

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC Newsletter

www.TheKingIsComing.com

FEBRUARY 2023

Published by World Prophetic Ministry, Inc. (800) 622-2767
National Processing Center • PO Box 150439 • Grand Rapids, MI 49515

Dear Friend,

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27.

One phrase stands out, *“Let not your heart be troubled.”* If we take our focus off of Christ and only dwell on the political, social, and spiritual divide raging across the world, the future would look so bleak.

Are we living in the End Times? We don't know the day or hour of Christ's glorious return, but there are many events happening today seem to hint it could be soon.

As we wait, through World Prophetic Ministry and The King is Coming telecast, we have an international platform to share the TRUTH found in God's Word. May we be found faithful in sharing the blessed hope of salvation!

Thank you for your continued support which enables us to use our resources to clearly present the Gospel.

-World Prophetic Ministry

Restaurant Refuses to Serve Christian Group Over Stance on Marriage, Abortion



The head of a Christian pro-family group in Virginia says a local restaurant refused service to the organization over its views on marriage and abortion. Victoria Cobb, president of The Family Foundation, said the staff at Metzger Bar and Butchery in Richmond refused to service the group's pre-reserved event where they had planned to gather supporters for fellowship and updates on their work. Cobb said one of Metzger's owners contacted her team about 90 minutes before the event and canceled.

At first, Cobb said a team member was told the wait staff had looked up our organization and refused to serve

Continued on page 4

War in Syria Pushing Turkey Toward Russia and Iran

Since 2019, the Syrian situation has been largely at a stalemate, with authority divided among three de facto enclaves, each dependent

on the sponsorship of outside powers. The Assad regime, guaranteed by Russia and Iran, controls around 60-65% of Syria's territory, including the coastline and the main cities. The US-backed, Kurdish-dominated

Syrian Democratic Forces hold most of the area east of the Euphrates, comprising roughly 30% of Syria's area. Turkey, in partnership with the self-styled "Syrian National Army", the remnants of the Sunni Islamist rebellion, remustered under Turkish auspices and with the jihadi Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) group, controls an area in the northwest, comprising around 10% of Syrian territory.

This de facto partition has mostly held since early 2018. Turkey shifted the balance somewhat in October-November 2019, with a ground incursion east of the Euphrates. This resulted in the establishment of an enclave of Turkish-controlled territory biting into the Kurdish-controlled area, and in the deployment of regime and Russian forces east of the Euphrates in order to deter further Turkish advances. Since then, the military situation on the ground has been static, the broader question of Syria's future unresolved.

There are indications of renewed movement. Specifically, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been carrying out an air campaign against targets in the Kurdish/US area since November 20th of last year. Erdogan has already threatened a ground

incursion, with the intention of pushing the Kurdish forces back 30 kilometers from the border and conquering three towns – Tal

Rifaat, Manbij and Kobani. Turkey is now also moving toward more diplomatic ties to both Russia and Syria. "We want to take a tripartite step as Syria-Turkey-Russia," Erdogan told reporters on his way back from

Turkmenistan, as reported on the Al-Monitor news website. The statements followed talks in Istanbul between the Turkish and Russian deputy foreign ministers, and a phone conversation between Putin and Erdogan.

This is a far cry from the Erdogan of a decade ago. Turkey emerged as the first and most determined supporter of the Islamist insurgents who sought to destroy the Assad regime. In 2012, in the early days of the insurgency, Erdogan effectively opened the border to the rebels, allowing them to ferry weaponry and supplies into Syria. Now, as the last protector of what is left of the revolt, the Turkish leader appears to be pursuing a very different goal – namely, rapprochement with the Assad regime, under Russian auspices.

The Turkish leader's stance indicates that while he may have for the moment abandoned his ambition to stand at the head of a group of Sunni Islamist regional states, this is not leading him to return to a pro-US regional policy. Rather, he appears to be seeking to draw closer to Russia in order to further weaken and eventually nullify the Kurdish-



See **WAR IN SYRIA** on page 3

Living in the Last Days

A large number of Americans across various religious backgrounds believe we are living in the last days of humanity, a recent study showed. Nearly two in five Americans, including both Christians and the religiously unaffiliated, responded affirmatively when asked if they believe “we are living in the end times,” according to a Pew research study. The study addressed Americans’ views regarding the earth, environmentalism and climate change, but a specific portion addressed views about the end of the world.



Even though a majority of respondents at 58% did not believe we are living in the end times, four in 10, or 39% said they believe we are. The majority of those who believe the end is near were self-professed Christians, 47% of whom believe we are living in the last days. The study further broke down the statistics to determine that 14% of such Christians believe that the end of the world will culminate with the return of Jesus Christ and that the conditions of

the world will worsen until then.

Black Protestants (76%) and evangelicals (63%) were the most likely to believe we are living in the end times. Mainline Protestants (31%) and Roman Catholics (27%) were less likely to assert they are living in the last days. These views are also divided along political lines with 45% of Republicans saying we are currently at the end of times as compared to 33% of Democrats. Geography also had an influence with 48% of adults in Southern

states saying that we are at the end of times as compared to 37% in the Midwest, 34% in the Northeast, and 31% in the West.

Among those who adhere to a non-Christian religion, nearly three in 10 (29%) said they think the world is wrapping up. A quarter of U.S. adults overall said they believe they we are living at the end of the world but do not hold such specific views about how it will take place,

See **THE LAST DAYS** on page 6

WAR IN SYRIA from page 2

led entity in eastern Syria. Erdogan considers that this body, aligned with the US in its fight against ISIS, is a front for the PKK (Kurdish Workers Party), with which Turkey has been at war since 1984. His efforts since 2015, when it became clear that the rebellion was not going to defeat Assad, have been mainly directed toward seeking the destruction of the Kurdish-led area. In this regard, Turkey finds natural partners in Russia and Assad. Assad wants to reassert his nominal control over the entirety of

Russian sovereignty. Russia supports this goal too, as does its ally Iran, and both would like to see the departure of the US troops currently guaranteeing the continued existence of the Kurdish-led enclave. As Turkey moves away from NATO and toward Russia and Iran, could this be setting the stage for Gog and Magog?

Biblical Connections: Ezekiel 38-39 talks about the battle of Gog and Magog in which Turkey, Iran and Russia will align with other nations to invade Israel in the future. — PNL

PRAY: Pray that God’s will is accomplished throughout these events in the Middle East.

the group. However, a short time later, the restaurant issued a statement “citing our views on traditional marriage and valuing unborn human life,” she said. That statement — which was posted on Metzger’s social media pages — said the owners decided after they learned the group had donated to a “political organization that seeks to deprive women and LGTBQ+ persons of their basic human rights in Virginia.”

It wasn’t immediately clear to which group the restaurant’s statement was referring. “We have always refused to serve anyone for making our staff uncomfortable or unsafe and this was the driving force behind our decision,” the statement reads. In response to a request for comment, Conway reiterated that Metzger’s “has always prided itself on being an inclusive environment for people to dine in” and said “many” of Metzger’s staff are “women and/or members of the [LGBT] community. We respect our staff’s established rights as humans and strive to create a work environment where they can do their jobs with dignity, comfort and safety,” Conway wrote via email. “We hope you will understand our decision as we understand it is your choice to dine with us or not.” Conway did not answer whether Metzger’s wait staff or ownership held discriminatory views against Christians or other religious groups.

“While cloaking his statement in false notions of a welcoming environment, this owner’s actions were bigoted and hateful,” said Cobb. “Metzger’s is fortunate that, unlike the political left, our first reaction isn’t to turn to the government to compel others to share our views.” Cobb pointed to another recent experience with the refusal of service from another company, Every Action, which

she said purchased The Family Foundation’s database provider and then “immediately” discontinued them as a client. Cobb said the decision cost the group “tens of thousands of dollars.” “We believe most Virginians are happy to not only serve those with differing political or religious viewpoints but even dine with and engage in conversation with them as well,” Cobb stated. “However, more and more, we’re seeing Christians being canceled for their convictions.”

Western Europe and now the United States, once bastions of Christianity that spread the Gospel throughout the world, have become battlegrounds for secularization. More and more there is a push to drive these nations away from traditional Christian values and morals to the point that holding these views is now considered inappropriate, bigoted and even dangerous in some circles. If Christians do not support this secular agenda, they are sued and attack for discrimination. If other groups exclude and discriminate against Christians, it is not viewed in the same manner anymore. It will become tougher and tougher to stand firm as a Christian in these difficult times.

Biblical Connections: In Matthew 10:22, Jesus stated, “And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.” Jesus understood there would be a cost to following after Him. In John 3:19, Jesus gave a reason for this when He said, “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” Those that ignore or even hate Biblical standards do so not because of a rejection of man, but ultimately do so as a rejection of the light of God’s perfect and holy standard. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray that our nation will turn back to God and that there will be a great revival once again in America.

New Archaeological Find Continues to Defend Biblical History

An Israeli professor claims that a recent translation of an eighth-century B.C. inscription containing the name of Judean King Hezekiah in Jerusalem's City of David is "one of the most important archaeological discoveries in Israel of all time." Prof. Gershon Galil, head of the Institute for Biblical Studies and Ancient History at Haifa University in Israel, alongside Eli Shukron, from the Bible and Ancient History research institute, deciphered Hezekiah's name on a palm-sized limestone tablet discovered in 2007.

The inscription also summarizes the first 17 years of Hezekiah's reign and his accomplishments, as described in 2 Kings 20 of the Bible. The verse describes how Hezekiah brought water to the city through the discovery of a pool and a tunnel, and the inscribed stone was found at a pool in the Gihon Spring area. Shukron and archaeologist Ronny Reich found the fragment near a man-made pool in the Siloam tunnel. The discovery was made during excavations at Jerusalem's City of David National Park in 2007, with Shukron and Galil spending over a decade deciphering it.

The inscription measures about 5.3 inches long by 3.8 inches wide, and there are two lines of writing containing six letters inscribed in Old Hebrew script. Galil and Shukron concluded that the full inscription reads: "Hezekiah made the pool in Jerusalem." "This is an extremely important discovery that changes some basic assumptions of research, since until today it was commonly accepted that the kings of Israel and Judah,

unlike the kings of the ancient Middle East, did not make themselves royal inscriptions and monuments... to commemorate their achievements," Galil was quoted as saying.

The professor explained that these inscriptions are the "earliest manuscripts of the Bible," that we have to date, noting that they predate other ancient artifacts, such as Hinnom silver amulets by 100 years and the Dead Sea Scrolls by hundreds of years. "They also support the claim that scriptures in the Book of Kings are based on texts originating from chronicles and royal inscriptions and that the Bible reflects historical reality and not imagination," he added.

The Jerusalem Post reports that the researchers deciphered five royal inscriptions of King Hezekiah, which include dozens of lines and hundreds of letters. According to Galil, the inscriptions indicate the date the water project was completed in the 17th year of Hezekiah's reign, around 709 BCE. The researchers believe that the stone was attached to a public building and that the inscription was much larger.

The inscription carries a link to another fragment discovered at the Gihon Spring in 1978 by archaeologist Yigal Shiloh. The text includes the word "seventeen/seventeenth," which could be a reference to the length of Hezekiah's reign. Notably, both inscriptions are of the same type of limestone and have the same lettering. The letters also look similar to the Siloam Inscription, which describes how



See **BIBLE HISTORY** on page 4

THE LAST DAYS from page 3

according to the study. The study also found that “most U.S. adults – including a solid majority of Christians and large numbers of people who identify with other religious traditions – consider the Earth sacred and believe God gave humans a duty to care for it,” the researchers said. The survey cited an article in *The Journal of Religion and Health* which noted a rise in both secular and religious “apocalypticism” attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the great challenges we have in this area is because of the nature of the imminent return of Christ — meaning Jesus could return at any time — essentially every generation from the time of Paul until now has thought it was in the last generation before the return of Christ. Paul wrote 1-2 Thessalonians to believers who were concerned they had missed the return of Christ. Many of the reformers believed the return of Christ would occur during their lifetime. Jonathan Edwards in the early 1700s believed the Great Awakening would lead into the return of Christ. Thus, it is not unique for

a large segment of the population to believe Christ could return soon.

However, there are important signs that have occurred in the last 100 years that seem to hint the return of Christ could be on the horizon. First, Israel, erased from the map for thousands of years, has been reestablished as a nation. This is critical as so many of the prophecies of the end times require a national Israel. Second, technology has allowed for the world to “grow smaller”, both in terms of communications and travel, which would allow for the Antichrist to control the world much easier. Finally, the existence of weapons of mass destruction both resemble some of the events in the book of Revelation as well as put a limit on how long the earth will exist in its current format before a nuclear apocalypse could occur. These events lend credence that we may be rapidly approaching the return of Christ.

Biblical Connections: Matthew 24:36 - “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray that if the coming of Christ is soon and the Rapture is on the horizon that we will be faithful to witness to as many people as possible in the time that remains.

BIBLE HISTORY from page 5

the tunnel was constructed to carry water into the city to prevent the Assyrians from cutting off Jerusalem’s water supply.

These types of archaeological finds are very important in establishing the credibility of the Bible to the outside world. Many will downplay these discoveries and minimize their findings because they want to reject God’s Word, others will find them helpful in showing that we can trust God’s Word as authoritative.

Biblical Connections: 2 Timothy 3:16

states, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” If God’s Word says an event happened in the past, then we need to trust that God’s Word is correct. These discoveries can help give us stronger confidence in the reliability of the Bible. While the discoveries themselves will not lead people to Christ, they help to alleviate some of the stumbling blocks people create to avoid the reality of the Bible.— *PNL*

PRAY: Pray more discoveries will be made in the field of archaeology in the future that will continue to defend God’s Word.