

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

TERRORIST THREAT

U.S. TO REVIEW SECURITY PROCEDURES AFTER DETROIT AIRLINE INCIDENT

Voice of America News reports: "The Obama administration is reviewing U.S. terror monitoring procedures after a Nigerian man attempted to blow up an airliner as it approached the city of Detroit. Administration officials say the suspect's name had been entered into a U.S. security database, but had not been added to a 'no-fly' list.

In the wake of the foiled terror plot, President Obama has requested two reviews of U.S. security procedures. White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs spoke on ABC's 'This Week' program. 'First, on our watch-listing procedures: did the [U.S.] government do everything it could have with the information it had, understanding that these procedures are several years old? Did we do what we need to with that information? Second, obviously we have to review our detection capabilities. The president has asked the Department of Homeland Security to answer the very real question about how somebody with something as dangerous as PETN [plastic explosive] could have gotten onto a plane in Amsterdam,' he said.

U.S. authorities have charged the suspect, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, with transporting and attempting to detonate explosives aboard an airliner. The suspect flew from Amsterdam to the United States, and is believed to have hidden plastic explosives inside his clothing..." (**Jeremiah 6:25** - "...the sword of the enemy and fear is on every

side." So when the enemy rears his ugly ungodly head, rest on God's promises as found in **Philippians 4:6, 7** - "*Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*")

ATTEMPTED TERRORIST ATTACK ON AIRLINER SPARKS NEW CONCERNS ABOUT AL-QAIDA

Voice of America News reports: "The White House is calling a small explosion aboard an international flight bound for the U.S. city of Detroit 'an attempted act of terrorism.' Counterintelligence officials say a Nigerian engineering student tried to blow the plane up shortly before it landed. Senior U.S. lawmakers are now expressing concerns about possible links between the attack and the al-Qaida terrorist network.

Passengers on Northwest Airlines Flight 253 from Amsterdam to Detroit say just as the plane was getting ready to land there was a loud pop, and then panic.

'We heard a loud pop and a bit of smoke and then some flames, and then yelling and screaming,' said one passenger.

'The lady shouted 'what are you doing, what are you doing?' said another. 'And then we looked back. There were some fumes and some flames.'...

Officials have identified the suspect as Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab — a

23-year-old from Nigeria — whose name appears on a U.S. intelligence watch list.

They say Mutallab suffered severe burns when he tried to use a liquid to ignite powder strapped to his legs and blow up the aircraft.

New York Congressman Peter King, the ranking Republican on the Homeland Security Committee, was briefed by intelligence officials shortly after the plane landed. 'Well, some definite facts. One is that he has al-Qaida connections. Secondly, that it was a fairly sophisticated device.'

Mutallab, an engineering student who studied in Britain, told investigators he was acting on instructions from al-Qaida and got the explosive materials in Yemen. Those claims have yet to be confirmed. But Congressman King says there is plenty of reason to worry.

'How he was able to get on in Nigeria, what happened in Amsterdam, which is a visa waiver country, how he was able to get through and make it this far with the devices he had, these are all issues that have to be resolved.'

U.S. President Barack Obama has ordered security measures to be stepped up at all U.S. airports. And security officials are encouraging passengers to be observant and report any suspicious activity..." (**What should be done with these murderous thugs? Exodus 21:12: "He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death" and Leviticus 24:17 - "...he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death". This covers the next three reports as well.)**

INVESTIGATORS: NORTHWEST BOMB PLOT PLANNED BY AL QAEDA IN YEMEN

ABC News reports: “The plot to blow up an American passenger jet over Detroit was organized and launched by al-Qaeda leaders in Yemen who apparently sewed bomb materials into the suspect’s underwear before sending him on his mission, federal authorities tell *ABC News*.”

Investigators say the suspect had more than 80 grams of PETN, a compound related to nitro-glycerin used by the military. The so-called shoe bomber, Richard Reid, had only about 50 grams in his failed attempt in 2001 to blow up a U.S.-bound jet. The Christmas Day bomb failed because the detonator may have been too small or was not in ‘proper contact’ with the explosive material, investigators told *ABC News*.

Investigators say the suspect, Abdul Farouk Umar Abdulmutallab, a 23-year old Nigerian student, has provided detailed information about his recruitment and training for what was supposed to be a Christmas Day suicide attack.

According to the authorities, Abdulmutallab says he made contact via the internet with a radical imam in Yemen who then connected him with al-Qaeda leaders in a village north of the country’s capital, Sanaa.

Authorities say they do not yet know if the imam was the same one who was in contact with Maj. Nidal Hasan prior to his alleged attack on soldiers at Fort Hood. American-born Anwar Awlaki has lived in Yemen since 2002 and is considered a major recruiter for al-Qaeda by U.S. authorities. He survived a U.S.-backed air strike earlier...

The suspect in the Northwest Airlines attack told FBI agents he lived with the al-Qaeda leader in Yemen for about a month and was not allowed to leave as he was trained in what to do and how to do it, authorities said.

At some point, according to the account, Abdulmutallab said he was joined by a Saudi citizen whom he described as an al-Qaeda bomb maker...” **(Matthew 24:37 and Genesis 6:11 is being fulfilled in our day and it’s only beginning. How should genuine Christians respond? – “...when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass... then shall they see the Son**

of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory” – Luke 21:9, 27.)

‘HUNDREDS OF AL-QAEDA MILITANTS PLANNING ATTACKS FROM YEMEN’

The Times Online reports: “Hundreds of al-Qaeda militants are planning terror attacks from Yemen, the country’s Foreign Minister said.

Abu Bakr al-Qirbi appealed for more help from the international community to help to train and equip counter-terrorist forces.

His plea came after an al-Qaeda group based in Yemen claimed responsibility for the failed Christmas Day airliner bomb plot.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, alleged to be behind the attempt to blow up an American-bound aircraft, spent time in Yemen with al-Qaeda and was in the country only days before the failed attack.

Dr. al-Qirbi said: ‘Of course there are a number of al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen and some of their leaders. We realize this danger.

‘They may actually plan attacks like the one we have just had in Detroit. There are maybe hundreds of them — 200, 300.’

Dr. al-Qirbi said it was the ‘responsibility’ of countries with strong intelligence capabilities to warn states such as Yemen about the movements of terror suspects.

The United States, Britain and the European Union could do a lot to improve Yemen’s response to militants on its own soil, he added.

‘We have to work in a very joint fashion in partnership to combat terrorism,’ he said. ‘If we do, the problem will be brought under control.

‘There is support, but I must say it is inadequate. We need more training, we have to expand our counter-terrorism units and provide them with equipment and transportation like helicopters.’

Mr. Abdulmutallab is said to have told US agents that there were more people ‘just like him’ ready to carry out attacks.

An al-Qaeda group based in Yemen claimed responsibility for the failed attempt to bring down Northwest Airlines Flight 253 over Detroit as US President Barack Obama pledged to hunt down the plotters...” **(Intelligence sources warn that 300 militants have been trained to**

blow up planes and kill thousands of innocent victims.)

OBAMA LINKS CHRISTMAS DAY TERRORIST ATTEMPT TO AL-QAIDA

Voice of America News reports: “U.S. President Barack Obama, for the first time, has publicly connected the suspect who tried to blow up a U.S.-bound passenger plane on Christmas Day, December 25, to al-Qaida.

In his weekly radio and Internet address released on the White House Web site, Mr. Obama said it appeared a Yemeni affiliate of al-Qaida trained the suspect, ‘equipped him with ... explosives, and directed him to attack’ the plane ‘headed for America.’

Mr. Obama said the group had attacked American targets before, including killing an American at the U.S. Embassy in Yemen in 2008. He said the U.S. government is strengthening its partnership with Yemen ‘to strike al-Qaida terrorists.’

The president, who has been criticized by opposition Republicans for not taking strong enough action against militants and terrorists, defended his administration’s efforts to end the war in Iraq and increase troop levels in Afghanistan. He said those actions are part of his strategy to ‘disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaida and its extremist allies.’

Mr. Obama said he has received preliminary results of reviews he ordered into air travel screening procedures and a terrorist watch list system, and expected final results in the coming days.

The president said he is working to ensure branches of security forces coordinate and are held accountable after the latest terrorist attempt...” **(These ungodly murderers would kill thousands of good people in the name of their god. If the plans had succeeded, 270 would have died on the day our wonderful Saviour’s entrance into the world was remembered.)**

REPORTS: TALIBAN SUICIDE BOMBING HIT CIA NERVE CENTER

Voice of America News reports: “U.S. media are reporting that the U.S. base targeted in a suicide attack in eastern Afghanistan was responsible for gathering intelligence along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

News outlets quote former U.S.

intelligence officials, who did not want to be identified, as saying the base in Khost province, called Forward Operating Base Chapman, was also overseeing efforts to kill top militant leaders, often with the use of drones.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency confirmed the suicide bombing killed seven of its employees and wounded six others, but the CIA provided no other details. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

U.S. intelligence officers say it appears that the suicide bomber, a man wearing an Afghan army uniform, was being courted as an informant, and may not have been searched...” **(What a shame that suicide bombers believe they are rewarded with 72 virgins for all eternity as Islam teaches. Our God says in Romans 13:14 – “...put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” also Ephesians 4:19, 20 – “Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to**

work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ”)

EXPERTS CONCERNED U.S. HOMEGROWN TERRORISM ON THE RISE

Voice of America News reports: “The recent arrest of five American men in Pakistan on suspicion of trying to join militant Islamist groups has triggered concern in Washington about whether the United States has become complacent about homegrown terrorism. The five from Virginia were arrested in Pakistan allegedly for attempting to engage in Jihad against the U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Two alleged members of the Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, David Headley and Tahawwur Hussain Rana are being tried in Chicago on charges of links to last year’s terror attacks in Mumbai, India.

Najibullah Zazi was just a friendly hotdog stand vendor to those who knew

him, not as it is alleged, an al-Qaida operative conspiring to set off bombs around New York.

Not many people knew Major Nidal Hasan, the U.S. Army psychiatrist accused of killing 13 and wounding more than 40 in a shooting rampage at a military base in Texas. The U.S. Congress is concerned.

‘The threat is real, and we are still at risk in this nation. Case after case demonstrates this fact,’ said Representative Brian McCall of Texas.

McCall is a ranking Republican member of a House committee that held a hearing on homegrown terror.

The committee heard testimony about how to deal with homegrown terrorists while still protecting freedom of speech...” **(II Timothy 3:1, 3, 4 – “This know also, that in the last days perilous [dangerous] times shall come. For men will be fierce, despisers of those that are good, and Traitors.)**

NEWS FROM RUSSIA

RUSSIA ‘PLANS TO STOP ASTEROID’

BBC News reports: “The head of Russia’s federal space agency has said it will work to divert an asteroid which will make several passes near the Earth in 2029.

Anatoly Perminov told the *Voice of Russia* radio service that the agency’s science council would hold a closed meeting to discuss the issue.

Any eventual plan is likely to be an international collaboration, he said.

The US space agency said in October that there is a one-in-250,000 chance of Apophis hitting Earth in 2036.

That announcement was a significant reduction in the probability of an impact, based on previous calculations that put the chances at about one-in-45,000. The asteroid is estimated to pass within about 30,000 km of the Earth in 2029.

Mr. Perminov, who is the chief of Roscosmos, gave little detail of any plans that the agency has, but was quoted by *Interfax* news agency as saying that the solution would not entail the use of nuclear weapons.

Other schemes that have been put forth in the past for diverting asteroids from collision courses include spacecraft that nudge the space rocks out of their trajectory through force, or diverting them with ‘solar sails’ that use the wind of particles ejected from the Sun...” **(Both Russia and China are drastically concerned about the damage asteroids may create upon planet earth. The one in this report, the size of a football field could hit our earth with the force of 100,000 Hiroshima nuclear bombs. Russia, China, and the U.S. would like to shatter them with atomic laden missiles. If they can’t, one asteroid hit could cause darkness to permeate the globe with 120 days of total darkness. It’s coming – Matthew 24:29; Joel 2:31; Acts 2:20 all because of Revelation 6:12.)**

RUSSIA TO DEVELOP NEW NUCLEAR MISSILES AND LAUNCHERS

BBC News reports: “Russia will continue developing new nuclear missiles and launchers despite disarmament talks with the US, Russia’s President Dmitry

Medvedev says.

‘Of course, we will develop new systems, including delivery platforms, or missiles. This is routine practice, the entire world is doing it,’ he said.

Speaking in a live TV interview, Mr. Medvedev said this would not bypass agreements with the US.

Russia says it successfully tested a long-range SS-18 missile.

The missile — called an RS-20 Voyevoda in Russia — was fired from Orenburg in central Russia and hit targets in Kamchatka, in the far east, the *Ria Novosti* news agency reported.

So far Russia and the US have failed to find a successor to the Cold War-era Start 1 treaty. That treaty, which led to deep cuts in nuclear arsenals on both sides, expired on 5 December.

Asked why there had been a delay, Mr. Medvedev said ‘this is a difficult question, a very difficult one’.

‘This is a treaty which determines the parameters for developing and reducing the strategic arms potential of two of the

biggest nuclear states. We are moving very quickly as it is. We have agreed on almost everything.'

Both sides have agreed to continue observing Start 1 — which was signed by Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush Senior in the final days of the Soviet Union — until they reach a new agreement...'' **(The above report is very disappointing since President Obama is negotiating a new treaty with Russia to reduce nuclear weapons in both of our nations. Sadly, Russia is creating additional nukes and armaments for a predicted war. Which will undoubtedly be World War 3 or Armageddon – Revelation 16:16. See Ezekiel chapters 38 & 39 and Joel chapter 3. See also the next report.)**

PUTIN: RUSSIA MUST COUNTER U.S. MISSILE DEFENCES

BBC News reports: "Russia needs 'to develop offensive weapons systems' to

counter US missile defences and maintain the strategic balance, PM Vladimir Putin says.

Otherwise, the United States would feel 'completely protected' and able to 'do whatever they want'.

The US dropped controversial plans for missile defence bases in the Czech Republic and Poland, but said it would develop other defensive systems.

Mr. Putin said such plans were hindering nuclear arms reduction talks.

Russia and the US are yet to find a successor to the Cold War-era Start I treaty, which expired on 5 December.

The 1991 treaty led to deep cuts in nuclear arsenals on both sides.

Both sides have agreed to continue observing Start I until they reach a new agreement.

Under a joint understanding signed in July, deployed nuclear warheads should be cut to below 1,700 on each side within

seven years of a new treaty — a huge cut on Soviet-era levels.

Nonetheless, between them the two countries will retain enough firepower to destroy the world several times over.

'To preserve the balance, we must develop offensive weapons systems, not missile defence systems as the US is doing,' Mr. Putin said during a visit to Russia's Far East.

'The problems of missile defence and offensive arms are very closely linked.

'By building such an umbrella over themselves our [US] partners could feel themselves fully secure and will do whatever they want, which upsets the balance,' the Russian premier added.

Mr. Putin did not say what kind of offensive weapons Russia was seeking to develop...''

PLAGUES AND PESTILLENES

SCIENTISTS WARN OF RISE IN DISEASES SPREAD FROM ANIMALS TO HUMANS

The London Daily Telegraph reports: "Climate change and environmental disruption are spawning a host of new diseases being passed from animals to humans, scientists have warned.

At least 45 such diseases have been reported to UN agencies over the past two decades and more are expected to be identified in coming years.

Experts at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington claim that the world is braced for an increase in outbreaks due to global warming and changes in land use and farming practices.

Dr. Montira Pongsiri, an environmental health scientist at the EPA, told the *Independent*: "We appear to be undergoing a distinct change in global disease ecology.

'The recent emergence of infectious diseases appears to be driven by globalization and ecological disruption.'

He and eight colleagues examined five emerging and re-emerging diseases – malaria, lyme disease (spread by

ticks), Hantavirus (spread by mice and rats), West Nile disease (spread by mosquitoes), and schistosomiasis (spread by freshwater snails).

The researchers said that the number of people who succumbed to infectious diseases dropped in the developed world during the industrial revolution.

However, the rise of manufacturing and pollution levels increased the incidence of chronic diseases including cancer, allergies and birth defects.

They believe we are now experiencing another transition driven by the destruction of plant and animal habitats, the loss of species and changes that have brought more humans into closer contact with animals than at any stage in human history.

HIV is the best known example of a disease passed from animals to humans which went on to cause the global Aids pandemic. The virus is thought to have crossed from chimpanzees to humans in West Africa in the last century and more than 25 million people worldwide have since died from it.

The swine flu pandemic that emerged in Mexico last March also resulted from

the mixing of viruses that infected pigs, birds and humans to create a new pandemic strain...'' **(Jesus mentioned the increase of pestilences upon earth preceding His return – Matthew 24:7; Luke 21. John also predicts the problem as being caused by "the beasts of the field" – Revelation 6:7, 8.)**

MORE PEOPLE COULD HAVE 'MAD COW DISEASE' THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT

Guardian.co.uk reports: "More people may be incubating variant CJD, the human version of so-called 'mad cow disease', than was previously thought, according to scientists who today report an unusual case of the disease. All those tested worldwide since 1994 when the first cases were identified have been MM homozygous.

However, a 30-year-old man who died of vCJD in January 2009 was found to have a different genetic makeup from the rest of the 200 or so people diagnosed around the world, and identified as MV heterozygous.

Six months before the man was diagnosed with the disease, he had

been admitted to hospital suffering from personality changes, unsteadiness in walking that became progressively worse, and intellectual decline. He told doctors he had severe leg pain and memory problems. Two months later, he developed visual hallucinations. The symptoms got progressively worse and an MRI scan confirmed vCJD.

Doctors from the MRC Prion Unit and National Prion Clinic at the UCL Institute of Neurology, and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London, report the unusual case in

today's *Lancet* medical journal.

The observation could be of concern. In some other human prion diseases, such as kuru – thought to be linked to cannibalism in Papua New Guinea – people who are MV heterozygous have incubated the disease for longer than those who are MM homozygous before symptoms have shown. Some MV heterozygous patients are reported to have incubated kuru for over 50 years.

It is possible, doctors say, that vCJD takes longer to develop in people who are MV heterozygous than in MV

homozygous people.

'The majority of the UK population have potentially been exposed to BSE prions but the extent of clinically silent infection remains unclear,' say the authors of the paper. About a third of the population have the MM homozygous genotype – and until now all the cases came from this group. If individuals with other genotypes are similarly susceptible to developing prion disease after exposure to BSE, further cases would be expected, they say...'

NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

AL-AQSA BRIGADES: ISRAEL OPENING GATES OF HELL

YnetNews.com reports: "Just hours after IDF forces kill gunmen behind the shooting death of settler, Fatah's armed wing threatens swift retaliation. In Gaza, PRC calls on armed groups to avenge killing of three Palestinians near border fence.

Thousands of people attended the funerals of three al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades members who were responsible for the shooting death of Jewish settler Meir Avshalom Hai.

Raghsan Abu Sarah (40), Anan Sabah (36), and Raed a-Sarkaji (40) were killed by IDF forces operating in the West Bank town of Nablus.

Armed groups in the West Bank and Gaza threatened swift retaliation to the killings in Nablus and to the death of three other Palestinians by IDF fire near Gaza.

'The occupation (Israel) is opening the gates to hell,' said Abu Mahmoud, a senior al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades commander.

Fatah's armed wing vowed to respond 'in the language of blood and fire.'

Speaking to reporters in the West Bank, Abu Mahmoud threatened that its suicide

bombers would 'turn Israel's night to day' and would avenge the 'crime' committed by IDF forces in Nablus...' (**Don't blame Israel for opening the gates of hell when their purpose of retaliation is simply to protect their people against terrorist attacks by religious fanatics.**)

IRAN: WE'LL HIT ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR SITES IF ATTACKED

Haaretz reports: "Iran would strike back at Israeli weapons manufacturing sites and nuclear installations if Israel attacks the Islamic Republic's nuclear facilities, Defence Minister Ahmad Vahidi was quoted as saying.

Israel has not ruled out military action if diplomacy fails to resolve an international dispute over Iran's nuclear program, which the West suspects is aimed at making bombs.

Iran denies the charge and says it would retaliate if attacked.

'The Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces are fully prepared,' Vahidi told reporters during a visit to Syria, the semi-official *Mehr* news agency reported. If attacked by Israel, Iran's first targets would include various weapons manufacturing sites and 'unconventional nuclear centers', Vahidi said.

Iran does not want further escalation in the dispute over its nuclear programs and wants talks with the world powers, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said.

'We do not welcome any escalation and are ready to hold further talks with world powers over global issues,' Ahmadinejad said after a cabinet session in Tehran, reiterating previous offers of talks, which, however, did exclude the nuclear issue in the past...' (**Beware Ahmadinejad, Israel is the "apple of God's eye" – Zechariah 2:8. Yahweh God will come to aid His beloved people – Ezekiel 39:6 and Zechariah 14:2-4, 12, and 16.**)

IRAN LEADER: U.S. WANTS TO STOP MANKIND'S SAVIOR

Alarabiya.net reports: "Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said he has documented evidence that the United States is doing what it can to prevent the coming of the Mahdi, the Imam that Muslims believe will be ultimate savior of mankind, press reports said.

'We have documented proof that they [U.S.] believe that a descendant of the prophet of Islam will raise in these parts [Middle East] and he will dry the roots of all injustice in the world,' the hard-line president said, addressing an audience of

families of those killed during the 1980's war against Iraq.

'They have devised all these plans to prevent the coming of the Hidden Imam because they know that the Iranian nation is the one that will prepare the grounds for his coming and will be the supporters of his rule.'

Iranian news website *Tabnak* said Ahmadinejad further revealed plots by both the East and the West to wipe out the Islamic Republic.

'They have planned to annihilate Iran. This is why all policy makers and analysts believe Iran is the true winner in the Middle East,' he went on to proclaim, adding that they were after Iranian oil and other natural resources.

'In Afghanistan, they are caught like an animal in a quagmire. But instead of pulling their troops out to save themselves, they are deploying more soldiers. Even if they stay in Afghanistan for another 50 years they will be forced to leave with disgrace — because this is a historical experience.'

The president said on his last visit to New York he asked officials 'Is there not

one sane person in your country to tell you these things?'

'They know themselves that they need Iran in the Middle East, but because of their arrogance they do not want to accept this reality. They are nothing without the Iranian nation and all their rhetoric is because they don't want to appear weak,' he added...' (**Mahdi is not mankind's saviour – Jesus alone is: John 4:42; Acts 4:12; Philippians 3:20; II Timothy 1:10; Titus 1:4; 2:13; 3:6; II Peter 1:11; 3:18; I John 4:14.**)

FATAH WARNS OF INTIFADA AGAINST PA

The Jerusalem Post reports: "The killing of the three Fatah operatives in Nablus by the IDF could trigger a third intifada, Fatah officials warned..."

But the new intifada, they said, would be different from the first two — this time it would be directed against the Palestinian Authority.

During the funerals of the three men, all veteran members and leaders of Fatah's armed wing, the Aksa Martyrs Brigades, thousands of Palestinians

chanted slogans accusing the PA of collusion with Israel and calling for an end to security coordination with Israel and the dismantling of the PA.

For several hours during the funerals, which took place in Nablus, it seemed as if the PA and not the IDF had killed the three men. It was, in the words of a local journalist, 'one of the biggest anti-Palestinian Authority demonstrations' in many years.

The relationship between the PA and local Fatah activists has always been tense. Nablus and its surrounding refugee camps, especially Balata refugee camp, has long been a stronghold for disgruntled Fatah militiamen who occasionally vent their frustration against the PA leadership and security forces..." (**Muslim brothers in their faith will kill one another in the name of Allah. How wrong – "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" – I John 3:15.**)

KNOWLEDGE INCREASED

LARGE HADRON COLLIDER TAKES STEP CLOSER TO UNLOCKING SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE

The London Daily Telegraph reports: "The Large Hadron Collider has taken a step closer to unlocking the secrets of dark matter as the atom smasher recorded its first high-energy collisions of protons.

The collisions happened as the collider was put through test runs in preparation for full operations next year, according to Christine Sutton of the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN.

Physicists hope those collisions will help them understand suspected phenomena such as dark matter, antimatter and ultimately the Big Bang thought to have created the universe billions of years ago.

Two beams of circulating particles traveling in opposite directions at 1.18

trillion electron volts (TeV) produced the collisions.

The Atlas, one of four major detectors in cathedral-sized rooms in the collider's underground tunnel at Geneva, had part of its equipment turned on and could register collisions.

'They recorded a handful of collisions, and one of them looks quite nice, so it's on their web site,' Dr. Sutton said.

Dr. Sutton said the collisions occurred when the machine was ramped up briefly to 1.18 TeV.

That same level set a world record for proton acceleration in November, when Geneva's particle beams traveled with 20 percent more power than Fermilab near Chicago, which previously held the record.

The operators plan many more collisions at lower energies so the experiments can calibrate their equipment and prepare for more advances ahead..."

(**This experiment could cause untold damage as the greatest explosive blast in history occurs. Many scientists are alarmed and fearful. "...avoid... oppositions of science falsely so called" – I Timothy 6:20.**)

SCIENTISTS ANNOUNCE POSSIBLE DISCOVERY OF DARK MATTER

The Times Online reports: "Tantalizing hints of dark matter — the mysterious substance thought to make up a quarter of the Universe — have been picked up for the first time, in an American laboratory buried half a mile underground.

Scientists working on the Cryogenic Dark Matter Search (CDMS), in the disused Soudan iron ore mine in Minnesota, announced last night that they had detected two events with the signature of the weakly-interacting massive particles (WIMPs) that are thought to make up dark matter.

If the signals are confirmed by further observations that will begin next year, they would rank as one of the most important recent advances in physics and understanding of the cosmos.

The CDMS researchers stressed, however, that they were not claiming to have discovered dark matter because there is a good chance that the events were caused by something else.

The probability that the signals were caused by ordinary radioactive decay or cosmic rays is about one in four, they said. A one in 1,000 chance of a random event would be needed to confirm that dark matter has finally been seen.

‘In the new data set there are indeed two events seen with characteristics consistent with those expected from WIMPs,’ the CDMS team said in a statement. ‘However, there is also a chance that both events could be due to background particles.’

‘Scientists have a strict set of criteria for determining whether a new discovery has been made, in essence that the ratio of signal to background events must be large enough that there is no reasonable doubt...’ (As Christ is about to return “knowledge shall be increased” – Daniel 12:4. This includes space events and spectacular signs.)

STEM CELL TREATMENT RESTORES SIGHT TO PARTIALLY BLIND MAN

The Guardian.co.uk reports: “A man who was partially blinded when ammonia was squirted in his eye during an attack 15 years ago has regained his sight after receiving a pioneering stem cell treatment.

Russell Turnbull, 38, suffered massive damage to his right eye when he was caught in a scuffle after a night out in Newcastle in 1994. On the bus home, Turnbull had tried to intervene in a fight between two men but was injured when one of them began squirting passengers with ammonia.

The chemical severely scarred Turnbull’s cornea, the clear membrane that covers the front of the eye, and destroyed stem cells that usually help keep the cornea healthy.

‘I was in unbearable pain. It burned my eye shut,’ Turnbull told the *Guardian*. ‘I was in hospital for two weeks and

eventually I was able to open the eye again. It was like looking through scratched perspex.’

Turnbull was left with ‘limbal stem cell deficiency’ (LSCD), a condition that seriously impairs sight, and was in pain every time he blinked or saw bright lights.

In an experimental treatment devised by doctors at the North East England Stem Cell Institute in Newcastle, stem cells were taken from Turnbull’s healthy eye and grown on a layer of amniotic tissue, which is routinely used as a burn dressing. The NHS banks amniotic sacs donated by women who have had a Caesarean section.

When the cells had covered the membrane, a piece the size of a postage stamp was transplanted onto Turnbull’s damaged eye. Two months later the membrane had broken down, leaving his damaged eye with a fresh supply of healthy stem cells, which repaired the cornea.

Eye tests six months after surgery showed that Turnbull’s vision was nearly as good as it had been before the attack...” (We are on our way to Christ’s millennial rule upon earth “when the eyes of the blind shall be opened” – Isaiah 35:5.)

CRYONICS BELIEVERS AIM TO RETURN FROM DEAD

The Detroit News reports: “Every year, Paul Hagen travels from Wisconsin to Clinton Township to pay respects to his father, one of 94 frozen corpses that one day may outsmart death.

The father and son were tight. They spoke every day. And Hagen wants to continue those conversations in the future, when they’re reanimated by yet-invented technology and come back to life. Maybe forever.

Sounds crazy?

Not to Hagen or hundreds of other members at The Cryonics Institute, which is housed in a nondescript industrial park off Interstate 94. Dismissed by mainstream science, some religions and much of the public, cryonics followers don’t believe this lifetime is long enough and want to come back from the dead.

And business is good.

‘If there’s any possible chance that

I might be able to speak with my dad again, I’d like to do that,’ said Hagen, 45, who recently became a member at the Cryonics Institute. ‘What’s the worst that could happen? If I am buried or cremated, I know I am gone. There is a possibility, however remote, that this may actually pan out, and I may speak with my family members again.’

Robert Ettinger, a former Wayne State University professor and Clinton Township resident, founded the institute more than 30 years ago. Unable to persuade scientists to preserve bodies at low temperatures after death in hopes of rejuvenation by yet-invented technology, Ettinger did it himself. The Cryonics Institute opened in Detroit in 1976 before moving in 1993 to Clinton Township.

For years, membership was in the single digits, but it has exploded 500 percent since 2000 to 830 worldwide folks who want to preserve themselves, DNA or pets. The facility has preserved 64 animals, mostly dogs and cats, but a few birds and a hamster.

Some credit the Internet for the growth. Others chalk it up to contemporary advances in science, including research into aging and disease, resuscitation after deep cooling and regenerative medicine.

Joseph Kowalsky likens cryonics to ‘an ambulance to the future’ and thinks of it this way: Most people would have considered someone dead in the 1800’s if they had dropped to the ground of a heart attack.

But defibrillators and other technologies have evolved to normalize the heart and allowed many people to live.

‘The whole question of cryonics is, when does somebody die?’ said Kowalsky, an Oak Park resident who is a board member of the Cryonics Institute. ‘If you can hold someone in stasis, stop decomposition so that we can find out later with medical technology if the person is really dead. It may be that person needed some form of medication, gene therapy, things we may not have even heard of yet.’

But most regard cryonics as science fiction...

Though cryonics has been around since the late 60’s, it was in the spotlight after the 2002 death of baseball legend Ted Williams, whose family was involved in

a legal battle over whether to preserve his body at Alcor.

Experts, however, say the science is just not there. Currently, it is possible to store human cells for therapeutic uses such as banked blood or sperm or embryos created by barren couples

through in vitro fertilization, according to cryobiologists who study how to store cells or small tissues at low temperatures for an extended period of time.

‘All the scientific data we have today indicates that it is not possible to successfully store at low temperature

relatively large tissues, much less organs (and) large whole bodies,’ said John K. Critser, president of the Society for Cryobiology...” (This report is not possible. When one dies his or her spirit enters the Glories of Heaven instantly, or the regions of the lost – Hell – II Corinthians 5:8; Luke 11:23.)

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

MORE U.S. CHRISTIANS MIX IN ‘EASTERN,’ NEW AGE BELIEFS

USA Today reports: “Going to church this Sunday? Look around.

The chances are that one in five of the people there find ‘spiritual energy’ in mountains or trees, and one in six believe in the ‘evil eye,’ that certain people can cast curses with a look — beliefs your Christian pastor doesn’t preach.

In a Catholic church? Chances are that one in five members believe in reincarnation in a way never taught in catechism class — that you’ll be reborn in this world again and again.

Elements of Eastern faiths and New Age thinking have been widely adopted by

65% of U.S. adults, including many who call themselves Protestants and Catholics, according to a survey by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

Syncretism — mashing up contradictory beliefs like Catholic rocker Madonna’s devotion to a Kabbalah-light version of Jewish mysticism — appears on the rise.

And, according to the survey’s other major finding, devotion to one clear faith is fading.

Of the 72% of Americans who attend religious services at least once a year (excluding holidays, weddings and funerals), 35% say they attend in multiple places, often hop-scotching across denominations.

They are like President Obama, who

currently has no home church. He has worshiped at a Baptist church, an Episcopal one, and the non-denominational chapel at Camp David.

‘Mixing and matching practices and beliefs is as much the norm as it is the exception,’ Pew’s Alan Cooperman says. ‘Are they grazing, sampling, just curious? We really don’t know.’

Even so, says Pew researcher Greg Smith, ‘these findings all point toward a spiritual and religious openness — not necessarily a lack of seriousness.’...” (I Timothy 4:1; II Peter 2:1, 2; Revelation 9:20; Jude 1:3-25.)

THE EU SUPERSTATE

EUROPEAN UNION BEGINS 2010 WITH NEW LOOK

Voice of America News reports: “The European Union begins 2010 profoundly transformed. A landmark agreement called the Lisbon Treaty is in force, aimed to increase EU clout on the world stage and streamline its decision-making. The first EU permanent president starts work in January, but many Europeans are apathetic about the institution that represents them.

It is holiday season in Brussels. Belgians and tourists stroll through Christmas markets that sell hot, spiced wine and Belgium’s famous waffles. They pause before an enormous Christmas tree in the Grand Place, the central square of Brussels that is surrounded by elaborately decorated old ‘guildhalls.’

These old European rituals are taking

place at a time of profound change in Europe. For the first time, Europeans have a permanent president of the European Union, former Belgian Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy, who took office on January 1. They have a new EU foreign policy chief and new EU commissioners, and after years of setbacks European governments finally ratified a pact called the Lisbon Treaty to bind the bloc together.

Nowhere are the changes felt more keenly than in Brussels, the administrative center of the 27-member bloc. Angelo Callant, a Flemish speaking Belgian, says he supports the Lisbon Treaty and he is proud that a Belgian is the EU first president.

‘I am for a stronger Europe, so it is a good evolution now ... Europe has an important job in some issues. We need a

stronger Europe for the economy and other things,’ Callant said.

French tourist Jacques Tacquoi is also pro-European Union. As a businessman, Tacquoi says, having a European Union and the euro currency makes a difference. He says he feels more European than French...” (The new look is Herman Van Rompuy, the first permanent president of the European Union – which they classify as the United States of Europe. It’s the beginning of the New World Order, the final sign pointing to Christ’s return – I Thessalonians 2:3-8. Soon the leader of the One World Government will ascend to power, as he becomes the Dictator of the New World Order who is undoubtedly alive and waiting in the wings. Get my new video for an in-depth study.)