

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

DEATH OF A TERRORIST

Usama Bin Laden Killed in Firefight With U.S. Special Ops Team in Pakistan

Fox News Reports: "Declaring "justice has been done," President Obama announced late Sunday (May 1, 2011) that Usama bin Laden was killed by U.S. forces in Pakistan, marking the end of the worldwide manhunt that began nearly a decade ago on Sept. 11, 2001.

The president made the stunning announcement within hours of informing congressional leaders. He said bin Laden was killed Sunday, the culmination of years of intelligence gathering. The news drew a large crowd to the front of the White House, as well as in Times Square, as people chanted "U-S-A. U-S-A."

Obama, in his address to the nation shortly before midnight, thanked the Americans who have toiled in pursuit of bin Laden and applauded those who carried out the successful mission in Pakistan. Describing that mission only briefly, he said its result "is a testament to the greatness of our country."

"For over two decades, bin Laden has been Al Qaeda's leader and symbol," Obama said. "The death of bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation's effort to defeat Al Qaeda."

The president traced the death of bin Laden to a tip received last August. He said he was briefed at the time on the "possible lead," and that after months of intelligence work it was determined bin Laden was hiding in a compound "deep" inside Pakistan. Obama said, after determining the intelligence was sound, he authorized the

operation to bring him to justice last week.

He said a "small team" of Americans went after bin Laden in Abbottabad on Sunday. "After a firefight, they killed Usama bin Laden and took custody of his body," the president said... (His reward? **Luke 16:23: "...In hell he lifted up his eyes being in torment..."** He won't find 72 virgins awaiting him as promised in the Koran — Sura 52:17-24.)

Hamas slams killing of 'holy warrior' Osama bin Laden

Haaretz reports: "The Palestinian Islamist group Hamas condemned the killing by U.S. forces of Osama bin Laden and mourned him as an 'Arab holy warrior.'

"We regard this as a continuation of the American policy based on oppression and the shedding of Muslim and Arab blood," Ismail Haniyeh, head of the Hamas administration in the Gaza Strip, told reporters.

Though he noted doctrinal differences between bin Laden's al-Qaida and Hamas, Haniyeh said: "We condemn the assassination and the killing of an Arab holy warrior. We ask God to offer him mercy with the true believers and the martyrs."

Haniyeh's reported comments came following an earlier remark by a Palestinian Authority spokesman who said the killing of Osama bin Laden by U.S. forces was 'good for the cause of peace.'

'Getting rid of Bin Laden is good for the cause of peace worldwide but what counts is to overcome the discourse and the methods — the violent methods — that were created and encouraged by Bin Laden and others in

the world,' PA spokesman Ghassan Khatib said... (How does one obtain the title of holy warrior when he planned and saw 3,000 victims burned and cremated on 9/11 at the twin towers — Ground Zero — James 4:1-3.)

Islamist leader in Pakistan: Bin Laden's martyrdom will not be in vain

Haaretz reports: "The founder of one of Pakistan's most violent Islamist militant groups has told Muslims to be heartened by the death of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, as his 'martyrdom' would not go in vain, a spokesman for the group said...

The media are often barred from gatherings of Lashkar-e-Taiba, the militant group blamed for the 2008 terror attacks on Mumbai.

But a spokesman for Hafiz Mohammad Saeed said he had told followers at special prayers held for the slain al-Qaida leader that this 'great person' would continue to be a source of strength and encouragement for Muslims around the world.

'Osama bin Laden was a great person who awakened the Muslim world,' Saeed's spokesman Yahya Mujahid quoted him as saying during prayers at the headquarters of the Lashkar-e-Taiba's charity in the Punjab capital Lahore.

'Martyrdoms are not losses, but are a matter of pride for Muslims,' Saeed said. 'Osama bin Laden has rendered great sacrifices for Islam and Muslims, and these will always be remembered.'... (Great sacrifices for Islam and Muslims

— really? He hated the Shi'ites and Sunnis as a Wahhabite — a fundamentalist Islamic terrorist group who eliminated some 85,000 Muslims in Iraq alone because they were classified as apostates to Allah, the Koran, and this ego maniac. It was a just killing — Leviticus 24:17: "And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death." See also the next report.)

Arab MK Denounces Bin Laden 'Murder'

Israel National News reports: "MK Ibrahim Sarsoor of the extremist Arab list Ra'am Ta'al called the assassination of Osama Bin Laden a 'murder' and said that it was carried out as part of Barack Obama's preparations for the next presidential elections.

'The mixing of Arab and Muslim blood into election campaigns in the U.S. and Israel is no longer uncommon,' the Islamist Sarsoor said in a statement to the press. 'Anyone who follows the cycle of blood and elections in American-Israeli culture in the last ten years will see it clearly and without a doubt.'

'I cannot rule out that the murder of Bin Laden was the start of Obama's election campaign for a second term, especially in view of the fact that the Republican majority in Congress is waiting to pounce on him over his political steps on both foreign and internal affairs.'

'The murder of Sheikh Bin Laden must cause us to pause and consider not only the event itself, but also on what stands behind the action, so that we raise the hard questions whose time has come.'...

Israel, U.S. Jewish groups on alert fearing reprisal over bin Laden killing

Haaretz reports: "World leaders warned of revenge attacks after Osama bin Laden was killed in a U.S. assault in Pakistan that brought to a dramatic end the long manhunt for the al Qaeda leader who had become the most powerful symbol of Islamist militancy.

President Barack Obama declared the world was a safer and 'better place' with bin Laden dead. But the euphoria that drew flag-waving crowds to 'Ground Zero' of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack in New York was tempered by calls for vigilance against retaliation by his followers.

The U.S. administration told Israel's ambassador to Washington, Michael Oren, about the killing before Obama made his statement to the press. But not all Americans felt at ease with the spontaneous street celebrations after the al-Qaida leader's death. 'These images of celebrations must look pretty ugly to the world,' said one *C-Span* viewer. 'It could bring about another attack.'

In Israel, the Israel Airports Authority increased the alert level at the country's airports and border crossings, and security has been heightened around the offices of Israeli airlines abroad such as El Al, Arkia and Israir. The Airports Authority told *Haaretz* the measures addressed current security needs.

In addition, security has been increased at Jewish institutions across the United States, and the police are more closely monitoring American mosques.

The death of bin Laden, who achieved near-mythic status for his ability to elude capture for more than a decade, closes a bitter chapter in the global fight against al Qaeda, but it does not eliminate the threat of further strikes..." (Ahmadinejad of Iran hates Jews and warns he must kill most of this race before his messiah will appear. What a man of peace this second Hitler is — Psalm 83:4; Isaiah 56:5.)

UK vigilance urged after Osama Bin Laden death

BBC News reports: "Britons have been urged to be vigilant in the wake of the death of al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden, with embassies worldwide ordered to review their security.

Bin Laden, blamed by the U.S. for the 9/11 attacks, was killed by U.S. forces about 62 miles from Pakistan's capital.

Prime Minister David Cameron hailed the death as 'a great success' but said it was not the end of terror threats.

Foreign Secretary William Hague said the network may try to reassert itself.

The Foreign Office urged Britons overseas to 'exercise caution in all public places and avoid demonstrations, large crowds of people and public events'.

Mr. Cameron was phoned by U.S. President Barack Obama before dawn UK time, a couple of hours before the president announced the news in a televised address.

'The news Osama Bin Laden is dead will

bring great relief to people across the world,' Mr. Cameron said.

He later spoke from the prime minister's country residence, Chequers, saying: 'It is a great success that he has been found and will no longer be able to pursue his campaign of global terror.'

He went on: 'This news will be welcomed right across our country. Of course, it does not mark the end of the threat we face from extremist terror — indeed we will have to be particularly vigilant in the weeks ahead. But it is, I believe, a massive step forward.'

Following Bin Laden's death, the U.S. put its embassies around the world on alert, warning Americans of the possibility of al-Qaeda reprisal attacks for Bin Laden's killing.

Mr. Hague also stressed the likelihood of reprisals against UK targets.

'We must remember that this is not the end of being vigilant against al-Qaeda and associated groups, and, in fact, there may be parts of al-Qaeda that will try to show that they are still in business in the coming weeks, as indeed some of them are...' (England is in great danger as the entire nation has more mosques than Christian churches. Jesus said in Luke 18:8: "... when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" — no, because of the great falling away as recorded in II Thessalonians 2:3.)

Cleric: Jihad coming to 'heart of America'

WorldNetDaily.com reports: "The death of Osama bin Laden will bring a 'new era of jihad,' predicted British extremist cleric Anjem Choudary.

Warning there are motivated jihadists 'in the heart of America,' Choudary said al-Qaida will likely carry out revenge operations with 'meticulous accuracy' and 'devastating affect' comparable to that of the 9/11 attacks.

Choudary is the founder and former chief of two Islamic groups disbanded by the British authorities under anti-terror legislation.

Speaking in an interview with 'Aaron Klein Investigative Radio' of New York's *WABC Radio*, Choudary said that while bin Laden was a 'lion of Islam ... there are many lions waiting to take his place.'

'I do believe that the death of Sheikh Osama will bring in a new era of jihad,'

Choudary told Klein.

‘Post-Osama bin Laden, I believe the mujahedeen around the world will have something to prove, that the jihad is not

about an individual?...’ (God save and bless America. Our part as Christians — **II Chronicles 7:14: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble**

themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”)

TROUBLE IN IRAN?

Iran’s president and supreme leader in rift over minister’s reinstatement

The Guardian.co.uk reports: “A rift is emerging between Iran’s president and its supreme leader, prompting several members of the parliament to call for the impeachment of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has not been seen in public for days.

Ahmadinejad has refused to appear at the presidential palace in what is being seen as a reaction to Ayatollah Khamenei’s reinstating of a minister he initially ‘asked to resign’.

Under pressure from Ahmadinejad, the intelligence minister Heydar Moslehi, a close ally of the supreme leader, stepped down on April 17 but was reinstated when Khamenei asked him in a letter to stay.

The president has not publicly shown his support for that decision and he refused for the second time to chair a cabinet meeting in which Moslehi was present. Ahmadinejad also reportedly cancelled an official visit to the holy city of Qom prompting reactions among conservatives that ‘the president was sulking’.

Under Iran’s constitution, the president is in charge of appointing cabinet ministers who will hold the ministerial office after the approval of the parliament but an unwritten law requires all officials to abide by the supreme leader.

Iran’s opposition has speculated that Khamenei is worried about the increasing power of Ahmadinejad and especially his chief-of-staff Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei.

Khamenei is believed to be particularly concerned about two key positions in the cabinet, the ministry of foreign affairs and the intelligence ministry, where he traditionally has influence. Ahmadinejad’s administration is also accused of losing billions of dollars of Iran’s oil revenues in recent years...” **(Imam Khamenei, the head religious leader of Iran is upset**

with Ahmadinejad — hurray! Beware Mr. President — “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” Proverbs 16:18 and Amos 3:3: “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” See the next three reports.)

Iran cleric warns Ahmadinejad not to overestimate his power

Haaretz reports: “A senior Iranian cleric warned President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad not to overestimate his power.

Ahmadinejad is reportedly involved in a dispute with the country’s clergy for allegedly having ignored the orders Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei over the dismissal of the intelligence chief.

According to the Iranian constitution, Khamenei has the final say on all state matters and can even veto decisions by the president on certain cabinet matters.

‘The president should know that the majority vote for him was not absolute but conditional on his obedience towards the orders by the supreme leadership,’ the influential Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami said at the Friday prayer ceremony.

‘The top of the system is the constitution, which has clarified the power structure,’ said Khatami, who is deputy head of the Experts Assembly, a clergy body...”

Speaker Praises Leader’s Key Role in Supporting Nation’s Interests

The Fars News Agency reports: “Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani lauded the determining role played by Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei in defending the interests of the Iranian nation.

‘Safeguarding Iranian nation’s rights is the main concern of the Supreme Leader,’ Larijani said in a ceremony on the occasion of National Day of Councils here in Tehran.

He added that the recommendations of the Leader have turned all threats against the Iranian nation to opportunities.

The remarks by Larijani came days after Ayatollah Khamenei underlined that he will not allow anyone or any party to derail the revolution.

‘As long as I am alive, I will not allow the nation’s movement to be derailed,’ Ayatollah Khamenei said, addressing a large and fervent congregation of Iranian people who had come to visit him from the country’s Southern province of Fars here in Tehran.

The Leader lauded the services provided by the country’s three branches of power, and said the nation and the leadership will certainly support their present path.

‘But, the leadership will step onto the scene and show interference wherever he feels that a great expediency is ignored,’ Ayatollah Khamenei added.

‘As long as the Leader is alive, he will never allow an iota of diversion to happen in the Iranian nation’s huge move towards its ideals and causes,’ the Leader reiterated...”

Iran leader Ahmadinejad returns to work after ‘boycott’

BBC News reports: “Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has ended a boycott of his official duties by chairing a cabinet meeting, Iranian media say.

Mr. Ahmadinejad had not been seen at work for more than a week, amid reports of a rift with the supreme leader.

The confrontation came to light after supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei rejected the dismissal of Intelligence Minister Heidar Moslehi.

Conservatives MP had put pressure on Mr. Ahmadinejad to resume his duties...”

YOM HASHOAH HOLOCAUST DAY

Netanyahu: World must stop those wishing to destroy the Jewish people

Haaretz reports: “The threats Israel faces to its existence are real, not theoretical ones, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said during the ceremony opening Holocaust Remembrance Day in Jerusalem, urging the world not to ignore the threat posed by Iran’s nuclear ambitions.

Speaking of the three main lessons Israel must learn in the Holocaust’s wake, Netanyahu spoke first of the danger which lies in ignoring the threats of those ‘wishing to annihilate us,’ saying Israelis ‘mustn’t bury our heads in the sand.’

‘Has the world learned this lesson? I doubt it. Have we learned it? I believe we have,’ Netanyahu said, adding, however, that ‘we must admit that ‘in the history of the Jewish people we have not always excelled in anticipating the future, sometimes repressing the bleak reality before us.’

Referring further on the ability to anticipate coming catastrophes, Netanyahu said that while ‘many in the world, at least in the enlightened world, treat the memory of the Holocaust respectfully and seriously,’ that attitude, however, ‘reminds [that of] generals preparing for the previous war.’

‘It seems easier for the world to discuss the lessons of the past than implement those to the present and the future,’ the premier said, adding that ‘the Jewish people mustn’t ignore the Holocaust’s lessons today.’

‘Because today, new enemies are rising, and as they deny the Holocaust call for the destruction of our people,’ the PM said, adding that ‘Iran, and its proxies Hezbollah and Hamas are openly working to destroy the Jewish state.’...” (**Psalm 122:6: “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.” Israel and God’s Chosen People will never be**

destroyed. God says in Isaiah 56:5: “...I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.”)

Peres in Yad Vashem: Holocaust proves Jews must fend for themselves

Haaretz reports: “In a somber ceremony to open national commemorations of Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, President Shimon Peres said that it is Israel’s legacy to physically defend Jewish lives, applauding Israel’s stance as the ‘most anti-racist’ country in the world.

Peres said that the Nazi Holocaust proved beyond question that a Jewish state with a Jewish army was necessary.

‘We were alone, with no state of our own. The American bomber planes that flew over Auschwitz did not drop a single bomb on the machines of mass murder,’ Peres said in Jerusalem’s Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

‘The Holocaust determined once and for all that there is no replacement for a home of our own. Nothing can take the place of the Israel Defense Forces,’ he added.

President Peres said that in this generation, there is a renewed threat to commit genocide against Jews, this time from the leaders of Iran, who make public statements questioning the official historical record of the Nazi Holocaust, and continually threaten to attack the State of Israel.

‘Even after the Holocaust occurred, there exists a regime whose leaders are Holocaust deniers and open Holocaust promoters,’ Peres added. ‘This must cause every person to be repulsed, every conscience to feel revulsion.’

‘The Iranian leadership is a danger to the whole world, not only to Israel. It is a danger to everyone, a real danger to the fate of mankind,’ Peres continued. ‘The nations of the world have announced that they will

not abide nuclear weapons in the possession of Iran. Their words will now be tested.’...” (Yahweh God will battle to protect His beloved Jewish people — Deuteronomy 7:7. He also says in Ezekiel 39:6: “...I will send a fire upon Magog” — Russia and her Arabic allies — Ezekiel 38:1-7.)

MK: Israel Can Annihilate Iran in a Second

Israel National News reports: “National Union party Chairman MK Yaakov (‘Ketzaleh’) Katz pushed the envelope of official ambiguity regarding Israel’s offensive nuclear capabilities. MK Katz said that Israel has the ability to destroy enemies like Iran and Syria ‘in a second’s time.’

The statement is most likely a reference to military nuclear capabilities, which Israel has never officially admitted to possessing.

Speaking at a session of a Knesset lobby dedicated to teaching the lessons of the Holocaust, the fiery, Biblically-bearded MK Katz said the greatest revenge against the Germans, who desired to annihilate the Jewish people, is the Jewish nation’s fertility and natural growth.

Ketzaleh opined that Israel should end the custom of bringing visiting heads of state to Holocaust memorial museum Yad VaShem. Such visits, he said, show the dignitaries a humiliating, diaspora side of the Jewish nation.

Instead, he said, Israel should show visitors the pinnacles it has reached since the Holocaust and despite it.

‘We must show them that we have the capability to destroy Iran within a second’s time, and Syria in a minute’s time, should they dare lift a hand to us,’ he said...” (**I don’t believe this headline to be an empty boast. Israel’s nuclear stockpile and air force is the greatest.**)

NEWS FROM ISRAEL & THE MIDDLE EAST

Hamas, Fatah Reach Reconciliation Deal

Voice of America News reports: “The rival Palestinian Fatah and Hamas factions have reached a reconciliation deal. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has responded by asking Palestinian President Mahmoud

Abbas to choose between peace with Israel, or peace with Hamas.

It was a surprise announcement that came after secret talks in Cairo. The rival Fatah group that runs the West Bank and the militant Islamist Hamas faction that controls Gaza said they have reached an understanding to set up

an interim government and hold elections.

Israel responded immediately, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu making a statement on Israeli television.

Netanyahu said the Palestinian Authority of President Mahmoud Abbas has to choose between peace with Israel or peace with

Hamas, which he said seeks to destroy Israel. The Israeli leader said the very idea of reconciliation shows the weakness of the Palestinian Authority that could lead to a Hamas takeover of the West Bank.

Recent demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza have been calling for an end to the division between the two factions. Many Palestinians believe a divided leadership is preventing them from facing up to Israel, ending its occupation of the West Bank, and setting up a Palestinian state.

Hussam Khader, a Fatah leader in the West Bank city of Nablus, said, 'I believe it will help the Palestinian people and maybe it will be a great step toward our national goals.'

However, there is skepticism on whether the deal could bring reconciliation.

Fatah is moderate and has engaged in negotiations with Israel. Hamas' charter calls for the destruction of the Jewish state..." **(Danger is ahead as these two terrorist organizations merge. World War III begins when Jerusalem is divided between these two groups and Israel — Joel 3:2.)**

Report: Quartet may formally recognize Palestinian state

Haaretz reports: "American and European diplomats warned that if peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians are not renewed, the Quartet of Mideast peace makers may formally recognize a Palestinian state, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

The Quartet, which is comprised of the United States, United Nations, European Union, and Russia, was supposed to meet... to discuss an initiative by Britain, France and Germany to restart stalled Israeli-Palestinian talks by proposing the outlines of a final settlement to their long conflict.

The United States blocked the initiative, with a U.S. official of Barack Obama's administration saying the administration didn't think a Quartet meeting would produce anything useful in terms of getting the talks restarted.

'It wasn't the right time,' the official said.

The Israelis and Palestinians have agreed to Obama's target date of September 2011 for an agreement, but negotiations collapsed weeks after they restarted last September because Israel ended its moratorium on settlement construction. The Palestinians insist they will not resume peace talks until Israel halts settlement building in the

West Bank and East Jerusalem, lands Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war, which the Palestinians want for their future state..." **(The above move is dangerous and may soon begin the greatest war in history. See also the next two reports.)**

Egypt calls on U.S. to recognize Palestinian state

ynetNews.com reports: "Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil al-Arabi called on the United States to recognize a Palestinian state, as rival Palestinian factions prepare to sign a reconciliation accord in Cairo.

Arabi urged visiting U.S. Congressman Steve Chabot to 'press Congress and the American administration to recognize a Palestinian state.'

Recognition 'would correspond with previous statements by the American administration supporting peace based on two states,' the official *MENA* news agency quoted him as saying.

Arabi, who held talks on the Arab-Israeli conflict with Chabot, also called on the United States to 'exert efforts to hold an international Middle East peace conference,' *MENA* said.

Palestinian factions are preparing to sign a deal in Cairo after President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah faction and its bitter foe Hamas agreed to form a government that would prepare for elections in a year..."

Lieberman: World should not recognize new Palestinian government

Haaretz reports: "Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman called on world countries not to recognize the Palestinian government to be set up after the Islamist Hamas and the mainstream Fatah movements announced a reconciliation deal.

'The international community must not legitimize the government whose face is the face of (Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.) and whose arms are the arms of Hamas, who launches missiles at citizens and stains innocents with blood,' he told Cypriot President Emeteris Christofias during a meeting in Nicosia, according to a statement issued by his office after the meeting.

Representatives from Hamas and Fatah announced in Cairo their intention to reconcile, after a four-year-long bitter and at times violent rift, which saw Hamas

administering the Gaza Strip and the West Bank under the control of the Fatah dominated Palestinian Authority.

The agreement, if implemented, will see the Hamas government in Gaza, and the West Bank government headed by Salam Fayyad, replaced by an interim unity government consisting of 'professional' figures, which will prepare for Palestinian elections.

Israel has said it will not negotiate with the new government unless Hamas accepts the demands of the so-called Quartet of the U.S., the EU, Russia and the UN, to renounce violence, honor past Israeli-Palestinian agreements, and accept the Jewish state's right to exist..."

Israel concerned over Egypt's policy on Gaza, Hamas

ynetNews.com reports: "Egypt's shifting foreign policy, including the decision to open the Egypt-Gaza border, embrace Hamas and upgrade relations with Iran, has Israel concerned that these recent moves may translate into new security threats, which may eventually undermining the peace between Jerusalem and Cairo.

'We are troubled by recent developments in Egypt,' a senior Israeli official told the *Wall Street Journal*. 'These developments can affect Israel's national security at a strategic level.'

The reaction emphasizes what has already been called a 'widening rift' between Israel and Egypt, on the backdrop of the recent wave of popular unrest sweeping across the Arab world.

One of the first major changes to ensue was the resignation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who worked with Israel to contain Hamas, through a blockade of the coastal strip.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil al-Arabi said in an interview with *al-Jazeera Television* that Cairo plans to open up the Rafah border crossing within days. Israel, however, expressed concerns that such a move will ease the flow of weapons into the Gaza Strip, while allowing fluid access to militants bent on attacking Israel..." **(The Egyptian Brotherhood Muslim terrorist organization is laying the foundation for the takeover of Egypt now that Mubarak has been deposed. He was a friend to the Jews — the Brotherhood won't be — Matthew 24:9; John 16:2.)**

NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Putin: U.S. Economic Policies Amount to 'Hooliganism'

Voice of America News reports: "Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin says U.S. economic policies amount to 'hooliganism.'"

Putin, in his annual address to the Russian parliament, said that 'everything is not so good for our friends in the States.' He told the lawmakers to look at the U.S. trade balance in which the country imports more products than it exports, its growing long-term debt, and annual budget deficits.

He said Russia does not 'have the luxury for such hooliganism.' Putin said Russia has none of that and he hopes the country never will.

But he said that in difficult economic times the United States has 'things easier,' accusing the United States of turning on presses to print more money and flooding world markets with devalued dollars. The U.S. central bank is currently pumping \$600 billion into the American economy through the purchase of government securities.

Earlier the financial services company Standard & Poor's downgraded its economic outlook for the U.S. from

'stable' to 'negative' on fears that the White House and Congress may not be able to reach a long-term plan to reduce the country's growing total of \$14 trillion in accumulated debt..." **(Putin did and said everything without naming or blaming our President. Our future looks bleak as one studies Revelation 18:10, 17, and 19.)**

Putin outlines blueprint for stronger Russia

RIA Novosti reports: "Russia needs to be strong and avoid experiments with 'unjustified liberalism' in order to safeguard its sovereignty and prevent outsiders from dictating the country's development, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said.

In an annual address to parliament — his last as prime minister before legislative elections later this year and presidential elections early next year - Putin painted a glowing picture of his government's performance in 2010, stressing achievements ranging from economic growth to new infrastructure and social development.

Putin set out an array of far-reaching goals that he said should see Russia emerge as one of the 'top five global economies' within the

next 10 years.

'In the modern world — if you are weak — there will always be someone who wants to come and advise you on what direction you must move in, what policies to pursue and the path you should choose for your own country,' Putin said. 'We must be independent and strong.'

The powerful Russian prime minister, who some analysts believe will bid to return to the Kremlin in 2012 and succeed his hand-picked successor, President Dmitry Medvedev, outlined a bullish agenda for Russia's future political and economic development.

Putin did not directly criticize Medvedev, who is generally regarded as the more liberal figure in Russia's governing tandem. But in his wide-ranging address, the prime minister made clear he had a clear vision about how Russia's government should be run in the future and peppered his arguments with words often associated with his successor..." **(Putin will undoubtedly be back in power when his chosen puppet is released during Russia's next election. He could be the "Gog of Magog" during World War III — Ezekiel 38:1, 2, 8, and 16; 39:1, 2, 12, and 13.)**

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

China Detains Worshipers at Unsanctioned Church

Voice of America News reports: "Chinese police arrested at least 30 members of an underground Protestant church in Beijing Sunday (April 17, 2011) in a growing crackdown on dissent across China.

The U.S.-based Christian rights group China Aid reported that police rounded up members of the Shouwang House Church as they attempted to hold a service in a public plaza in the western part of the city. More than 150 church members were detained for attempting to meet in the same space.

China Aid head Bob Fu said two of the church's pastors, Jin Tianming and Li Xiaobai, were detained Saturday evening and released Sunday morning. Other church leaders have been put under house arrest.

The Shouwang House Church, which is not registered with the government, was evicted from its usual gathering place, a restaurant, earlier this month.

China allows Christian worshippers to attend state-sanctioned churches, but more than 50 million are believed to worship privately at unsanctioned, so-called 'house' churches.

The latest arrests come amid a growing crackdown on dissenters in China, including artists, lawyers, writers and intellectuals, for allegedly calling for street rallies similar to those in the Arab world..." **(When Russia marches in the rapidly approaching global battle — Ezekiel 38 & 39 — China joins with her — Daniel 11:44; Revelation 16:12; Revelation 9:14-18. It will be a time of slaughter for the millions of converts to Christ after the Rapture. Study Revelation 7:9, 14; 13:15; 20:4. See also the next two reports.)**

China detains Protestant Shouwang devotees

BBC News reports: “At least 20 Chinese Protestants have been detained as they tried to gather for an Easter service in Beijing.

The worshippers, from the Shouwang church, were trying to hold an outdoor service because they are prevented from using their own premises.

Police have recently arrested dozens of people from the church.

The authorities have also been carrying out a wider suppression of dissent — harassing foreign reporters and detaining lawyers and activists.

The most high-profile detainee, artist Ai Weiwei, was taken by police as he tried to board a flight.

His family says they do not know where he is, whether he has been charged with an offence, or even whether he has been formally arrested.

China’s constitution guarantees freedom of religion, but the Communist Party tries to control where people worship.

There are an estimated 70 million Christians in the country, about 20 million of whom attend government-approved churches.

The rest worship with unregistered groups known as ‘house’ churches.

Such groups are broadly tolerated, but Shouwang leaders have annoyed the authorities in recent weeks by insisting on

trying to hold services in the open.

Shouwang is one of Beijing’s biggest so-called underground Churches, with over 1,000 members...”

Underground Christians fear China crackdown

CNN reports: “This calm denim-clad 28-year-old identifies herself only as Water, based on the Chinese characters that make up her first name. She has been deemed an enemy of the state, an unlikely label for a petite and well-educated woman who eschews violence and confrontation.

Here in China, Water is living her life in fear, under the close watch of the Chinese government for practicing Christianity at Beijing’s underground Shouwang Church. She requested her Chinese name not be published for safety reasons.

Shouwang Church has come under fire by Chinese authorities weeks ago, when the government ordered the church to cease all activity until further notice. The Chinese government has stated that Shouwang operates unlawfully. To be recognized, the church must register to be a state-sanctioned operation, which includes censoring of certain religious materials...

Shouwang is one of China’s largest Protestant Christian groups not sanctioned

by the Chinese government. From 2005 to 2007, Shouwang actively applied for registration with the government but was unsuccessful...

Water says she merely wants a margin of religious freedom, but her pursuit has been rocky. Over the past weeks, Water is followed by the police at home and near the church site. She was detained at the police station overnight. Her mother, who is also a Christian, and her father, who is not, have been harassed, she said.

‘My father, who is not a believer, even came to visit me at the police station where I was held,’ Water recalled.

‘Every day I face a new situation with new difficulties. I try to ignore them but their approach every day is different,’ she explained. ‘They make my daily life pretty challenging.’

Water, who started practicing Christianity because she felt the Communist Party ‘left [her] empty,’ says that she prays for her country to find ‘strength’ on a daily basis. At the same time, she is realistic about the risks she has taken.

‘Personally I don’t know how long I can last because the pressure is pretty intense, because they try to harass your family, your workplace and your landlord. They want to evict you,’ she told *CNN*. ‘They want to control you.’...”

KNOWLEDGE INCREASED

Bionic Arm Can Move, Feel

Voice of America News reports: “Scientists are developing an entirely new type of prosthetic arm and hand that allows a patient to regain not only movement, but also the sense of touch.

American soldiers who have lost limbs in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq often end up at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., for rehabilitation and to get fitted with prosthetics. Dr. Todd

Kuiken, of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, works with these patients who provide him with feedback on a bionic arm he developed. Kuiken’s work has focused on creating an artificial arm which can respond to the wearer’s mind.

‘What we do is use the nerves that are still left. Although the arm is lost,’ he says.

Nerves from the amputated arm are attached to the remaining muscle, either in the chest or in the bicep. Nerves that control flexing the hand or closing it are

attached in different locations.

Electrodes placed on the muscles act as antennas and when the brain sends an electrical nerve impulse to these antennas, the electrode activates the prosthetic arm or hand to move accordingly...

Patients can even have nerves from their hands and finger tips transferred to muscles in their biceps. This gives them the sensation of touch...” (Daniel 12:4 — Christ’s return is near.)

CYBER INSECURITY

Growing Global Threat From Chinese Cyber Hackers

Fox News reports: “Western governments and corporations were facing a growing threat from hackers based in China, who remain strong despite a crackdown by the authorities, *Sky News* reported.

An estimated 1.6 billion attacks are launched from China each month, with some successful efforts breaching the computer systems of the Pentagon and those of the French, German and British governments.

‘Even the strongest security systems have holes,’ one 21-year-old self-trained hacker said. ‘Everyone knows that those people haven’t realized that there are hackers who can attack them. They probably think they have the best security possible.’

The Chinese government claimed it was tackling the illegal activity. Last year, authorities reportedly made several hundred arrests and closed one online hacking school that was said to have 180,000 members — but other websites offering the same service remained in operation.

Sky News recently gained access to a conference organized by a well-known hacking group in a four-star hotel in Beijing. The event was sponsored by a security firm with alleged connections to the Chinese military. Speakers covered topics such as ‘Defeat Windows 7’ and ‘Virtual Viruses Infection.’

The conference also highlighted the murky connections between hackers and the Chinese government.

One man, who identified himself as a policeman, said, ‘We’re here to see if they have anything we can use. If there is, then we’ll get in touch with them and take the next step.’

In 2009, investigators discovered that Ghostnet, the largest-ever network of cyber attacks, could be traced back to China. The operation’s command and control gained real-time control over 1,200

computers belonging to foreign embassies, international organizations and media groups in more than 100 countries...” (See [the previous reports on China.](#))

Infrastructure cyberattack fears on the rise

SpaceDaily.com reports: “Cyber threats such as Stuxnet pose an increasing risk to critical infrastructure worldwide but many facilities are unprepared to face the danger, according to a report.

‘We found that the adoption of security measures in important civilian industries badly trailed the increase in threats over the last year,’ said Stewart Baker of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), releasing a report conducted with computer security firm McAfee.

For the report, ‘[In the Dark: Crucial Industries Confront Cyberattacks](#),’ McAfee surveyed 200 information technology executives charged with security at power, oil, gas and water facilities in 14 countries.

‘What we found is that they are not ready,’ the McAfee-CSIS report said. ‘The professionals charged with protecting these systems report that the threat has accelerated — but the response has not.’

‘The fact is that most critical infrastructure systems are not designed with cybersecurity in mind, and organizations need to implement stronger network controls, to avoid being vulnerable to cyberattacks,’ McAfee vice president Phyllis Schneck said.

Forty percent of the critical infrastructure executives surveyed said they believed that their industry’s vulnerability had increased and 30 percent said their company was not prepared for a cyberattack.

Forty percent said they expect a major cyberattack within the next year — defined as one that causes severe loss of services for at least 24 hours, a loss of life or personal injury, or the failure of a company.

Nearly 70 percent said they frequently found malware designed to sabotage their

systems and nearly half of the respondents in the electricity industry sector said they had found Stuxnet on their systems...” (Cyber-attacks could bring the greatest disaster ever known in history as computer systems become paralyzed and bring total darkness, bedlam, and misery upon all humanity as numerous cyber-strikes occur — Luke 21:25; II Timothy 3:1. See also the next report.)

North Korea ‘behind South Korean bank cyber hack’

BBC News reports: “Prosecutors in South Korea say North Korean hackers were behind an attack that paralyzed a leading bank.

Banking operations at Nonghyup, a South Korean farm co-operative, were halted by the cyber intrusion, leaving customers unable to access their money.

The Seoul prosecutors’ office called it ‘unprecedented cyber-terror deliberately planned’ by North Korea.

It said the software used matched that used in earlier attacks by Pyongyang.

Prosecutors said that a laptop used by a subcontractor ‘became in September 2010 a zombie PC operated by the North, which... later remotely staged the attack through the laptop’.

One of the Internet Protocol (IP) addresses used to break into Nonghyup’s system was the same as one used in March for a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack that originated in North Korea, they added.

The software used in the incident was also similar to that employed in July 2009, when a number of South Korean government websites were attacked, the prosecutors said.

The latest attack caused a three-day service outage at the bank - also called the National Agricultural Co-operative Federation — and caused the records of some credit card customers to be deleted...”