

*"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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# CYBER WARFARE

## **NATO plans force to respond to cyber attacks**

*SpaceDaily.com* reports: "NATO wants to beef up its cyber defense capabilities with the creation of a special task force to detect and respond to Internet attacks, an alliance expert said at a conference on cyber security.

'NATO is planning to establish the Cyber Red Team (...) that would provide a significant contribution to the improvement of NATO's cyber defense capability,' Luc Dandurand, an expert with NATO's C3 Agency told delegates to the alliance's third annual cyber defense conference.

The new NATO cyber force could be involved in simulating threats and controlling readiness to response, gathering and using public information from open sources, scanning and probing networks as well as conducting denial-of-service attacks against specific services or networks, according to Dandurand.

The Symantec cyber security firm recently reported that web-based attacks in 2010 were up 93 percent from 2009.

'The need for such a team is obvious,' Dandurand said, adding it would primarily be tasked with detecting, responding to and assessing the 'damage cyber-attacks can cause in a military sense.'

Dandurand also highlighted legal and privacy issues that must be addressed before NATO's cyber force can take shape.

'The two main issues identified at this point are the need to legitimize the Cyber Red Team activities that could otherwise be construed as the malicious or unauthorized use of computer systems, and the potential for invasion of privacy resulting from cyber

red team activities,' he told experts gathered at NATO's Tallinn-based Cyber Defense Centre..." (CIA Director Leon Panetta warns: "The U.S. now faces a 'blizzard of threats', he states: 'The Cold War has been replaced by the "Blizzard War" ranging from festering insurgences to cyber-attacks which could cripple government, utilities and computers — the next "Pearl Harbor"'.)

## **U.S. Pentagon to treat cyber-attacks as 'acts of war'**

*BBC News* reports: "The U.S. is working on a plan to categorise cyber-attacks as acts of war, says the *New York Times* newspaper.

In the future, a U.S. president could consider economic sanctions, cyber-retaliation or a military strike if key U.S. computer systems were attacked, officials have said recently.

The planning was given added urgency by a cyber-attack on the defense contractor, Lockheed Martin.

A new report from the Pentagon is due out in a matter of weeks.

'A response to a cyber-incident or attack on the U.S. would not necessarily be a cyber-response. All appropriate options would be on the table,' Pentagon spokesman Colonel Dave Lapan told reporters...

The Pentagon's planning follows an international strategy statement on cyber-security, issued by the White House on 16 May.

The U.S. would 'respond to hostile acts in cyberspace as we would to any other threat to our country', stated the White House in plain terms.

'We reserve the right to use all necessary means — diplomatic, informational, military,

and economic — as appropriate and consistent with applicable international law, in order to defend our nation, our allies, our partners and our interests.'

The strategy will classify major cyber-attacks as acts of war, paving the way for possible military retaliation, reported *The Wall Street Journal* after interviewing defense officials..." (Cyber-attacks could destroy everything within a nation that's controlled by computers. Because of such attacks a nation could be brought to its knees within hours. Cyber-attacks should be treated as 'Acts of War' in order to preserve a nation — II Timothy 3:1; Luke 21:25. See the next four reports to understand the seriousness of the situation globally.)

## **White House unveils global cyberspace strategy**

*SpaceDaily.com* reports: "The White House unveiled a set of policy proposals for international cooperation in ensuring an open and secure Internet.

'Together, we can work together to build a future for cyberspace that is open, interoperable, secure, and reliable,' U.S. President Barack Obama wrote in an introduction to the 25-page '[International Strategy for Cyberspace](#).'

Obama, who has made cybersecurity a top priority along with diplomatic engagement, wrote that the document 'outlines not only a vision for the future of cyberspace but an agenda for realizing it.

'It provides the context for our partners at home and abroad to understand our priorities and how we can come together to preserve the character of cyberspace and reduce the threats

we face,' he wrote.

The policy document is short on specifics but provides goals and a framework for international cooperation in promoting the U.S. vision for cyberspace in what it called seven priority areas..."

### **North Korea's cyber army gets increasingly sophisticated**

*FoxNews.com* reports: "While the world worries about North Korea's nuclear weapons, its leader seems to be thinking that the more important battlefield involves cyber warfare.

'Modern war is electronic warfare. Victory or defeat in a modern war depends on how to carry out electronic warfare,' Kim Jong-Il told his military several years ago. He has since made cyber warfare a top, though secret, priority of his paranoid regime. And the first salvos of that war have fired.

Over the past year, North Korea has been suspected of involvement in ever-larger cyber attacks against South Korea, as many as 15,000 a day, according to the South Korean intelligence estimates. And as the attacks continue, so does their sophistication.

At first the cyber attacks, such as the massive July 4 attack in 1999 against government sites in the U.S. and South Korea, were basic — even primitive — 'denial of service' assaults in which an array of computers simply overwhelm sites. But as time passed, other more sophisticated attacks have come to light, including one in which a South Korean military officer's computer was targeted and contingency plans of the U.S. response to troubles was stolen.

The latest attack on April 12 hit South Korea's Nonghyup Bank and caused the bank's computer systems to collapse, leaving 30 million account holders without access to their money for several days. Prosecutors in South Korea say they linked the attack to a computer run by the North's Reconnaissance General Bureau.

In fact, South Korea's intelligence agencies now believe that North Korea has the capability to 'paralyze the U.S. Pacific Command and cause extensive damage to defense networks inside the United States.'

Among the most frequent visitors to U.S. military web sites, according to the U.S. Defense Department, are computers traced to North Korea.

Much like the clandestine nuclear program run by the rogue state, its cyber warfare capability is shrouded in secret and analysts differ on how extensive and sophisticated it has become. But the recent attacks and an increasing body of evidence from defectors paint an alarming picture..."

### **Enter Unit 8200: Israel arms for cyberwar**

*SpaceDaily.com* reports: "Amid mounting tensions in the Middle East, Israel's outgoing internal security chief, Yuval Diskin, says the Jewish state has been the target of attempted cyberattacks on key state infrastructure.

The attacker's identity was not disclosed, if indeed it is known. But the apparently unsuccessful attempts may have been retaliation by Iran for recent cyberattacks, blamed on Israel, on Tehran's contentious nuclear program.

In March 2010 the head of Israel's Military Intelligence, Maj. Gen. Amos Yadlin, disclosed that the Jewish state had become a world leader in cyberwarfare.

It was not clear why Yadlin, who headed one of the most secretive branches of Israel's military, would lift the veil on such a sensitive issue.

But it was widely seen as a warning to Israel's foes that it had the means to paralyze their infrastructure, such as electricity grids, water, transportation and financial systems and military command networks..."

### **Netanyahu: Israel needs to be at forefront of cyber warfare**

*The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Israel should be a global cyber-power, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said during a conference on cyber warfare at Tel Aviv University.

The premier said Israel must be a significant player in the new cyber warfare arena, adding that 'we are preparing ourselves' in line with that aim, *Channel 10* reported.

The conference is being held under the headline of 'exploring the Cyber warfare arena from the global, national and technological aspects, and reviewing threats and best practices.' It has been organized by Tel Aviv University's Yuval Neeman Workshop for Science, Technology and Security and the Institute for National Security Studies.

'Although the field is not precise... we must enter it... and become a world cyber-power. This is possible. We're no longer crawling, we're walking, and soon, we will be running forward,' Netanyahu added.

Fast-paced changes in technology means that Israel, like all technologically dependent countries, has become reliant on cybernetics in the field of transport, aviation, banking, medical care and defense, Netanyahu warned. 'The more computerized we get, the more vulnerable we become. There is therefore no choice but to deal with this in a more systematic and focused manner,' he added, noting the sectors of defense, industry-business, and academic-science sectors as crucial fields of activity.

The Institute for National Security Studies released a new study that said a world-wide cybernetics arms race has already begun, including the establishment of offices and headquarters in various countries dedicated to this latest battleground..."

# NEWS FROM ISRAEL & THE MIDDLE EAST

### **Netanyahu in Congress: Jerusalem must remain undivided**

Israel National News reports: "Israel is the only country that has guaranteed freedom of all faiths in Jerusalem, which must remain

undivided, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told Congress. In unusually strong language, he told members of Congress that Judea and Samaria are part of the ancient Jewish homeland that our forefathers walked in and that the 650,000 Jews living there 'are not 'occupying' the region.' He strongly criticized

the changed versions of history that are being promoted by others.

Interrupted dozens of times by standing ovations, after minutes-long applause as he entered the chamber, Netanyahu also said that there are 300 million Arabs in the Middle East, but the only ones who are free are Israeli

citizens.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu noted in his opening remarks that the ‘ground is still shifting’ in the Middle East and that the uprisings in the Muslim countries represent people’s demands for liberty.

He thanked the United States for helping Israel reach its defense capabilities despite the ‘tough’ economy. He jokingly said that the United States doesn’t have to help build Israel — it is already built. More seriously, he said that the United States doesn’t have to send soldiers to defend Israel, because Israel defends itself...

He made it clear that he is willing to agree to borders for a Palestinian Authority country that would place some Jews outside of Israel’s borders, but did not mention that this would be only in settlement blocs and gave the impression of giving up less, rather than more.

Netanyahu also stressed that the borders must be negotiated because Israel ‘will not return to the indefensible borders of 1967.’ He relied on his interpretation of U.S. President Barack Obama’s statement that any future borders of Israel will not be identical with the 1949 Armistice Lines that existed until the Six-Day War in 1967. He repeated his insistence that the Jordan River have an Israeli Army presence, remarking that in the Middle East, peace depends on the ability to defend oneself...

Repeating that the obstacle to peace is not the creation of a Palestinian State to which six successive Israeli Prime Ministers agreed, but the Palestinian acceptance of the existence of a Jewish State, Netanyahu called to Abbas to tell Palestinians clearly that Israel has a right to exist. Meanwhile, he said, incitement continues in PA school curricula, squares are named after terrorists and the only reward Israel got for leaving Lebanon and Gaza was 12,000 rockets fired at its children.

‘Imagine a siren sounding and giving you 60 seconds to find shelter before a missile strikes. You couldn’t live with that. No one can live with that,’ he said emphatically, adding, ‘Israel is not what is wrong in the Middle East. Israel is the only thing that is right in the Middle East.’...’ **(Jerusalem is the ‘City of the Great King’ the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the city where Christ will situate Himself on David’s Throne eternally. Jerusalem belongs to the Jews and should never be divided between Jews and Palestinians. When it is divided and negotiations are forced upon Israel to do so, it will lead to World War III. Following the global skirmish Jerusalem again becomes the sole possession of Jews — Matthew 5:35;**

**Luke 1:32, 33; Joel 3:2; Zechariah 14: 2, 4, 12, and 16. Follow the above verses in the pattern arranged.)**

### **Obama Mideast speech shows disconnect from Israel’s reality, senior official say**

*Haaretz* reports: “U.S. President Barack Obama does not understand the reality of Israel’s situation, a senior Israeli official said, just as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in Washington D.C. ahead of his meeting with the American president.

In a high-profile Middle East policy speech, Obama supported continued Mideast peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians based on 1967 borders, a move which caught Israeli leaders by surprise and drew criticism from Netanyahu and his aides.

‘There is a feeling that Washington does not understand the reality, doesn’t understand what we face,’ the official said on board the plane taking Netanyahu to Washington for talks later in the day with Obama.

‘The prime minister’s tough response expresses the disappointment with the absence of central issues that Israel demanded, chiefly the refugee (issue),’ he added.

Tensions between Israel and the U.S., already strained by a lengthy stall in Mideast peace talks, seemed to reach fever pitch following Obama’s speech, and ahead of Netanyahu’s planned address to Congress...’ **(Praise the Lord! While Obama did not change his anti-Semitic position, the United States Congress gave Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu 20 standing ovations as he dealt with the issues above that our president rejected. Still greater is the fact that the Democrats, including Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid stood with Netanyahu. Amen and amen.)**

### **Former U.S. peace broker: Netanyahu and Obama are on different planets**

*Haaretz* reports: “Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the U.S. President are on ‘different planets’ regarding the Middle East peace process, a former U.S. negotiator told *ABC News*, in wake of disagreement between the two leaders following the American president’s Mideast policy speech.

The report came after Netanyahu denied that he was locked in crisis with the American president over their public dispute regarding the borders of a future Palestinian state.

‘The reports of a disagreement have been

blown way out of proportion,’ Netanyahu was quoted as saying by a spokesman.

At the White House, Netanyahu bluntly rejected Obama’s vision for the borders of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in what appeared to be the opening of a deep divide between the United States and Israel.

In an unusually sharp rebuke to Israel’s closest ally, Netanyahu told Obama his endorsement of the Palestinian demand to go back to Israel’s 1967 boundaries - meaning significant land concessions — would leave Israel ‘indefensible.’

Speaking with *ABC*, Aaron David Miller, head of the U.S. Advisory Council of Israel Policy Forum and former U.S. Mideast negotiator referred to the ongoing disconnect between Jerusalem and Washington, saying ‘Obama is on Mars right now, and the prime minister is on another planet.’...’ **(Netanyahu is on the Biblical planet. God’s Word states 930 times that the land of Israel — especially Jerusalem — belongs to the Jews exclusively. When the Messiah arrives, our Lord Jesus, He rules the world from Jerusalem in Luke 1:32, 33; and that’s why Matthew 5:35 states that Jerusalem is “the city of the Great King”. If Obama wins the world will lose because the division of Jerusalem leads to Armageddon — Joel 3:2; Revelation 16:16. See also the next three reports.)**

### **Dozens protest Obama’s ME speech at U.S. embassy in TA**

*The Jerusalem Post* reports: “Nearly 100 protesters gathered outside the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv under the banner ‘Israel won’t commit suicide.’

The protest, taking place at the same time U.S. President Barack Obama was addressing the AIPAC conference in Washington, was billed as a response to the U.S. president’s speech in which he called for peace negotiations to resume based on 1967 lines.

Several speakers addressed the crowd, with one bemoaning, ‘We expect betrayal from the Arabs, but not from America.’

‘America is telling us to surrender our defensible borders,’ she yelled to the crowd through a megaphone. ‘America is telling us that Jerusalem should belong to a people that doesn’t even admit there was a temple upon the Temple Mount,’ a reference to the demand that east Jerusalem be the capital of any future Palestinian state.

While many of the protesters expressed their anger with Obama, a sizable number also

voiced their opposition to any concessions at all to the Palestinians in peace talks, specifically borders, the division of Jerusalem and the return of Palestinian refugees.

Norden, an oleh from South Africa, told *The Jerusalem Post* that the U.S. president had ‘taken an immature position’ and should understand that a two-state solution is just not practical. Borders based on 1967 lines, he added, ‘are just ridiculous.’...”

### **Hamas slams Obama’s speech, Abbas convenes ‘emergency’ meeting**

*Haaretz* reports: “ Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said that U.S. President Barack Obama’s major Mideast policy speech was disappointing, telling *Al Jazeera* television that the U.S. president did not propose anything new.

‘What Obama needs to do is not to add slogans but to take concrete steps to protect the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation,’ Abu Zuhri said.

Meanwhile, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas welcomed U.S. President Barack Obama’s efforts to renew talks with Israel that collapsed last year, a senior Palestinian official said, and will convene ‘emergency’ talks with Palestinian and Arab officials to consider further steps...” (*The Wall Street Journal* in the month of June called Obama the greatest anti-Semitic president in history. Beware all haters of God’s Chosen People — including entire Christian denominations — see Genesis 12:2, 3.)

### **Assad regime: Obama Mideast speech is interference in Syria’s affairs**

*Haaretz* reports: “The Syrian government accused U.S. President Barack Obama of meddling in its internal affairs, following Obama’s high-profile Mideast strategy speech in Washington.

The U.S. president called for President Bashar Assad to lead his country to democracy or ‘get out of the way.’ It was his most direct warning to the leader of a nation embroiled in violence as the government cracks down on a popular uprising.

Syria’s official news agency said Obama’s speech amounted to ‘incitement.’ It accused Obama of interfering in Syria’s internal affairs.

Rights groups say more than 850 people have died in the regime crackdown on the uprising since it erupted in March.

Obama said Assad must start a serious dialogue or his regime will continue to be challenged from within and isolated abroad...”

### **IDF chief: Israel faces growing range of threats, from ‘knife to nuclear’**

*Haaretz* reports: “The Israel Defense Forces will ask the state to increase its defense budget significantly to contend with the growing terror threats in the region, Chief of Staff Benny Gantz said.

‘The spectrum of threats in light of the changes in the Middle East is growing,’ Gantz told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. ‘These threats range from knife to nuclear — from the knife used in a single terror attack to a nuclear Iran.’

‘The threats of the past are still in force, but new threats are developing that require the ability to operate in a number of different theaters with strength and determination,’ Gantz said, adding that this ‘new spectrum of threats requires a new and broader budget framework for the defense establishment.’

One such threat was the upcoming aid flotilla bound from Turkey to the Gaza Strip, one year after the deadly Israeli raid on the Mavi Marmara ship. ‘The flotilla organizers are working to inflame hatred and provocation against Israel and not out of desire to help the population in Gaza.’

‘There is no humanitarian crisis’ in Gaza, Gantz declared. ‘Every day, hundreds of trucks enter filled with food and materials. The IDF will work to stop any attempt to break through the naval blockade.’...” (See such important Biblical texts as Deuteronomy 28: 65, 66; Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:9; John 16:2; and Revelation 12:13. “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that love thee” — Psalm 122:6.)

### **Iran cleric: Killing Israeli children OK**

*YnetNews.com* reports: “A senior Iranian cleric, who is known as President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s spiritual mentor, urged followers to continue suicide attacks against Israelis, including children.

Ayatollah Mohammad Taghi Mesbah, considered one of the Islamic Republic’s most radical clerics, issued a religious edict on his website whereby suicide attacks are not only legitimate but are a must for every Muslim, a special paper by the *Middle East Media*

*Research Institute* shows.

The senior cleric was responding to a question from a follower regarding the difference between ‘martyr’s death’ and ‘suicide.’ The man, who wrote anonymously, noted that ‘some people say that martyrdom operations are considered suicide and that they are haram (forbidden) because they contradict Islam.’

In response, Mesbah expressed his regret that his follower has fallen victim to ‘propaganda of the enemies of Islam.’ He added that the follower was wasting his time instead of focusing on ‘uprooting the Zionist regime.’

‘When protecting Islam, the Muslim people depend on martyrdom operations. It not only is allowed, but even is an obligation,’ Mesbah wrote.

The follower presented another question regarding Islam’s position on harming Israelis, wondering whether Hamas and Jihad actions against Israeli civilians are forbidden. He also asked: ‘How about the Israeli children killed in such attacks?’

The Iranian Ayatollah did not see fit to forbid the killing of children, only noting that Israelis can be harmed unless they openly express their objection to their government’s position. He added that even in such cases, harming civilians is permissible if ‘they are used as human shield and fighting the aggressors depends on attacking those civilians.’...” (“Whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea” Mark 9:42. In the verses that follow Christ mentions the eternity that awaits such blasphemous monsters — Mark 9:43-48.)

### **Hamas MP: Jews ingathered for us to annihilate them**

*Israel National News* reports: “Yunis al Astal, a member of the Palestinian Authority parliament, spelled out his organization’s vision for the genocidal annihilation of the Jewish people in a television interview. The interview was broadcast on Hamas *Al Aqsa TV* and monitored by incitement watchdog group *MEMRI*.

Al Astal described the ingathering of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel in terms of a divine plan that would give the Arabs ‘the honor’ of annihilating ‘the evil of this gang.’

In a few years’ time, he predicted, the Zionists will understand that they were brought here for the purpose of being slaughtered in ‘a

great massacre.’

Using Hitleresque language, he said that the Jews are more dangerous than all of the world’s lethal birds of prey, dangerous

reptiles and lethal bacteria combined...’ (God brought the Jew to his home to bless His people forever. That’s why He promises His Elect or Chosen that He will

give Israel an eternal name [Isaiah 56:5] and no Jew haters will succeed in wiping Israel off the map as Islamic terrorists plan to accomplish — Psalm 83:4, 5.)

# THE GROWING NUCLEAR THREAT

## **Nuclear weapons threat not decreasing, study says**

*SpaceDaily.com* reports: “More than 5,000 nuclear weapons are deployed around the world and nuclear powers continue investing in new weapon systems, making meaningful disarmament in the near future unlikely, a report stated.

‘More than 5,000 nuclear weapons are deployed and ready for use, including nearly 2,000 that are kept in a high state of alert,’ according to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

SIPRI’s report said the world’s eight nuclear powers — Britain, China, France, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia and the U.S. — possess more than 20,500 warheads.

As of January 2011, Russia had 11,000 nuclear warheads, including 2,427 deployed, while the United States had 8,500 including 2,150 deployed, the report said.

The U.S. and Russia have signed a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that calls for a maximum of 1,550 warheads deployed per country.

However SIPRI argued that prospects for meaningful disarmament in the short term are grim as all eight countries seem committed to either improving or maintaining their nuclear programmes.

‘The five legally recognised nuclear weapons states, as defined by the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty are either deploying new nuclear weapon systems or have announced their intention to do so,’ the report said, referring to Britain, China, France, Russia and the U.S.

India and Pakistan are ‘expanding their capacity to produce fissile material for military purposes,’ according to the report...’ (A nuclear holocaust is on the horizon — see Psalm 97:3; Isaiah 66:15; Ezekiel 39:6; Joel 2:3, 30; Zephaniah 1:18; Malachi 4:1;

Revelation 8:7; 9:18. See also the next two articles.)

## **IAEA receives more evidence Iran nuke program military**

*The Jerusalem Post* reports: “The UN atomic watchdog has received further information regarding activities that ‘seem to point to the existence’ of possible military dimensions to Iran’s nuclear program, the agency’s head said.

‘There are indications that certain of these activities may have continued until recently,’ Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said in a speech to the agency’s 35-nation governing board.

Amano’s statement underlined the UN body’s concern that the Islamic Republic may be working to develop a nuclear-armed missile. Tehran rejects such suspicions, saying its nuclear program has only civilian aims, mainly generating electricity.

Amano did not disclose the source of the new information.

For several years, the IAEA has been investigating Western intelligence reports indicating Iran had coordinated efforts to process uranium, test explosives at high altitude and revamp a ballistic missile cone so it can take a nuclear warhead.

Amano said he had written last month to the head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization, Fereydoun Abbasi-Davani, ‘reiterating the agency’s concerns about the existence of possible military dimensions.’

He had also asked for Iran to ‘provide prompt access’ to locations, equipment, documentation and officials to help clarify the agency’s queries...’ (Iran joins Russia in an atomic attempt to destroy every Jew — Ezekiel 38, 39 and Ezekiel 38:5. The Persia in this text changed its name to Iran in 1935. See the next two articles.)

## **U.S. slams Iran enrichment plan as ‘brazen’ defiance**

*Haaretz* reports: “Iran’s announcement that it plans to triple its production of higher-grade uranium is another ‘brazen’ example of Tehran’s defiance of its international obligations, a senior U.S. official said.

Speaking at an International Atomic Energy Agency meeting in Vienna, Washington’s envoy Glyn Davies said the plan was Iran’s ‘most recent brazen example of its deepening non-compliance.’

The European Union also voiced deep concern over Iran’s announcement it would increase its capacity to produce higher-grade enriched uranium, saying Tehran was increasing its defiance of the UN Security Council.

The 27-nation EU, in a statement read out by Hungary’s ambassador at a board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said it noted with ‘grave concern’ Iran’s lack of cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog.

‘We note with particular concern the announcement made only today by Iran that it will increase its capacity to enrich (uranium) to 20 percent, thereby further exacerbating its defiance of the United Nations Security Council.’

Iran said earlier it would shift its production of higher grade uranium to an underground bunker and triple its production capacity, an announcement certain to add to Western concern about the Islamic state’s atomic ambitions.

Iran says it needs 20 percent enriched uranium to fuel a Tehran research reactor making medical isotopes for cancer treatment. But the West is worried because it brings Iran closer to the 90 percent purity level needed to make atomic bombs...’

# NEWS FROM EGYPT

## **Egypt accepts Muslim Brotherhood as legal party**

*YnetNews.com* reports: “Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood’s political party was declared legal by Cairo, the state news agency *MENA* said.

The achievement is the movement’s first since its inception, eight decades ago. ‘The commission on party affairs has given its approval for the formation of the Freedom and Justice Party,’ *MENA* said.

The Muslim Brotherhood was officially illegal but mostly tolerated during the rule of president Hosni Mubarak, ousted in a popular revolt on February 11. It was set up in 1928 and an official ban imposed in 1954, over its suspected involvement in a series of political assassinations in the 1950s, including an attempt on the life of Egypt’s first republican president, Gamal Abdal Nasser.

As the best-organized political movement in Egypt, the Brotherhood announced on April 30 the formation of a ‘non-theocratic party’ to contest up to half of parliament’s seats in a September election...” (The Muslim Brotherhood is as dangerous as the al-Qaeda and Taliban organizations. God help and bless Israel in the near future. Mubarak was kind to Israel; the Brotherhood may change all of Mubarak’s graciousness toward Israel soon.)

## **Egypt’s Christians Continue Protests Against Sectarian Violence**

*Voice of America News* reports: “Coptic Christians demonstrated in Cairo in protest

of Muslim-Christian clashes that left 12 dead over the weekend in sectarian violence.

Some of the protesters gathered outside the headquarters for state-run television where a sit-in began.

Demonstrators are demanding that Egypt’s Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi step down and that the arsonists who burned two Coptic churches be brought to justice.

State media have reported that 12 people were killed and more than 220 wounded during two days of sectarian clashes that began late in the poverty-stricken Cairo slum of Imbaba. Medical sources said 65 of the injured were shot.

The demonstration came as Egyptian security detained 23 Egyptians, including two blamed for sparking the riots. Military leaders said that 190 people detained in connection with the violence will face trial in a military court...” (Egypt’s Coptic Christians protected by President Mubarak are facing a great hour of persecution and devastation as the Brotherhood movement once again rears its ugly head — Revelation 6:9; 20:4. See also the next report.)

## **Christians worry Egypt being hijacked by Islamists**

*Reuters* reports: “Last January, Nazih Moussa Gerges locked up his downtown Cairo law office and joined hundreds of thousands of fellow Egyptians to demand that President Hosni Mubarak step down.

The 33-year-old Christian lawyer was back on the streets this month to press military rulers who took over after Mubarak stepped down to

end a spate of sectarian attacks that have killed at least 28 people and left many afraid.

Those who camped out in Tahrir Square side by side with Muslims to call for national renewal now fear their struggle is being hijacked by ultra-conservative Salafist Islamists with no one to stop them.

‘We did not risk our lives to bring Mubarak down in order to have him replaced by Salafists,’ Gerges said. ‘We want an Egypt that will be an example of democracy and freedom for the whole world.’

Sectarian tensions are not new to Egypt, where Christians make up around 10 percent of the population of 80 million. But the frequency and intensity of clashes have increased since Mubarak’s overthrow.

Many blame a broader weakening of law and order that began as the protests against Mubarak gathered pace and police deserted the streets. Authorities are trying to rebuild security forces to deal with increased lawlessness following mass jail breakouts.

Egypt’s military rulers have vowed to punish those behind sectarian clashes, banned demonstrations outside places of worship and promised to give Christians equal rights.

But Christians say no one has been tried yet for the burning of a church in Helwan, south of Cairo, in March or for violence in the Cairo suburb of Imbaba on May 7 that left 15 people dead. At least 13 died in clashes after the Helwan incident...”

# PLAGUES AND PESTILENCES

## **The mosquito virus killing one-quarter of its victims**

*The Sydney Morning Herald* reports: “A deadly mosquito-borne virus that has no cure and no vaccination, has claimed the

lives of two Australians.

Both the Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) and the closely-related Kunjin viruses cause a serious inflammation of the brain, and have already hospitalised six

West Australians. The Health Department is continuing to investigate reports that more people have been infected.

Department entomologist Sue Harrington said while there was no suggestion the MVE

virus would reach Perth, the fact it had already hit the Wheatbelt and mid-west regions was of a concern.

‘It seems to have activated independently this season,’ she said.

‘There has been an extension of that area, so a large proportion of West Australia is now affected by MVE.’

The death of a man in the north-west of the state last month, and a South Australian man weeks ago led the Department to issue another stern warning about the virus.

‘It causes inflammation of the brain,’ she said.

‘People have suffered paralysis and brain damage of varying degrees.

‘Every case is very significant, because about one-quarter of all cases die, and of those that survive they’re left with severe nerve damage that can result in paralysis.’

There is not yet a cure for the virus, nor a vaccine to prevent infection, said Ms. Harrington.

‘Often people in the north just accept that mosquitoes are a fact of life,’ she said.

‘A lot of people might have been bitten and have developed the antibodies...’ (**Matthew 24:7; Luke 21:11; Revelation 6:7, 8. See also the next two reports.**)

### **E. coli outbreak is ‘new strain’**

*BBC News* reports: “The World Health Organization says the E. coli outbreak in

Germany is a completely new strain of the bacteria.

The infection can cause the deadly complication — haemolytic-uraemic syndrome — affecting the blood and kidneys.

More than 1,500 people have been infected and 17 have died: 16 in Germany and one in Sweden.

In the UK, three British nationals have been infected, according to the Health Protection Agency.

The strain suspected in this outbreak is O104, which is rare.

Aphaluck Bhatiajevi, a WHO spokesperson, is reported as saying: ‘This strain has never been seen in an outbreak situation before.’

Scientists at the Beijing Genomics Institute, in China, are also reported as saying: ‘This E.coli is a new strain of bacteria that is highly infectious and toxic.’

Researchers in Germany say preliminary genetic analysis of the outbreak suggests the bacteria is unique.

They say it has genes from two distinct groups of E. coli: enteroaggregative E. coli (EAEC) and enterohemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC).

The Health Protection Agency told the *BBC* that we were at the beginning of the learning curve in terms of understanding what this means...”

### **Death Toll Rises in Europe E. Coli Outbreak, Now At 22**

*Voice of America News* reports: “The death toll in Europe from the outbreak of a virulent strain of E. coli bacteria rose to 22.

European health authorities reported the deaths of an additional three people in Germany. Except for one woman who died in Sweden after a visit to Germany, all of the fatalities have been within German borders.

Experts are still searching for the source of the highly contagious bacteria, which can cause acute kidney failure. German officials told reporters that the culprit may be locally grown bean sprouts.

Health authorities say about 2,000 people, most of them in Germany, have been infected. Ten other European nations and the United States have reported 90 infected people, nearly all of whom have recently been in northern Germany.

Germany’s health agency advised against eating raw tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuces.

The outbreak is the deadliest in modern history to involve E. coli, and appears to be the second or third largest in terms of the number of people who have become ill. Scientists say the bacteria is a previously unknown genetic recombination of two different E. coli strains...”

# IMAGINE THERE’S NO HEAVEN

### **Heaven is a ‘fairy story’, says Stephen Hawking**

*Agency France Presse* reports: “British scientist Stephen Hawking has branded heaven a ‘fairy story’ for people afraid of the dark, in his latest dismissal of the concepts underpinning the world’s religions.

The author of 1988 international best-seller ‘A Brief History of Time’ said in an interview with *The Guardian* published that his views were partly influenced by his battle with motor neurone disease.

‘I have lived with the prospect of an early

death for the last 49 years. I’m not afraid of death, but I’m in no hurry to die. I have so much I want to do first,’ he told the newspaper.

‘I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail. There is no heaven or afterlife for broken down computers; that is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark.’

Hawking’s stance on religion has hardened significantly in the nearly quarter century since the publication of his seminal work on the cosmos.

In ‘A Brief History of Time’ he suggested that the idea of a divine being was not necessarily incompatible with a scientific understanding of the Universe.

But in his 2010 book ‘The Grand Design’ he said a deity no longer has any place in theories on the creation of the universe in the light of a series of developments in physics...” (**This man with a spectacular mind is still classified a fool in God’s sight — Psalm 14:1; 53:1.**)

# NEWS FROM RUSSIA

## **Putin decides to retake presidency**

*The Australian* reports: “Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has decided to run for the presidency next year, raising the possibility of a power struggle with his protégé Dmitry Medvedev, the incumbent Kremlin leader, say highly placed sources.

The once-close relationship between Mr. Putin, the tough-talking former KGB officer who has inspired a personality cult, and Mr. Medvedev, a softly spoken Twitter enthusiast, has become increasingly fractious amid speculation in Moscow that the younger man wishes to stand again.

Insiders familiar with both leaders said Mr. Putin, who served eight years as president before becoming Prime Minister three years ago, had begun to lose confidence in Mr. Medvedev’s loyalty.

Under the constitution, Mr. Putin’s move to reclaim the presidency could see him rule for two consecutive six-year terms until 2024, when he will be 72. If so, he would have served as prime minister or president for 24 years in all.

The sources said recent criticism by Mr. Medvedev had made Mr. Putin suspicious. ‘Putin will run for president. He’s made up his mind for good. Rumours that he’s still weighing

his options are false,’ said one source.

‘There’s mounting tension between Medvedev and Putin. The view in Putin’s camp is that Medvedev has started behaving with too much arrogance and wants to challenge him. Putin is starting to doubt his loyalty.’

The Russian constitution allows the president to serve no more than two consecutive terms. Mr. Putin stepped down in 2008 and handed the reins to Medvedev on the tacit understanding that he could come back next year if he wished.

At first Mr. Medvedev was regarded as a puppet. He even took to imitating Mr. Putin’s distinctive macho stride and speaking style. But three years later, Mr. Medvedev, who at 45 is still Russia’s youngest leader in more than seven decades, is understood to be reluctant to step aside for Mr. Putin...” **(Putin may become the Gog [leader] of the greatest war in history described in Ezekiel 38:1, 2, 8, 16 — all cities in Russia today.)**

## **Medvedev warns of Cold War over missile defense**

*SpaceDaily.com* reports: “President Dmitry Medvedev warned the West it would face a new Cold War if it failed to address Russia’s concerns over a proposed missile defense

shield for Europe.

Medvedev told reporters that the U.S. decision to push ahead with construction of the missile defense system despite Russia’s objections will force Moscow ‘to take retaliatory measures — something that we would very much rather not do.’

‘We would then be talking about developing the offensive potential of our nuclear capabilities. This would be a very bad scenario.’

The Russian leader also reaffirmed any earlier threat to pull out of the new START disarmament agreement that entered into force this year if the missile shield is deployed and operated without the Kremlin’s input.

‘This would be a very bad scenario. It would be a scenario that throws us back into the Cold War era.’

Moscow has been fighting NATO plans to deploy a system the West sees as a means of protection from nations such as Iran but Russia believes could potentially be deployed against its own defenses.

The Kremlin’s biggest fear is that the shield could one day be turned around and instead of shooting down incoming missiles be used to attack Russian soil...” **(The START treaty describing the non-proliferation agreement will fail as Russia moves against Israel in the future — Joel 3:2, 20, 30; and Ezekiel 39:6.)**

# SIGNS IN THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS

## **Exoplanet near Gliese 581 star ‘could host life’**

*BBC News* reports: “A red dwarf star 20 light-years away is again providing hints that it hosts the first definitively habitable planet outside our Solar System.

The planet Gliese 581d is at the colder outer edge of the ‘Goldilocks zone’ in which liquid water can be sustained.

Now a study in *Astrophysical Journal Letters* suggests its atmosphere may keep things warm enough for water.

The solar system also hosts another contender for habitability, unconfirmed planet Gliese 581g announced in 2010.

However, the existence of that planet has since been called into question.

Gliese 581d is less controversial; it was discovered along with the planet Gliese 581c in 2007, occupying the outer and inner edges of

the Goldilocks zone, respectively.

Gliese 581c was soon determined to be too close to its host star to sustain water, with a surface temperature exceeding 1,000C.

Conversely, the outlying planet 581d — with a mass about six times that of the Earth and twice its size — was initially taken to be too cold to have liquid water.

Now, French researchers have run computer simulations of the planet’s atmosphere, arguing that it is likely to contain high concentrations of carbon dioxide.

They contend that conditions could be suitable for oceans of liquid water as well as clouds and rainfall.

However, Gliese 581d’s denser air and dim red light from its host star would make for a murky environment that would be toxic to humans...” **(Luke 21:25; Matthew 24:29 — see the next report.)**

## **Striking view of ‘Milky Way twin’**

*BBC News* reports: “Astronomers have released what they say is the best-yet picture of NGC 6744, a spiral galaxy described as a ‘sibling’ of our own Milky Way.

The image was snapped by the European Southern Observatory’s MPG/ESO 2.2-metre telescope in Chile.

The galaxy lies 30 million light-years away, in the constellation Pavo.

While it is almost twice as large as the Milky Way, it exhibits the same sharply-defined spiral arms and stretched central region.

There is even a small companion galaxy, visible at the lower right of the image, which is analogous to our own galactic neighbours the Magellanic Clouds.

Those arms host many star-forming regions; the glow coming from hydrogen gas in these active regions shows up as red in the image...”