also formerly served as deputy commander of U.S. European Command,

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Israeli Laser-based Air Defense Shoots Down Drones'

The Israeli Defense Ministry revealed that a laser air defense system it is developing successfully shot down drones, rockets, mortars, and anti-tank missiles in a first series of tests. According to the head of the ministry's research and development team, Brig. Gen. Yaniv Rotem, the tests were conducted at "challenging" ranges and timings. The use of a laser is a 'game changer' and the technology is simple to operate and proves to be economically viable," he said.

In a video released by the ministry, the laser-based system can be seen intercepting a rocket, a mortar, and a drone at an undisclosed location in southern Israel's Negev desert, during March of this year. The ministry has been testing the laser-based defense system for several years, shooting down a drone with it last year. The recent tests were the first to be successful against the other threats, including unguided projectiles and anti-tank guided missiles. Its research and development department initially planned to deploy the anti-missile system by 2024, but the military has pushed for an earlier deployment. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett announced in February that Israel would deploy the system within the year.

This was apparently driven by concerns that in a future conflict, the military would not have sufficient interceptor missiles for the Iron Dome and other air defense systems to shoot down incoming rockets, missiles, and drones. "Every effort is being made to make the system operational as soon as possible and enable an efficient, inexpensive, and innovative protection umbrella," Defense Minister Benny Gantz said.



The ground-based laser system — dubbed Iron Beam — which is being developed with the Rafael weapons manufacturer, is not meant to replace the Iron Dome or Israel's other air defense systems, but to supplement and complement them, shooting down smaller projectiles and leaving larger ones for the more robust missile-based batteries. According to the ministry, Israel is among the first countries in the world to succeed in using powerful laser technology to develop a working air defense system and to demonstrate interceptions in

operational scenarios. Hundreds of millions of shekels have been allocated to the final development stages and trial phase, in which the system will be placed on the border with the Gaza Strip.

Since development began, the high-power laser has proven more powerful than the ministry's team initially aimed for, officials previously said, without detailing the exact number of kilowatts of electricity it operates on. According to the Defense Ministry, as long as there is a constant source of energy for the laser, there is no risk of ever running out of ammunition.

The downside of a laser system is that it does not function well in times of low visibility, including heavy cloud cover or other inclement weather. For that reason, the ministry intends to also mount the system on an airplane, which would help get around this limitation by putting the system above the clouds, though that is still

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A Win for Turkey and Russia at Israel's Expense

The Biden administration recently withdrew its support for the Eastern Mediterranean (EastMed) pipeline designed to transfer natural gas from Israel to Europe. The decision deals a blow to Israel's hopes of becoming a strategically important supplier of natural gas to Europe. The 6-billion-euro (\$6.8 billion) project envisaged construction of a 1,900-kilometer (1,180-mile) undersea pipeline that would carry up to 20 billion cubic meters of gas annually from Israeli and Cypriot waters to Crete and the Greek mainland. From there, gas would go to Italy and southeastern Europe.

The EastMed pipeline has been in the planning stages for more than a decade. The Israeli-Greek-Cypriot project — joined by Bulgaria, Hungary, North Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia — has long been seen as a way to diversify natural gas supplies to Europe and reduce over dependence on supplies from Russia. In January 2020, Israel, Greece, and Cyprus — with strong support from the Trump administration — signed the EastMed intergovernmental agreement, which aimed at reaching a final investment decision by 2022 and completing the pipeline by 2025. The EastMed project could eventually have supplied up to 10 percent of Europe's natural gas.

The Biden administration called EastMed antithetical to its "climate goals" and wants "clean energy" instead. It also questioned the pipeline's economic and commercial viability. Biden's decision represents a major geopolitical victory for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who opposes the underwater pipeline because it would bypass Turkey. The Turkish government insists Israeli gas can only be sold to Europe through



Turkey. In 2016, Turkey and Israel tried to sign a deal to deliver gas via Turkey, but Ankara's demand that Israel lift its blockade on the Hamas-run Gaza Strip made it impossible. Since then, Turkey has challenged the EastMed project by attempting to expand its claims over gas-rich areas of the Mediterranean Sea. The Turkish navy harasses ships exploring for gas in Greek and Cypriot waters, which Turkey now claims it owns. The Biden administration says EastMed is a "primary source of tension" that is "destabilizing" the region.

Some analysts have warned that Biden's decision rewards Turkish aggression and undercuts three of America's strongest allies in the region. Indeed, Erdogan hailed Biden's U-turn as a victory. Richard Goldberg, a member of the U.S. National Security Council during the Trump administration, called this a strategic mistake that "smells of a political decision, not an economic one."

Endy Zemenides, executive director of the Hellenic American Leadership Council, said the assertion that EastMed is not commercially viable is not for the White House to say. "It's not their decision," he said. "If somebody steps up and pays for it, that makes it commercially viable. Nobody was asking the U.S. State Department or the USA." Zemenides added that the United States should stop trying to appease Turkey. "Turkey is not looking to participate in Eastern Mediterranean initiatives; it wants to dominate them. Ankara's goal is not one of cooperation but of regional primacy if not hegemony."

In a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and

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said he supports finding a solution to the nuclear issue in the Middle East through diplomacy, but argued no deal is better than a bad deal.

“The idea of an agreement is a good idea. We agree with diplomacy,” Wald told Fox News. “But we agreed with a fair agreement that would not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon breakout and then have weapons delivery systems that would then change the dynamic in the Middle East – particularly for Israel but all other countries too.” Wald said one of his chief concerns with the latest deal is that the Biden administration is not considering Iran’s role in fueling terrorism and backing rebel groups in the war in Yemen – a war that has prompted one of the greatest humanitarian crises.

President Biden made re-entering a nuclear agreement with Iran a chief priority of his administration and indirect talks through European allies have been on and off for roughly a year. But reports surfaced suggesting the administration was considering a request from Iran to remove its top military branch, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), from the U.S. list of foreign terrorist organizations. In exchange, the U.S. has

called on Iran to end its support for terrorist organizations fueling unrest in the region – but several groups from Iranian American scientists to retired military commanders have little faith Iran will live up to this commitment. “That’s a red flag,” Wald said in reference to removing the IRGC as a designated terrorist group. “That just doesn’t sit well with us because the IRGC is the most malicious group in the region.”

The retired general said the death of 600 U.S. military members could be attributed “directly” to IRGC, and noted they continue to attack U.S. and allied forces in the region. Talks between western nations and Iran appeared to be stalled and officials involved in the negotiations remain tight-lipped on deal specifics. Wald said he would need to see “unfettered access by the IAEA” and assurances that Iran will not continue with its ballistic missile system even if a nuclear agreement is reached, in order for him to support a deal with Iran.

“The Iranians will push up to the point where they know something bad is going happen to them,” Wald continued. “So the more difficult we make for them to operate with impunity, the more they’re going to take advantage of it.”— PNL

PRAY: Pray for President Biden to heed the warnings about Iran and keep them from nuclear capability.

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Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY) said Biden’s reversal smacks of hypocrisy because he supports Nord Stream 2, a pipeline that would double Russian supplies of natural gas to Europe. “We hope you and President Biden recognize the significant national security implications the United States and our European allies are facing because of European reliance on Russian gas,” they wrote. “The EastMed pipeline must be a priority

...We strongly urge you to reconsider your opposition ...and support energy independence for our allies in the Eastern Mediterranean and Europe.” Veteran energy analyst Ariel Cohen agreed. “This is a disastrous decision that imperils European security and opens the door for further Russian energy hegemony in European gas markets,” he said. “It should be reversed.”— PNL

PRAY: Pray global powers will stop undermining and attacking Israel’s economic advances.

Atheist Activist Demands Florida School Districts Ban and Burn Bible

A liberal activist is getting national attention for calling on Florida's public schools to ban and even burn the Holy Bible over what he says are "obscene" and "harmful" passages.

Chaz Stevens of Deerfield Beach, Florida, wrote letters to superintendents in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and other school districts throughout the state asking them to "immediately remove the Bible from the classroom, library, and any instructional material" in their schools.

The campaign comes weeks after Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 1467, allowing Florida residents to request the removal of books they find objectionable from school classrooms and libraries. Critics have alleged that the measure stifles the free speech rights of students and faculty on LGBT issues and other matters.

Citing HB 1467, Stevens' letter calls not only for the removal of the Bible and the "banishment of any book that references" it but also calls on education officials to burn what Stevens described as "that giant stack of fiction in a pyre worthy of a Viking sendoff."

Stevens presented Jose Dotres, the superintendent of Miami-Dade County Schools, with his objections, including references to verses from the Old and New Testament. He sent a similar letter to Kenneth Savage, the interim superintendent of Lee County Public Schools, indicating that his effort to ban the Bible from public schools extends to the entire state.

In his letter to Dotres, Stevens misquotes Genesis 2:18 as "It is not good enough for man to be alone, therefore, encourage one another



and build each other up!"

The verse written by Stevens actually combines Genesis 2:18 with a New Testament verse from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians,

to which Stevens comments: "The most troubling of issues for many, as it's obvious once we teach little Jimmy and Susie to show empathy for their classmates, they're one giant step closer to getting their LGBTQ+

freak on." Genesis 2:18 actually reads: "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 reads, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, as indeed you are doing."

Stevens' letter also takes apparent umbrage with the words of Jesus in a warning of the depravity of the human heart in Matthew 15:19: "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander." Additionally, the letter cites the Apostle Paul's inspired words in Romans 13:13 as a cause for concern: "Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. As the Bible casually references such topics as adultery and fornication — or as I like to think, Date Night Friday Night — do we really want to teach our youth about drunken orgies?" Stevens writes.

Quoting God's warning to the Israelites not to participate in bestiality in Leviticus 18:23, Stevens says, "one should consider such discussions to be harmful to minors and

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a few more years off, ministry officials have said.

"The successful series of tests proved the uniqueness of the system, intercepting a wide range of threats in a variety of scenarios," said Rafael Advanced Defense Systems director-general Yoav Har-Even.

"The cooperation between Rafael and the Defense Ministry research team has led to a technological breakthrough and the completion of a significant milestone, one that will allow us to reach initial operational capability in a short time," Har-Even added. The ministry said the system is an "effective, accurate, easy-to-operate tool that is significantly cheaper than any other existing means of protection," against the threats Israel faces.

The Lebanese Hezbollah terror group is

believed to maintain an arsenal of some 130,000 rockets, missiles, and mortar shells, which the military believes would be used against Israel in a future war. The two largest terror groups in the Gaza Strip, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, are also each believed to possess thousands of rockets and mortar shells, even after firing upwards of 4,000 projectiles at Israel during last year's 11-day war.

Israeli military officials have also said they have seen a growing trend in Iranian use of drone attacks in recent years, dubbing it Iran's "UAV terror." Against these and other threats, Israel operates a multi-tiered air defense array, made up of the short-range Iron Dome, the medium-range David's Sling, and the long-range Arrow and Patriot systems. — PNL

PRAY: Pray that God will continue to provide new technological advancements for Israel so that they can continue to defend their nation.

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obscene." He also linked the Bible's view of slavery — which calls on masters to treat their servants justly and for servants to obey them as they would obey Christ Himself — with critical race theory, saying he was "concerned our young white students will read such passages and wake up to civilization's sordid past."

A note on Stevens' website says the Bible has been "used to justify slavery, homophobia, and wars for centuries" and "it's long past time to ban this dangerous book from our public schools."

Supporters of HB 1557 contend it is a necessary law to support the rights of parents who question the morality of teachers to young

children about sexual matters. "Parents' rights have been increasingly under assault around the nation, but in Florida we stand up for the rights of parents and the fundamental role they play in the education of their children," DeSantis said in a statement. "Parents have every right to be informed about services offered to their child at school, and should be protected from schools using classroom instruction to sexualize their kids as young as 5 years old," he added.

This is yet another example of critics attacking God's Word at every turn and trying to destroy the credibility of Christianity in the public square. — PNL

PRAY: Pray these harmful attacks of the Bible will stop and that people will again respect the Bible in the public square.