

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC *Newsletter*

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DR. ED HINDSON

My dear friends,

Today there are a lot of hurting people. Our nation is reeling from several senseless and tragic shootings. We join those in mourning their loved ones and pray from the Lord to surround those families.

One day we will know the answer to why such tragedies are allowed to happen.

In Scripture, Jesus reminds us that He is the answer to sorrow. Through His death, burial and resurrection, He has won the fight against evil! As a hurting world cries out, as Christians, we must provide comfort and aid when possible.

God continues to use World Prophetic Ministry and The King is Coming telecast to reach more souls for Christ. Your prayers and financial gifts are vital to our mission! Thank you for your support.

Until He returns,

Ed Hindson

Russia Threatens Food Crisis if Sanctions Remain



Turkey is in negotiations with Russia and Ukraine to open a corridor via the Bosphorus for grain exports from Ukraine, a senior Turkish official told Reuters. Ukraine's Black Sea ports have been blocked since Russia invaded in February and more than 20 million tons of grain are stuck in silos there. Russia and Ukraine account for nearly a third of global wheat supplies and the lack of exports from Ukraine is contributing to a growing global food crisis.

"Turkey is negotiating with both Russia and Ukraine for the export of grains from Ukraine," the official said, requesting anonymity. "With a corridor to be opened from Turkey, there was a demand for this grain to reach their targeted markets. Negotiations are still ongoing."

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko

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Russia, China Protect North Korea with United Nations Veto

A sign of division between Washington and Beijing on several foreign policy issues was on display when China and the U.S. locked horns at the U.N. Security Council. China joined Russia in vetoing the U.S.' draft resolution on North Korea sanctions. The vote in the 15-member Security Council was 13-2 and marked a first serious division among the five veto-wielding permanent members of the U.N.'s most powerful body on a North Korea sanctions resolution.

A European diplomat familiar with the negotiations for the Resolution told CBS News that the U.S. had been advised to delay the vote to avoid a veto, as that could embolden North Korea. "It is undeniable that the DPRK continues to illustrate its commitment to advancing its WMD and ballistic missile programs in violation of multiple Security Council resolutions," U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the Council.

After the vote, Thomas-Greenfield responded to a question on the European advice: "Twenty-three tests since the beginning of the year, we have been silent and that certainly has not stopped the DPRK from more tests ... so the veto lets the world know who their supporters are, who has blocked the Security Council from taking action." A united Security Council imposed sanctions after North Korea's first nuclear test explosion in 2006 and tightened them over the years seeking to rein in its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and cut off funding. She stressed that in the last sanctions resolution adopted by the council in December 2017, members committed to further restricting

petroleum exports to North Korea if it conducted a ballistic missile launch capable of reaching intercontinental ranges.



China's U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun reiterated Beijing's opposition to new sanctions against North Korea ahead of the vote. He called instead for the United States to take "meaningful, practical actions" to resume its dialogue with the country and find a

political solution to the situation on the Korean Peninsula. With tensions on the peninsula, Zhang said, it's important to stay calm, avoid any provocative actions and "really give hope" to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea -- the country's official name -- by lifting some sanctions instead of imposing new ones. "We do not think additional sanctions will be helpful in responding to the current situation," he told reporters. "It can only get the situation even worse. ... so that's what we really want to avoid."

Alluding to the U.S. "pivot to Asia" reflecting the rise of China as an economic and military power and America's most significant competitor, Zhang said, "We do not want to see anyone make use of the DPRK situation or the Korean Peninsula situation as a card for their strategic or geopolitical agenda. We are completely against any attempt to make northeastern Asia a battlefield or to create confrontations or tensions there. So, as a neighbor of DPRK and as a neighbor of the Korean Peninsula, we have our responsibility to maintain peace, security, and promote the denuclearization there. That's always our goal," he said.

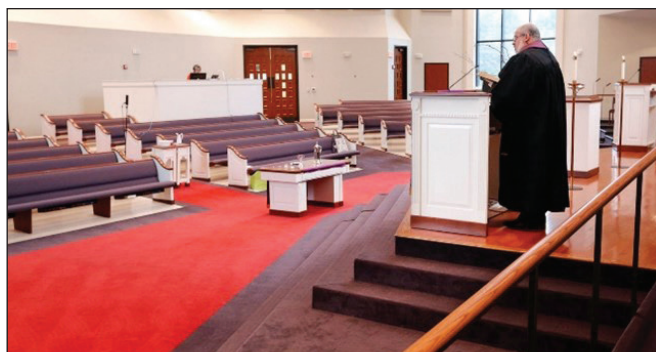
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The Rise of “Apathism” and its Impact on the Church

Scripture is full of promises for those who follow Christ — both for the present and the future. Yet nearly a quarter way through the 21st century, the Church is facing some of its most dire challenges yet. Recent poll findings suggest it’s not just unbelievers who are cool towards the Bible and its teachings but also those who already identify as Christians. A newly released study from the Nashville-based Lifeway Research has found apathy inside the Church was cited as the most common “people dynamic” challenge facing pastors today.

Lifeway’s “Greatest Needs Of Pastors” study asked 1,000 Protestant pastors to identify the primary people dynamic challenges they face in their churches. Their overwhelming response? Apathy or lack of commitment. The survey found that three-quarters of pastors surveyed (75%) listed “People’s apathy or lack of commitment” when asked to identify the “people dynamics” they find challenging in their ministry. That was the only challenge that more than half of pastors identified. These appear to be self-identified followers of Jesus Christ apathetic to Christ’s Church.

Coming in a long second, third and fourth



place in the survey were responses like “People’s strong opinions about nonessentials” (48%), “Resistance to change in the church” (46%) and “People’s political views” (44%). “It can be easy for a church member to check the box and say, ‘I’m doing some activities, I’m coming to church’ ... and feel like they’re doing enough. And yet, if they are not participating, they’re really missing out on some pretty big parts,” Lifeway Research Executive Director Scott McConnell told *The Christian Post*.

The findings come as Christian apologist and author J. Warner Wallace has argued that

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The resolution voted on would have reduced exports of crude oil to North Korea from 4 million barrels a year to 3 million barrels, and exports of refined petroleum products from 500,000 barrels a year to 375,000 barrels. It would also have banned the North from exporting mineral fuels, mineral oils and mineral waxes. In addition, the draft resolution would have banned the sale or transfer of all

tobacco products to North Korea, tightened maritime sanctions, and banned the DPRK’s export of clocks and watches and their parts.

Biblical Connections: Daniel 10 shows that Satan and his demons are constantly working on influencing nations to follow their plans. It is clear that there are many leaders today who are under the influence of Satan and his followers.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray that leaders around the globe will stand up for good instead of committing or allowing evil.

was quoted as saying that Moscow is ready to provide a corridor for vessels carrying food in return for lifting of some Western sanctions. Turkey neighbors Ukraine and Russia on the Black Sea and has good relations with both, even as it has condemned the invasion.

Separately, two other people familiar with the matter also confirmed discussions about Turkey helping the grains be shipped out of Ukraine. One of the people said that despite being a NATO member, Turkey was seen as more “neutral” by Russia than other Western members of the alliance. “Turkey is ready to contribute to a kind of monitoring of these exports from Odesa through the Black Sea because Turkey traditionally is very strong in the Black Sea and they are ready to help.”

Turkey already has two frigates, two submarines and a half-dozen patrol and fast-attack ships in the Black Sea and much more could be quickly summoned for such a mission, said Yoruk Isik, Istanbul-based head of the Bosphorus Observer consultancy. It could hypothetically patrol the food corridor routes and also sweep for mines, which Russia and Ukraine accuse each other of having planted.

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who visited Moscow and Kyiv recently, has been in contact with Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, the United States and the European Union trying to broker what he calls a “package deal” to resume both Ukrainian food exports and Russian food and fertilizer exports.

However, there are many hurdles to any deal, including Russian demands for some

sanctions to be lifted in return, the drifting mines, and the prohibitive costs of insuring the maritime route. Many Ukrainian, European and US officials have accused Russia of blackmailing the world and threatening to start a food crisis if they do not get their way in the war. In a press briefing, State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said that the US rejected offers by Russia to lift sanctions in exchange for its aid to help in alleviating the food crisis. “We certainly won’t lift our sanctions in response to empty promises,” said Price. “We find it appalling that Russia would seek to weaponize food and energy to try to bring the world to heel,” Price continued. Russian diplomats have also pushed several

African nations, who rely strongly on grain supplies from both Russia and Ukraine, to petition Western nations to lift the sanctions to prevent their people from starving.

Biblical Connections: Revelation 6:5-6 states, “And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.” Living in America, it is easy to forget how quickly a food crisis like this could happen in a true global crisis. Between the pandemic and now this situation, we have seen several examples of how quickly the things of the world that we rely on so much can collapse.— PNL

“And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.”

Revelation 6:6

PRAY: Pray the food crisis will be solved and that people around the globe will have access to the supplies they need.

Gen Z Continues to Drift from Bible

A new study suggests that nearly one in four Gen Z adults believe Jesus was a man who sinned like everyone else rather than the incarnate Son of God of Christian orthodoxy. Polling conducted for the American Bible Society (ABS) and its latest “State of the Bible 2022” report found that

38% of people ages 18-25 believe “Jesus Christ was human and committed sins, like other people.” The result is roughly in line with Gen X (37%), millennials (35%) and baby boomers (35%), who also don’t

seem to believe in the biblical doctrine of a sinless Christ. Americans aged 77 and older believed Jesus sinned at statistically lower numbers (26%) as the group proved to be the “most likely to be Bible Users (58%) of any generation.”

The findings were detailed in Chapter 2 of the 2022 “State of the Bible” report featuring data compiled by ABS in collaboration with NORC at the University of Chicago. The poll found that 18% of all ages who are biblically engaged believed Jesus was a sinner. Researchers with ABS defined scriptural engagement as “consistent interaction with the Bible that shapes a person’s choices and transforms their relationships with God, self, and others.” Among respondents considered part of the “Movable Middle” — those considered Bible friendly and Bible neutral — just over one-third said they believed Jesus had sinned during His life on Earth. Those categorized as “Bible Disengaged” made up the highest portion of respondents who said Jesus was a sinner at 43%.

John Plake, director of ministry intelligence at ABS and editor-in-chief of the “State of the Bible” series, told *The Christian Post* this kind of secular confusion about Christian theology is an opportunity to share

with the world. “I hear statistics [like these], and I’m less concerned about the national or generational assumptions about the dual nature of Jesus or pick your particular point of doctrine here,” Plake said. “I’m more concerned that we point people to the Word

of God... We get them there, they’re going to find wisdom, they’re going to find hope for their struggles, and if we can help people connect deeply with the Bible, then the doctrinal challenges are going to work themselves out.”

He added that secular culture has raised crucial questions for the Church to answer about the deity of Christ and other doctrinal issues since the first century. “Culture tries to bend doctrine to fit its own categories and its own structures, and it’s been this way since the book of Acts,” said Plake. “It’s not new to America. It’s not new to the 21st century. In some ways, every culture in the world is against Christ.”

While data collected in the survey did not distinguish between Christian and non-Christian respondents, the findings did suggest that the vast majority were at least open to considering the claims of the Bible. When it comes to curiosity about Jesus and/or the Bible, around 75% of Gen-Zers said they were at least “a little curious, with 21% saying they were “very curious” and 31% saying they were “extremely curious.”

That curiosity spiked despite an unprecedented drop in Bible engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic, which Plake says is mainly linked to two groups. “I think there’s a big group of people who have curiosity. They just don’t know where to get started,” he said. “The other group that’s kind of interesting is the most Bible-



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apathetic views on spirituality — particularly among millennials and Generation Z — pose a greater threat to Christianity than atheism. These are views that aren’t specifically anti-Christian or anti-religion, but rather ambivalent towards Christianity or religion in general. Meanwhile, a Barna Group survey from 2018 suggests that more people in “Generation Z” — traditionally defined as those born between 1999 and 2015 — identify themselves as agnostic, atheist or not religiously affiliated than any other generation.

Apathy can also bleed into theology, with most Christian parents not having enough biblical literacy to even pass down to their children the most basic tenets of the faith, research suggests. A report released in April by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University found that parents of preteens “are in a state of spiritual distress” as American adherence to biblical Christianity fades. George Barna, director of research at the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian, said a paltry 2% of parents of preteens have a biblical worldview, largely because “parents ... are too distracted or disinterested to acknowledge and address the parenting crisis.”

Researchers said those categorized as

apatheists “simply do not believe, and in the same right, their absence of faith means the absence of anything religious in any form from their mental space.” Strictly speaking, apatheism is less theological and more attitudinal in nature. Instead of declaring a “lack of belief” in God, one could theoretically acknowledge the existence of God and still be disinterested. Since apatheism is a judgment or intellectual position on a type of belief and not a belief or disbelief in itself, proponents say it’s irrelevant for an apatheist whether God exists or not. This combination of apathy and resistance to change among Christians can often result in a stagnant fellowship and even a lack of evangelism.

Biblical Connection: Revelation 3:14-16 states, “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” There is no place for apathy in the Christian life. Jesus demands that we bear fruit and this can only occur through following Him. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray the American church will awake from its slumber and return back to its mission.

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engaged Americans. For them, they know how to find what they’re looking for in the Bible, but where they’ve been challenged is how to live out a biblical faith through service to others and worship with others.”

Plake added much of the drop in Bible engagement has stemmed from social pressures linked to the pandemic.

Biblical Connection: The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus was sinless in numerous passages. For example, Hebrews 4:15 states, “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” To doubt the sinlessness of Jesus is to doubt the truth of God’s Word. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray this new generation will study God’s Word and become more sound on essential doctrines.
