

*"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh" - Luke 21:28*

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# SIGNS IN THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS

## **Other Earths? A new estimate raises the odds of finding them.**

The *Christian Science Monitor* reports: "The prospects for finding Earth-sized planets around other sun-like stars in the Milky Way appear to be improving.

A new estimate predicts that for every four sun-like stars, one should host at least one planet with anywhere from one-half to twice Earth's mass.

The estimate was among the results of a study by an international research team commissioned by NASA to identify potential targets for as-yet unbuilt space telescopes.

The study, which will appear in the journal *Science*, doesn't directly address the Holy Grail for planet hunters — finding an Earth-size planet at a life-sustaining distance from its host star. The researchers' prediction involves Earth-size objects in orbits that would fall well inside the orbit of Mercury, the inhospitable first rock from the sun. Their estimate was based on careful observations of stars from a volcano-based telescope in Hawaii.

But if Earth-scale planets are present at the distance the study's researchers predict, it would imply a greater

likelihood that such objects would be present in more-distant orbits as well — including within a star's so-called habitable zone, they say.

At the least, such close-in objects would be among the first Earth-size planets NASA's Kepler mission is expected to detect. The Kepler spacecraft, which was launched in March 2009 and trails Earth in its orbit around the sun, is designed to detect Earth-size planets in 'life-friendly orbits' around distant stars.

If the international research team's prediction holds up, Kepler, in addition to the planets it is already looking for, would also find as many as 260 of the star-hugging Earths the researchers predict..." (*"And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven*

*shall be shaken."* — Luke 21:11, 25, 26. See also the next report.)

## **Moon's water is useful resource, says NASA**

*BBC News* reports: "There are oases of water-rich soil that could sustain astronauts on the Moon, according to NASA.

Scientists studied the full results of an experiment that smashed a rocket and a probe into a lunar crater last year.

The impacts kicked up large amounts of rock and dust, revealing a suite of fascinating chemical compounds and far more water than anyone had imagined.

A NASA-led team tells *Science* magazine that about 155kg of water vapor and water-ice were blown out of the crater.

The researchers' analysis suggests the lunar regolith, or soil, at the impact site contains 5.6% by weight of water-ice.

"That's a significant amount of water," said Anthony Colaprete, from the U.S. space agency's Ames research centre.

'And it's in the form of water-ice

grains. That's good news because water-ice is very much a friendly resource to work with. You don't have to warm it very much; you just have to bring it up to room temperature to pull it out of the dirt real easy.'

And he added: 'If you took just the 10km region around the impact site and say it had 5% water — that would be equivalent to about a billion gallons of water. I'm not saying that's what's there, but it just shows you that even at these small concentrations there's potential for lots of water.'..."

### **Most Distant Galaxy Ever Confirmed**

*Wired.com* reports: "Astronomers' new observations have spotted the most distant galaxy ever seen. The galaxy's light comes from about 13.1 billion light-years away, making it one of the first galaxies to form after the Big Bang.

The new galaxy is about 30 million light-years farther away than previous record-holder, a gamma-ray burst that faded within a few hours of its peak brightness, and 200 million light-years farther than the next most distant galaxy.

'We are approaching the limits of the observable universe with this observation,' said astronomer Michele Trenti of the University of Colorado, who was not involved in the new work. 'It is quite a good improvement.'

The finding, published in the Oct. 21 *Nature*, could also give insight into how young stars helped make the universe transparent.

The new distance champion, deemed UDFy-38135539, was first spotted in late 2009 in a Hubble Space Telescope image called the Ultra Deep Field. The image captures 10,000 galaxies in the universe's earliest epochs, several of which were good candidates for the most distant galaxy..." **(I believe there are millions or even billions of galaxies like ours — each with 200 — 400 million suns. Christ created all of this vast mass of galaxies — John 1:3, 10; Colossians 1:16, 17; Revelation 4:10, 11; and Hebrews 1:2 tells us that by Christ God made the worlds [plural, unlimited]. David in the Psalms is startled by God's creation — Psalm 19:1-3; Psalm 8:3, 4.)**

### **One EMP burst and the world goes dark**

*USA Today* reports: "The sky erupts. Cities darken, food spoils and homes fall silent. Civilization collapses.

End-of-the-world novel? A video game? Or could such a scenario loom in America's future?

There is talk of catastrophe ahead, depending on whom you believe, because of the threat of an electromagnetic pulse triggered by either a supersized solar storm or terrorist A-bomb, both capable of disabling the electric grid that powers modern life.

Electromagnetic pulses (EMP) are oversized outbursts of atmospheric electricity. Whether powered by geomagnetic storms or by nuclear blasts, their resultant intense magnetic fields can induce ground currents strong

enough to burn out power lines and electrical equipment across state lines...

Fear is evident. With the sun's 11-year solar cycle ramping up for its stormy maximum in 2012, and nuclear concerns swirling about Iran and North Korea, a drumbeat of reports and blue-ribbon panels center on electromagnetic pulse scenarios.

'We're taking this seriously,' says Ed Legge of the Edison Electric Institute in Washington, which represents utilities. He points to a North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) report in June, conducted with the Energy Department, that found pulse threats to the grid 'may be much greater than anticipated.'

There are 'some important reasons for concern,' says physicist Yousaf Butt of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass. 'But there is also a lot of fluff.'

At risk are the more than 200,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines that cross North America, supplying 1,800 utilities the power for TVs, lights, refrigerators and air conditioners in homes, and for the businesses, hospitals and police stations that take care of us all.

'The electric grid's vulnerability to cyber and to other attacks is one of the single greatest threats to our national security,' Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., said in June as he introduced the bill to the House of Representatives..." **(II Timothy 3:1 "This know also that in the last days perilous [dangerous] times shall come". See also Joel 2:30, 31; Acts 2:19, 20; and Matthew 24:29.)**

# MARK OF THE BEAST TECHNOLOGY

### **Chinese Supercomputer Likely to Prompt Unease in U.S.**

*The Wall Street Journal* reports: "A newly built supercomputer in China appears poised to take the world

performance lead, another sign of the country's growing technological prowess that is likely to set off alarms about U.S. competitiveness and national security.

The system was designed by China's

National University of Defense Technology and is housed at the National Supercomputing Center in the city of Tianjin. It is part of a new breed that exploits graphics chips more commonly

used in playing video games — supplied by Nvidia Corp. — as well as standard microprocessors from Intel Corp.

Supercomputers are massive machines that help tackle the toughest scientific problems, including simulating commercial products like new drugs as well as defense-related applications such as weapons design and breaking codes. The field has long been led by U.S. technology companies and national laboratories, which operate systems that have consistently topped lists of the fastest machines in the world.

But Nvidia says the new system in Tianjin — which is being formally announced at an event in China — was able to reach 2.5 petaflops. That is a measure of calculating speed ordinarily translated into a thousand trillion operations per second. It is more than 40% higher than the mark set last June by a system called Jaguar at Oak Ridge National Laboratory that previously stood at No. 1 on a twice-yearly ranking of the 500 fastest supercomputers...” **(Imagine! A computer that is capable of 2,500,000 trillion calculations per second and Japan is planning to push this number to four times this amount or 10,000,000 trillion calculations per second. The antichrist and false prophet will have no problem keeping track of the citizens of the tribulation 7 year era — Revelation 13:1-18; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; and 20:4. See also the next three reports.)**

### **UK: Every email and website to be stored**

*The London Daily Telegraph* reports: “Every email, phone call and website visit is to be recorded and stored after the Coalition Government revived controversial Big Brother snooping plans.

It will allow security services and the police to spy on the activities of every Briton who uses a phone or the internet.

Moves to make every communications provider store details for at least a year will be unveiled later this year sparking fresh fears over a return of the

surveillance state.

The plans were shelved by the Labour Government last December but the Home Office is now ready to revive them.

It comes despite the Coalition Agreement promised to ‘end the storage of internet and email records without good reason’.

Any suggestion of a central ‘super database’ has been ruled out but the plans are expected to involve service providers storing all users details for a set period of time.

That will allow the security and police authorities to track every phone call, email, text message and website visit made by the public if they argue it is needed to tackle crime or terrorism.

The information will include who is contacting whom, when and where and which websites are visited, but not the content of the conversations or messages...”

### **Cyber warfare already here, UK spy agency chief says**

*Reuters* reports: “Countries are already using cyber warfare techniques to attack each other and need to be vigilant round the clock to protect computer systems, the head of Britain’s communications spy agency says.

Iain Lobban, the director of the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), said British government systems are targeted 1,000 times each month.

‘Cyberspace is contested every day, every hour, every minute, every second,’ he said in a rare speech...

The internet lowered ‘the bar for entry to the espionage game,’ he said. Its expansion increased the risk of disruption to infrastructure such as power stations and financial services.

‘The threat is a real and credible one,’ said Lobban, whose GCHQ agency, a big eavesdropping operation similar to the National Security Agency in the United States, handles operations such as intelligence-gathering and code-busting.

Politicians and spy chiefs in Britain

and around the world have increasingly been warning about the growing cyber threat.

The issue came to the fore when security experts suggested that the Stuxnet computer worm that attacks a widely used industrial system could have been created by a state to attack nuclear facilities in Iran...”

### **Cyber attacks and terrorism among top threats to UK**

*BBC News* reports: “Attacks on computer networks are among the biggest threats to the UK, Theresa May has said ahead of the publication of a new National Security Strategy.

Cyber terrorism was a ‘new and growing’ danger, the home secretary said.

The *BBC* has learned there will be new money to bolster cyber security, focused on protecting critical infrastructure and defense assets.

The strategy will form the background for the Strategic Defense Review, with defense cuts of 8% expected.

The National Security Council, set up by David Cameron in May, is publishing an updated approach to national security which identifies 16 threats to the UK.

The most serious - which they are calling ‘Tier 1’ - comprises acts of international terrorism, hostile computer attacks on UK cyberspace, a major accident or natural hazard such as a flu pandemic, or an international military crisis between states that draws in the UK and its allies.

Speaking ahead of the strategy’s launch in the Commons, Mrs. May said she was not prepared to rank these in order of gravity but acknowledged they were of a ‘different nature’ to other potential threats.

On terrorism, she said the threat level to the UK had been at severe - which means an attack is likely — for ‘some time’.

‘We are facing a very serious threat from international terrorism... we must all be vigilant,’ she told *BBC Radio 4’s Today programme*...”

# NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

## **Report: France 'won't rule out' UN creation of Palestinian state**

*Haaretz* reports: "French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner has said that it is impossible to rule out the option of the United Nations Security Council creating a Palestinian state, French news agency *AFP* quoted a Palestinian newspaper as saying.

According to the report, Kouchner told the *Al-Ayyam* newspaper that France prefers a two-state solution negotiated with Israel but that the Security Council option remains on the table.

'We want to be able to soon welcome the state of Palestine to the United Nations,' Kouchner is quoted as saying. 'This is the hope and the desire of the international community, and the sooner that can happen the better. The international community cannot be satisfied with a prolonged deadlock. I therefore believe that one cannot rule out in principle the Security Council option...' (The division of Israel and Jerusalem leads to World War III — Joel 3:2. 930 times God's Word states that Jerusalem belongs to the Jews. Still President Obama wants to hand it over to the Palestinian Muslims. Great turmoil and danger is ahead for all the world. Come quickly Lord Jesus and sit upon Your throne in Jerusalem — Zechariah 14:4; Luke 1:32, 22; Matthew 5:35. See the next four reports.)

## **UN rep: We support Palestinian state by next year**

*The Jerusalem Post* reports: "UN Special Middle East Peace Negotiator Robert H. Serry expressed the UN's support for the declaration of an independent Palestinian state to Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad while the two picked olives together near the West Bank village of Turmus'ayyeh, close to the Israeli settlement of Shiloh.

'All international players are now in agreement that the Palestinians are ready for statehood at any point in the near future,' said Perry. He continued, 'We are in the homestretch of your [Fayyad's] agenda to reach that point by August next year and you have our full support.'

Serry's remark came in reference to Fayyad's declared goal of achieving an independent Palestinian state by the summer of 2011 by incrementally building up national institutions in the West Bank to prepare the Palestinian people to successfully manage their own affairs. Fayyad stated that he set the two-year time frame for statehood back in August 2009.

During the press event, Fayyad also called upon Israel to prevent Israeli settlers from committing crimes against Palestinian civilians, referring to a number of incidents that occurred in the West Bank over the past several weeks...

## **Fayyad: PA will declare independent state in August 2011**

*The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad said the PA will declare an independent Palestinian state in 2011, while picking olives with a reporter from Italian daily *Corriere Della Sera*, according to an interview...

'The deadline is next summer, when the Israeli occupation of the West Bank must end,' Fayyad said. 'In 2011, we will celebrate 66 years of the United Nations and the United Nations will celebrate the birth of our nation.'

Fayyad added that the Palestinians 'need to build national institutions in the West Bank and prepare for an independent Palestinian state.'

'The people of Gaza must be involved in our national project,' Fayyad explained. 'There are gaps between us, it's true, but the real gap is the wall that

closes off the Strip. Next week, I will try to enter Gaza,' he added.

Fayyad took the *Corriere Della Sera* reporter to pick olives, something that he says he does every day. He also lamented the settlers' 'poisoning' of the trees, saying olive trees are 'the symbol of our right to be on this earth.'

'In Palestine we have 15 million olive trees, Fayyad said. 'We cannot accept that even one is destroyed. The youngest of these trees have deeper roots than the largest Israeli settlement...'"

## **Israel Warns Palestinians Against Unilateral Steps for Statehood**

*Voice of America News* reports: "The deadlocked peace talks with the Palestinians topped the agenda at Israel's weekly Cabinet meeting. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned the Palestinians not to take unilateral steps toward establishing an independent state. With peace talks stalled over Jewish settlement expansion, the Palestinians have threatened to bypass Israel and ask the United Nations Security Council to approve Palestinian statehood.

Mr. Netanyahu told his Cabinet that such a move is unacceptable. He said any attempt by the Palestinians to bypass the talks with unilateral steps is 'unrealistic' and would harm the peace process.

The Palestinians suspended negotiations after Israel ended a 10-month moratorium on settlement construction. Israel says building will be limited, but it has rejected demands by the international community to extend the moratorium.

Mr. Netanyahu said peace can only be achieved through direct talks, and he urged the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table.

But Palestinian spokesman Husam Zomlot says if Israel continues to expand settlements, there is nothing to talk about..."

### **PM: Palestinian state may be a source of continued conflict**

*The Jerusalem Post* reports: “Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spoke at the opening of the Knesset’s winter session in Jerusalem telling MKs that Israel was founded as ‘a Jewish state for the Jewish people.’

Finally, he said, we are living ‘in freedom, in our own land.’

‘There is no other democracy in the Middle East, and there is no other Jewish state in the world,’ the prime minister said.

He also mentioned his visit the previous week to the city Lod.

Netanyahu stated that in Lod he saw, ‘Jews and Arabs working together to defend themselves from violence and criminal groups.’ He added, ‘that every Israeli citizen deserves to feel personally safe and secure.’

With respect to the precarious peace talks, Netanyahu warned that while he hoped for the creation of a Palestinian state, only if it was created in a ‘responsible manner.’

‘A Palestinian state could be a cause of continued conflict and terror if it is not handled responsibly.’ The prime minister added, ‘Palestinian recognition of Israel as a Jewish state is central to the dispute between us [and is necessary for its resolution].’

President Shimon Peres spoke before the prime minister, expressing his hope that Israel will succeed in resolving disagreements over core issues and achieving a peace agreement with the Palestinians...”

### **‘Hezbollah has 10,000 operatives manning 40,000 missiles’**

*The Jerusalem Post* reports: “A report in the French daily *Le Figaro* revealed new information on the military wing of Hezbollah’s structural make-up, with details on the guerrilla group’s 10,000 operatives and arsenal of some 40,000 rockets. The report also focused on Syria’s role in Hezbollah operations, in both manufacture and transportation of rockets.

According to the *Le Figaro* report,

which quoted anonymous officials in the French Defense Ministry and Western intelligence sources, Hezbollah has three units dedicated to the transportation and maintenance of its rocket arsenal.

The unit responsible for transporting weapons from Damascus, Unit 108, received a delivery of Syrian missiles headed to Lebanon in January last year, according to *Le Figaro*. The shipment, which was apparently spotted by US military intelligence, was said to have contained 26 M-6002 missiles with a range of 250km. Unit 108’s main barracks are located near Syria’s border with Lebanon, in the Shi’ite town of Doma, the report added, with operatives also positioned within Damascus. The unit has another base next to Damascus Airport, which is vital for the handling of weapon shipments from Iran - Hezbollah’s main backer.

The *Le Figaro* report also revealed that Unit 112 is in charge of transporting missiles, usually by night and towards the end of the month. The weapons are moved using trucks with false number plates, according to the report.

Hezbollah’s Unit 100 reportedly deals with deployment and training, and making sure the missiles reach their final destinations, in various camps located within 150km from Israel’s northern border. As has been widely reported, *Le Figaro* noted that Iranian officers are responsible for training Hezbollah guerrilla fighters...” **(Dangerous times are ahead for Israel and the Mid-East as Russia and many Muslim nations unite to attack Israel, but Israel will win as Yahweh God comes to the aid of His beloved and chosen people — Ezekiel 38:1, 2, 8, 16; Ezekiel 29:1 — 13. Russia Muslim allies — Daniel 11:40; Isaiah 17:1; Ezekiel 38:5-7 and Psalm 83:5-7. Their purpose – Psalm 83:4. But it fails — Isaiah 56:15. See the next two reports.)**

### **Hamas official: Another Gaza war would cost Israel dearly**

*Haaretz* reports: “A Gaza-based high-ranking Islamic Hamas movement

leader warned Israel against launching a large- scale offensive on the Gaza Strip similar to the late 2008 Gaza war, also known as Operation Cast Lead.

‘We seriously consider Israel’s threats to launch another war on Gaza, but we frankly say if Israel tries to enter Gaza, it will cost it a lot and it won’t be able to achieve its goals,’ said Mahmoud al-Zahar during a workshop in Gaza.

Israel had accused Hamas movement, which has been ruling the Gaza Strip since June 2007, of trying to get more arms and weapons to the salient to use in carrying out attacks against Israeli territory.

‘It is the right of Hamas to have all kinds of weapons to defend itself,’ Zahar said. ‘If Israel carries out another war in the future, it should think thousand of times before carrying out a war.’

He said that Israel ‘exaggerates that armed organizations have various kinds of weapons to find an excuse to strike again on the Gaza Strip.’...”

### **Islamic Jihad Leader Dismisses Compromise with Israel as Impossible**

*The Fars News Agency* reports: “An Islamic Jihad leader underlined the Palestinian group’s resolve to continue resistance against the Zionist regime, and rejected the possibility of compromise with Israel on the rights of the oppressed Palestinians.

‘Resistance is the only desirable alternative for the Palestinian people,’ Mohammed al-Hendi told *FNA* stressing that Palestinians are determined to defend their national rights and fight and defuse the plots hatched to bring them into compromise with the Zionist regime.

Referring to the failure of the so-called peace talks between the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and acting Palestinian Authority Chief Mahmoud Abbas, Hendi reiterated that if Abbas really seeks to resolve the Palestinian issue, he should admit that the so-called peace talks have reached a dead-lock and he should devise a plan which considers and cares for the concerns of the Palestinian people...”

# ONE WORLD CURRENCY

## **Spotlight on Currencies at G20 Finance Leaders Summit**

*Voice of America News* reports: “Finance policy makers from the world’s 20 largest economies and the heads of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund are in South Korea. Their two-day meeting focuses on avoiding a currency war that could lead to another global economic downturn.

The Group of 20 nations have a consensus on which way they need to go in terms of currencies. That is the word from Canada’s finance minister, Jim Flaherty. He spoke just before the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors began their meeting.

‘Where we’re trying to get to is an action plan that will avoid the temptation by some countries to protect their

currencies in different ways,’ Flaherty said.

None of the G20 members, he explained, wants to be confrontational or leave here without an agreement...” (A financial catastrophe is coming soon upon the entire world — James 5:1-4; Revelation 18:10, 17, 19; Ezekiel 7:19; Revelation 16:2. See also the next report.)

## **Global Financial Policy Makers Agree to IMF Reform, Currency Pledge**

*Voice of America News* reports: “A historic deal among the world’s top 20 economies has been reached reforming the International Monetary Fund. Financial policy makers also agreed to

avoid a currency war.

The agreement by the advanced and leading emerging economies will shake up the International Monetary Fund. Europe is to give up two of its nine chairs on the 24-seat executive board.

‘It is a milestone in reforming global governance,’ said Olli Rehn, the chief for economic and monetary affairs of the European Commission.

IMF managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn calls it ‘very historic’ and the biggest-ever reform for the fund since its inception at the end of the Second World War.

Dynamic emerging economies and other under-represented countries, such as Brazil, China, India and Russia, are to control more than six percent of IMF voting rights by 2012...”

# TERRORIST THREAT

## **Netanyahu: Mail bombs targeting U.S. synagogues proves Islamist terror is rising**

*Haaretz* reports: “Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that the discovery of two parcel bombs mailed from Yemen to Chicago-area synagogues indicated a rising wave of Islamist terrorism around the world.

‘The fact is, it does not matter whether it’s an attack on a synagogue in Chicago, or a train station in Madrid, or London, or Mumbai, or Bali,’ he told his cabinet at a weekly session in Jerusalem.

Terrorism, he said, was rising ‘in the scope of the attacks, the audacity with which it is directed at the nations of the world, and of course, in its armaments.’

Netanyahu added that when meeting United States Vice President Joe Biden he would discuss steps to combat terrorism. The Israeli leader heads for the U.S. to participate in the Jewish Federations of North America’s General Assembly, in New Orleans...”

(Jeremiah 30:7; II Kings 17:34; Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:9; 24:21, 22. Who are the elect in Matthew 24:22? Israelites, Jews — Isaiah 42:1; 45:4; 65:9, 22. Israel will win when Christ returns — Zechariah 14:2, 4, 12, 16.)

## **Al-Qaida’s Recent Threats in Europe Underscore Its New Strategy**

*Voice of America News* reports: “Recent al-Qaida terror threats in Europe have stirred up new interest in the group’s foray into urban warfare, as used by Lashkar-e-Taiba in the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008. Experts say the threats show al-Qaida’s flexibility. At the same time, they say prevention of future attacks will require equal adaptability by the West.

A series of bomb scares and plots in Europe are serious enough to bring to mind the attacks carried out in London more than five years ago.

Saudi Arabian intelligence reports

said al-Qaida was planning urban warfare - attacks similar to those carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba in Mumbai in November 2008. Security was tightened in Britain, France and Germany.

The attacks were prevented after suspected U.S. drone attacks — like this one — in Pakistan’s tribal region killed militants of German origin who were allegedly plotting the attacks.

Experts say it underscores three crucial points.

One, that the suspected U.S. drone attacks on al-Qaida hideouts in Pakistan can be very effective in preventing such attacks in Europe and the United States.

Two, that the terror threat today is not a single, coherent threat. And that al-Qaida is constantly adapting its strategy to new circumstances...” (A great time of persecution will come upon Christians globally beginning with Europe — Matthew 5:10 — 12; II Timothy 3:12; Romans 8:35 – 37; Revelation 2:10. See the next report.)

### **Al Qaeda ally in Iraq says all Christians 'legitimate targets'**

*The Christian Science Monitor* reports: "The Islamic State of Iraq, an insurgent group and Al Qaeda ally declared all the country's Christians 'legitimate targets.'

The group says it believes that Muslim women are being held against their will in Coptic churches in Egypt. The Egyptian state, the Coptic church, and Egypt's leading Islamist movement the Muslim Brotherhood have all condemned the threats of violence against Christians.

The threat came while Iraq was still reeling from a series of car bombs across

the capital that killed at least 113 people in Shiite neighborhoods. The attacks bore the hallmarks of Sunni Arab militants like the Islamic State of Iraq. The massacre appeared designed to fuel sectarian violence against Shiites.

That followed the targeting of Christians, when the Islamic State of Iraq seized a Catholic church in Baghdad and killed 58 people during a standoff with police. It was said to be the deadliest attack against Christians ever recorded in Iraq.

'All Christian centers, organizations and institutions, leaders and followers, are legitimate targets for the mujahideen [holy warriors],' the Islamic State of

Iraq said in a statement posted online.

Sunni militant chatrooms have been inflamed with claims that the Egyptian Coptic church is forcibly holding two women, wives of Coptic priests, who converted to Islam. 'Let these idolaters, and at their forefront, the hallucinating tyrant of the Vatican, know that the killing sword will not be lifted from the necks of their followers until they declare their innocence from what the dog of the Egyptian Church is doing,' the message continued.

The Coptic church is the Egyptian branch of the Eastern Orthodox right and as many as 10 percent of Egyptian's claim the faith..."

# EUROPEAN SUPERSTATE

### **Poll says 10 percent of Germans want a new 'Führer'**

*The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Ten percent of Germans want a 'Führer,' and one quarter are strongly xenophobic, according to a recent poll, reported German news source *The Local*.

The poll, entitled 'The mainstream in the crisis — Right-wing extremist attitudes in Germany,' was conducted by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation for Political Education.

Those who wanted a 'Führer,' said that he should 'govern with a strong hand for the good of Germany,' and believed that dictatorship is the preferred form of government.

More than 30% agreed with the statement 'foreigners come to abuse the welfare state,' and even more (31.7%) said that when unemployment is high, the government should 'send foreigners back home.'

Over 58% said 'religious practice for Muslims in Germany should be seriously limited...' **(Europe and the entire non-Muslim nations are fed up and disgusted with all of the bloodshed, persecution and deaths Islamic terrorists are creating and**

**promoting globally. There may be a drastic backlash coming against Muslims if they don't soon stop their murderous ways — Nahum 1:1-5. See also the next report.)**

### **Merkel says German multicultural society has failed**

*BBC News* reports: "Attempts to build a multicultural society in Germany have 'utterly failed', Chancellor Angela Merkel says.

She said the so-called 'multikulti' concept - where people would 'live side-by-side' happily - did not work, and immigrants needed to do more to integrate - including learning German.

The comments come amid rising anti-immigration feeling in Germany.

A recent survey suggested more than 30% of people believed the country was 'overrun by foreigners'.

The study - by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation think-tank - also showed that roughly the same number thought that some 16 million of Germany's immigrants or people with foreign origins had come to the country for its social benefits.

Mrs. Merkel told a gathering of

younger members of her conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party that at 'the beginning of the 60s our country called the foreign workers to come to Germany and now they live in our country.'

She added: 'We kidded ourselves a while, we said: 'They won't stay, sometime they will be gone', but this isn't reality.'

'And of course, the approach [to build] a multicultural [society] and to live side-by-side and to enjoy each other... has failed, utterly failed.'

In her speech in Potsdam, however, the chancellor made clear that immigrants were welcome in Germany.

She specifically referred to recent comments by German President Christian Wulff who said that Islam was 'part of Germany', like Christianity and Judaism.

Mrs. Merkel said: 'We should not be a country either which gives the impression to the outside world that those who don't speak German immediately or who were not raised speaking German are not welcome here.'

# NEWS FROM RUSSIA

## **Putin's Chief of Staff Becomes Mayor of Moscow**

*Voice of America News* reports: “Vladimir Putin’s chief of staff is now Moscow’s new mayor.

Sergei Sobyenin, a native of a Siberian village, is little known to Muscovites, having lived here for only five years. But he spent those five years as chief of staff to Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin — and that was enough for him to be appointed Mayor of Moscow.

It was a smoothly choreographed ascension. Moscow’s city council dutifully — and overwhelmingly — approved Sobyenin, the Kremlin’s choice. Then, came an inauguration ceremony led by President Dmitry Medvedev, the new mayor’s nominal sponsor. Then, ‘live’ on national television, an award ceremony with the mayor’s patron, Prime Minister Putin.

After Russia’s prime minister and president, the Mayor of Moscow is widely seen as the third most powerful official in the nation. He rules the capital of the world’s biggest energy exporter. Greater Moscow now contains 10 percent of Russia’s population and one quarter of its \$1.2-trillion economy.

Dmitri Trenin, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center, said that with a close Putin confidante now starting a five year term as Moscow’s mayor, it is

clear where power really lies in Russia today.

‘Vladimir Putin has been and will continue to be Russia’s paramount politician,’ he said. ‘He is the one calling the shots.’...” (Ezekiel 38 & 39 — study both chapters also Joel 2:3, 20, 30, and 31. See the next two reports.)

## **Russia ‘considering’ proposal to join missile shield**

*BBC News* reports: “President Dmitry Medvedev has said Russia is considering proposals to cooperate on a U.S.-led missile defense shield in Europe.

But speaking after talks with the French and German leaders, Mr. Medvedev stressed the NATO bloc needed to make clear how Russia would be involved.

Moscow had earlier expressed its concerns over the plans to deploy the missile shield in central Europe.

At the talks Mr. Medvedev also said he would attend a NATO summit next month.

The Kremlin had held back for several weeks before giving its response to attend the summit in Lisbon on 19 November.

Speaking after the two-day talks in Deauville, northern France, Mr. Medvedev revealed that he told French

President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel that Russia was considering cooperation on the controversial missile defense shield...”

## **Russia and Venezuela sign nuclear power and oil deals**

*BBC News* reports: “Russia is to build a nuclear power plant in Venezuela as part of a series of energy deals between the nations.

Russia will build two 1,200 megawatt nuclear reactors at the Venezuelan plant, said the *ITAR-Tass* news agency.

Meanwhile Rosneft, Russia’s state oil giant, will buy a 50% stake in German refinery firm Ruhr Oel from Venezuelan state-owned company PDVSA.

The agreement, worth \$1.6bn (£1bn), was signed at the Kremlin during Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez’s visit. However the cost of the nuclear deal was not immediately revealed.

‘It could be in 10 years, it could be earlier,’ said Sergei Kirienko, head of the Russian state nuclear power corporation Rosatom.

‘Right now we have no practical activity in building nuclear power stations.

‘However, under the agreement signed today, that possibility has now in principle appeared.’...”

# PLAGUES AND PESTILENCES

## **Superbug infection in Brazil hospitals kills 18**

*BBC News* reports: “Eighteen people have died in the Brazilian capital after contracting a hospital superbug.

They were infected with bacteria which produce the enzyme Klebsiella Pneumoniae Carbapenemase (KPC), which renders most modern antibiotics ineffective.

It tends to infect hospitalized people whose immune system is already weakened, and those taking antibiotics.

Health officials say 183 people have been infected in Brasilia.

The number of those carrying the bacteria has risen sharply over the past three weeks, but a spokeswoman for the capital’s health authority said the increase could be due to more rigorous testing.

A similar outbreak is being reported in hospitals in Chicago, in the United States.

Denise Cardo, an official with the Center for Disease Control in the U.S., said she had seen an increase in hospital

infections in recent years.

‘There is no need to panic, but there is a need for a call for action,’ she told the *Associated Press* news agency.

The bacteria were first identified in the United States in 1999 and studies suggest they kill 40% of the people they infect.

Brazilian health authorities think that the indiscriminate use of antibiotics could have contributed to the spread of the bacteria...” (Matthew 24:7 — pestilences — see also Revelation 6:7, 8.)