

"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 INSECURITY

Iran says U.S. 'will be taught the mother of all lessons'

WorldNetDaily.com reports: "Iran is planning to retaliate against the United States for the sabotage against its nuclear program, according to an editorial in the *Kayhan* newspaper, the mouthpiece of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The U.S. has all of its infrastructure connected to the Internet, the editorial says, and as a result, "it is constantly worried about an unknown player, who they will never be able to identify... sitting in some corner of the world who would launch an attack on a sector of (the Americans') foundations. They will be taught the mother of all lessons."

Specifically, Iran is looking into launching a cyber attack against U.S. electrical grid systems..." **(This report if and when it can be fulfilled would be catastrophic. Darkness would inundate our land. Electrically run America or any other nation attacked would be totally paralyzed as computers are cyber-attacked and a nation becomes totally confused and hopelessly helpless — "And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if one**

look unto the land, behold darkness and sorrow..." — Isaiah 5:30.)

U.S. Cybercops Caught Flat-Footed by Massive Global Cyberattack

Fox News reports: "Top U.S. cybercops were surprised by revelations of an unprecedented case of cyber-espionage — a five-year-long hacking scheme from a single 'state actor' that targeted U.S. government and U.N. computers as well as defense firms and private industries.

The spying was dubbed 'Operation Shady RAT' by security firm McAfee, which uncovered the hacking — and it led to a massive loss of information that poses a huge economic threat, security experts say.

'Even we were surprised by the enormous diversity of the victim organizations and were taken aback by the audacity of the perpetrators,' wrote McAfee's vice president of threat research, Dmitri Alperovitch...

Col. Rivers Johnson, the spokesman for U.S. Cyber Command at Fort Meade, told *FoxNews.com* the agency was doing all it can to protect the country from

cyber-attacks.

'We have an active defense system in place to hunt within DoD networks and prevent infiltration. We are using all appropriate means right now as part of that active defense.'

Indeed, the agency is prepared to expand its efforts if needed, Johnson said.

'We could be called upon to assist others if the President so directs,' he told *FoxNews.com*..." **(II Timothy 3:1 — "This know also, that in the last days perilous [dangerous] times shall come." Why? Verse 3 of the text: "traitors".)**

"State actor" behind slew of cyber attacks

Reuters reports: "Security experts have discovered an unprecedented series of cyber-attacks on the networks of 72 organizations globally, including the United Nations, governments and corporations, over a five-year period.

Security company McAfee, which uncovered the intrusions, said it believed there was one 'state actor' behind the attacks but declined to name it, though several other security experts said the evidence points to China.

The long list of victims in the extended campaign include the governments of the United States, Taiwan, India, South Korea, Vietnam and Canada; the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); the International Olympic Committee (IOC); the World Anti-Doping Agency; and an array of companies, from defense contractors to high-tech enterprises...

McAfee learned of the extent of the hacking campaign in March this year, when its researchers discovered logs of the attacks while reviewing the contents of a 'command and control' server that they had discovered in 2009 as part of an investigation into security breaches at defense companies.

It dubbed the attacks 'Operation Shady RAT' and said the earliest breaches date back to mid-2006, though there might have been other intrusions. (RAT stands for 'remote access tool,' a type of software that hackers and security experts use to access computer networks from afar)...

Jim Lewis, a cyber-expert with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said it was very likely China was behind the campaign because some of the targets had information that would be of particular interest to Beijing.

The systems of the IOC and several national Olympic Committees were breached before the 2008 Beijing Games. And China views Taiwan as a renegade province, and political issues between them

remain contentious even as economic ties have strengthened in recent years.

'Everything points to China. It could be the Russians, but there is more that points to China than Russia,' Lewis said...'' (Luke 21:25 — the world scene could soon experience the fulfillment of this prophecy "...nations will be in distress with perplexity [mass confusion].")

You hack, we shoot: Pentagon discusses armed counterstrikes to cyberattacks

The Christian Science Monitor reports: "Lawmakers on Capitol Hill have delivered a stark warning to the Pentagon: its failure to address key questions surrounding how the United States military would respond to a cyber-attack — and what precisely constitutes an act of war in cyberspace, for that matter — remains a 'significant gap' in U.S. national security policy.

Senior Pentagon officials for their part are griping, too, that the current Defense Department approach to cyber warfare is 'way too predictable.' Gen. James Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently lamented that, in cyberspace, 'there is no penalty for attacking [the U.S.] right now. We've got to figure out a way to change that.'

To that end, some senior defense officials are increasingly pushing for the U.S. to retaliate against cyber-sieges with

counterstrikes — that could ultimately include launching a 'land-based attack' on the perpetrator.

These signs point to a growing challenge within the Pentagon to the assumption that what happens in cyberspace stays in cyberspace, say analysts.

An armed counterstrike to a cyber-attack 'sounds so provocative,' says Kristin Lord, director of studies at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS).

But it may also be stabilizing, she argues. 'What the Pentagon and White House are trying to do is say that, in a circumstance when we have been attacked in a way that inflicts damage equivalent to an armed attack, we reserve the right to respond in kind,' explains Dr. Lord, who has co-authored a recent CNAS report on 'America's Cyber Future.'

The Pentagon's new strategy should focus on threatening retaliation, rather than improving defense against cyber-incursions, Cartwright said in remarks at a Defense Writers Group breakfast on July 14. The current approach is 'way too predictable. It's purely defensive.'

While the strategy now focuses on defending networks, Cartwright says the next phase must deliver a message 'to the attacker, 'If you do this, the price to you is going to go up.' ...'' (Daniel 12:1 "There shall be time of trouble such as never was." See also Matthew 24:21.)

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Dutch rethink Christianity for a doubtful world

BBC News reports: "The Rev Klaas Hendrikse can offer his congregation little hope of life after death, and he's not the sort of man to sugar the pill.

An imposing figure in black robes and white clerical collar, Mr Hendrikse presides over the Sunday service at the Exodus

Church in Gorinchem, central Holland.

It is part of the mainstream Dutch Protestant Church, and the service is conventional enough, with hymns, readings from the Bible, and the Lord's Prayer. But the message from Mr Hendrikse's sermon seems bleak — 'Make the most of life on earth, because it will probably be the only one you get'.

'Personally I have no talent for believing in life after death,' Mr Hendrikse says. 'No, for me our life, our task, is before death.'

Nor does Klaas Hendrikse believe that God exists at all as a supernatural thing.

'When it happens, it happens down to earth, between you and me, between people, that's where it can happen. God is not a being at all... it's a word for experience, or

human experience.’

Mr Hendrikse describes the Bible’s account of Jesus’s life as a mythological story about a man who may never have existed, even if it is a valuable source of wisdom about how to lead a good life...” (I Timothy 4:1 — “*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*”)

Iranian pastor sentenced to death could be executed if he doesn’t recant

Fox News reports: “Iran’s Supreme Court says an evangelical pastor charged with apostasy can be executed if he does not recant his faith, according to a copy of the verdict obtained by a religious rights activist group.

Christian Solidarity World says Iranian-born Yousef Nadarkhani, who was arrested in 2009 and given the death sentence late last year, could have his sentence suspended on the grounds that he renounce his faith.

Those who know him say he is not likely to do that, for if he were disposed to giving it up, he would have done it long ago.

If Nadarkhani does not recant, his fate is unclear. It’s believed his case would then be remanded to lower courts in Iran.

Recently the U.S. State Department issued the following remarks: ‘We are dismayed over reports that the Iranian courts are requiring Yousef Nadarkhani to recant his faith or face the death penalty for apostasy, a charge based on his religious beliefs. If carried out, it would be the first execution for apostasy in Iran since 1990. He is just one of thousands who face persecution for their religious beliefs in Iran, including the seven leaders of the Baha’i community whose imprisonment was increased to twenty years for practicing their faith and hundreds of Sufis who have been flogged in public because of their beliefs.’

Christian and human rights groups say apostasy isn’t even codified in Iranian law.

‘From a human rights perspective, you can’t criminalize someone’s choice of religion, much less execute them for that,’

says Hadi Ghaemi, executive director of the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran.

Nadarkhani, from Rasht, on the Caspian Sea, converted to Christianity as a teenager. He is reportedly an effective pastor, who has converted an unknown number of people from Islam to Christianity...” (American devotion to Christianity is on the way to apostate blasphemy as 57% of the evangelicals believe there are other ways to heaven besides Jesus. This is a rejection of over 400 Biblical texts that Jesus is the only way. See such texts as John 8:24, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Galatians 3:26; etc. Order my book “Great Salvation Themes” for a listing of all 400 verses.)

‘Rapture’ real aftermath: Beheadings, shootings, mass graves

WorldNetDaily.com reports: “The executive director of a ministry that works with the persecuted church in the northern reaches of Vietnam says he’s outraged that a ‘prophecy’ by an American preacher apparently cost the lives of many tribal Hmong people who believed it.

The prediction by Harold Camping, 89, of Oakland, Calif.-based Family Radio, was that Jesus Christ would return to Earth to ‘rapture’ his followers to heaven on May 21. Camping said mankind had run out of time, and the Creator of the universe would arrive on that Saturday.

The horrific aftermath of the unfulfilled prophecy was reported by James Jacob Prasch, a key leader of Moriel Ministries, which emphasizes the ‘last days apostasy’ discussed in the Bible and ministers to persecuted church members...

Prasch routinely travels and meets with members of the Christian body worldwide. A recent trip took him to Vietnam, where a large number of the Hmong tribal peoples of the nation’s Central Highlands are Christian.

They are referred to in the West as Montagnards.

They had heard of Camping’s prophecy and not having sophisticated methods for evaluating its validity, took it literally, he

explained.

The result, for many, was death, Prasch reported in an email...” (God forgive Harold Camping for his blasphemous ‘end of the world’ teaching based on six misinterpreted biblical texts. 120 times the Bible teaches the world will never end. See Ecclesiastes 1:4; Psalm 104:5; Isaiah 45:17; Ephesians 3:21.)

Great darkness in Egypt

YnetNews.com reports: “Maha, an Egyptian merchant in her 40s, doesn’t sleep well at night. Ever since the January 25 revolution, she is experiencing a difficult period. ‘In the first days of the mass demonstrations against Mubarak, my mother and me couldn’t even sleep because of fear,’ said the Christian Copt. ‘We didn’t know what will happen to us. Ever since then, even though the general security situation in the country has stabilized, our fears were confirmed.’

In recent months we have seen significant escalation in violent clashes between radical Islamists and members of the Copt minority across Egypt. It started with the lethal suicide attack in one of Alexandria’s main churches in the first days of the year, even before the popular protest against Mubarak gained steam. Twenty three worshippers were murdered and some 100 were wounded...

Maha has no doubt as to who stands behind the growing violence against Copts — the Salafiyun, the ultra-conservative Islamic camp. Al-Qaeda’s new leader, Ayman al-Zawahri hailed from the Salafiyun’s ranks. So did Mohammed Atta, the commander of the September 11 attacks, who was a member of mosque affiliated with the movement. The Salafiyun are inspired by Saudi Arabia and seek to impose traditions from the early days of Islam and the Prophet Mohammad era.

‘They hate everyone,’ said Maha. ‘They also hate Muslims who are not like them, but they mostly hate us, Christians. One of their leaders said during a TV show that he dreams of waking up one day and discovering that Egypt is free of Christians. ‘They should go to the US and Canada,’ he said. ‘It’s not their

country.’ Unbelievable chutzpah....we were in this country hundreds of years before Islam and the Arabs arrived.’...” **(While apostate religious ministers attempted to promote Chrislam, a combining of Christianity and Islam in America on June 26, 2011 in 26 states, the slaughter of Christians in Muslim lands presently hits epidemic proportions. Promoting such a blasphemous movement is a one way street — beware — Romans 16:17; II Corinthians 6:14 – 18.)**

Saudi Arabia’s ‘Anti-Witchcraft Unit’ breaks another spell

The Jerusalem Post reports: “When the severed head of a wolf wrapped in women’s lingerie turned up near the city of Tabouk in northern Saudi Arabia authorities knew they had another case of witchcraft on their hands, a capital offence in the ultra-conservative desert kingdom.

Agents of the country’s Anti-Witchcraft Unit were quickly dispatched and set

about trying to break the spell that used the beast’s head.

Saudi Arabia takes witchcraft so seriously that it has banned the Harry Potter series by British writer J.K. Rowling, rife with tales of sorcery and magic. It set up the Anti-Witchcraft Unit in May 2009 and placed it under the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (CPV), Saudi Arabia’s religious police.

‘In accordance with our Islamic tradition we believe that magic really exists,’ Abdullah Jaber, a political cartoonist at the Saudi daily *Al-Jazirah*, told *The Media Line*. ‘The fact that an official body, subordinate to the Saudi Ministry of Interior, has a unit to combat sorcery proves that the government recognizes this, like Muslims worldwide.’

The unit is charged with apprehending sorcerers and reversing the detrimental effects of their spells. On the CPV website, a hotline encourages citizens across the kingdom to report cases of sorcery to local officials for immediate treatment.

In the case of the wolf’s head, the Anti-Witchcraft Unit in Tabouk was able to break the spell. The Saudi daily *Okaz* reported that the unknown family that had fallen victim to the spell had been ‘liberated from the jaws of the wolf.’

The Anti-Witchcraft Unit was created in order to educate the public about the danger of sorcerers and ‘combat manifestations of polytheism and reliance on other Gods,’ the *Saudi Press Agency* (SPA) reported.

The belief in sorcery is so widespread in Saudi Arabia, that it is even used as a defense in criminal court cases. Last October, a judge accused of receiving bribes in a real-estate project told a court in Madinah that he had been bewitched and is undergoing treatment by Quranic incantations, known as ruqiyah, a common remedy for the evil eye...” **(Witchcraft will be prominent during the reign of the Antichrist and false prophet — Leviticus 19:31, 20:6; Isaiah 8:19, 19:3; I Timothy 4:1; I John 4:1-3.)**

THE DEATH OF THE DOLLAR

China Slams U.S. on Credit Downgrade, Most Countries Cautious

Voice of America News reports: “Countries around the world trying to assess the impact of the U.S. credit downgrade on the global economy are starting to speak out.

China issued a stern warning to the United States criticizing the country’s ‘debt addiction’ and saying Washington needs to understand it can no longer borrow its way out of economic problems.

The commentary by communist China’s official *Xinhua* news agency condemned the U.S. for what it called ‘short-sighted

political wrangling,’ and said the world needs a new, stable global reserve currency.

China’s central bank is the largest holder of U.S. public debt.

Other countries are reacting more cautiously. Japan, the second largest U.S. creditor, said the lower rating would not affect Tokyo’s approach to investing in U.S. debt. South Korea put the downgrade on the agenda for a meeting of its central bank officials, but along with Australia urged against an overreaction.

India, one of the world’s top emerging economies, called America’s downgraded credit rating a ‘grave’ situation. Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee refused to

comment further, saying more analysis was needed.

Russia said it would keep its investments in U.S. debt stable, saying there was not much difference between a AAA and a AA+ rating.

In an interview French Finance Minister Francois Baroin also voiced support for the U.S., saying France had faith in Washington’s ability to right its economy. But Europe is also trying to confront its own economic woes, with Italy and Spain facing growing debt problems...” **(James 4:1-4; Revelation 18:10, 17, 19; Ezekiel 7:19; Revelation 16:1. See the next two reports.)**

Putin says U.S. is "parasite" on global economy

Reuters reports: "Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin accused the United States of living beyond its means 'like a parasite' on the global economy and said dollar dominance was a threat to the financial markets.

'They are living beyond their means and shifting a part of the weight of their problems to the world economy,' Putin told the pro-Kremlin youth group Nashi while touring its lakeside summer camp some five hours drive north of Moscow.

'They are living like parasites off the global economy and their monopoly of the dollar,' Putin said at the open-air meeting with admiring young Russians in what looked like early campaigning before parliamentary and presidential polls.

U.S. President Barack Obama earlier announced a last-ditch deal to cut about \$2.4 trillion from the U.S. deficit over a decade, avoid a crushing debt default and stave off the risk that the nation's AAA credit rating would be downgraded.

The deal initially soothed anxieties and led Russian stocks to jump to three-month highs, but jitters remained over the possibility of a credit downgrade.

'Thank god,' Putin said, 'that they had enough common sense and responsibility to make a balanced decision.'

But Putin, who has often criticized the United States' foreign exchange policy, noted that Russia holds a large amount of U.S. bonds and treasuries.

'If over there (in America) there is a systemic malfunction, this will affect everyone,' Putin told the young Russians.

'Countries like Russia and China hold a significant part of their reserves in American securities... There should be other reserve currencies.'..."

Dollar to Be 'Discarded' by World: China Rating Agency

CNBC reports: "The man who leads one of China's top rating agencies says the greenback's status as the world's reserve currency is set to wane as the world's most powerful policy makers convene to examine the implication of S&P's decision to strip the United States of its triple 'A' rating.

In comments emailed to *CNBC*, Guan Jianzhong, chairman of Dagong Global Credit Rating, said the currency is 'gradually discarded by the world,' and the 'process will be irreversible.'..."

NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Iran Views Zionist Regime as "Main Threat" to Region

The Fars News Agency reports: "Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehman-Parast deplored the recent allegations made by the Israeli president against Iran, and cautioned that the threats and aggressive moves made by the Zionist regime leaders are posing a major threat to the regional peace and security.

'Everybody knows better than us that the existence of the illegitimate Zionist regime and its threats and aggression against the surrounding countries as well as the crimes committed by this regime are the main threat to the region,' Mehman-Parast told reporters in his weekly press conference here in Tehran.

He stated that the claims raised by the Zionist officials about Iran are aimed at intimidating the regional countries and portraying Iran as a threat.

Mehman-Parast added that such claims also aim to overshadow the destabilizing presence of the Zionist regime in the region and derail current developments and popular movements in the region.

The remarks by the Iranian Foreign Ministry presser came after Shimon Peres claimed that Iran has a negative influence on the region..." **(Anti-Semitism reigns globally. Genuine Christians love Israel and the Jews, God's Chosen People — Deuteronomy 7:7, 8; Zechariah 2:8; Isaiah 42:1, 45:4, 65:9, 22; Psalm 122:5. Satan and his followers hate the Jew as predicted by Jesus Christ — Matthew 24:9. I Chronicles 21:1 warned that "Satan stood against Israel." Psalm 83:4 predicts this eternal hatred. However it will come to a halt when our Savior returns and reigns in Jerusalem — Luke 1:32, 33; Isaiah 56:5.)**

Ahmadinejad: Israel is greatest threat in Mideast

The Jerusalem Post reports: "Israel poses the greatest threat in the Middle East and regional states should take the necessary steps to contain it, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said as he met with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, the *Fars* news agency reported.

'Effort should be made to take all measures to contain this fake regime,' Ahmadinejad said in the meeting.

He warned that 'any move in line with the Zionist regime's goals and objectives means committing suicide.'

Ahmadinejad called on neighboring countries to remain vigilant against foreign plotters and to prevent external meddling, according to the report..." **(This windbag is the world's most outspoken enemy of**

the Jew. He claims his messiah cannot appear until he obliterates the Jewish race. What a spirit of love his messiah must possess as he demands the death of all Jews. Beware! Christians will be next if he creates the nuclear weapon he is attempting to produce. See also the next two reports.)

Lebanese president blames Israel for 'renewing aggression' on border

Haaretz reports: "Lebanese President Michel Suleiman blamed Israel for 'renewing its aggression' on the border with Lebanon after Israel Defense Forces troops traded fire with Lebanon's army in the Mount Dov region on the border between the two countries.

Suleiman, who was speaking at a ceremony commemorating the 66th anniversary of the Lebanese Armed Forces, praised the army for standing guard against Israeli 'attacks and provocations', as well as its resistance during the 2006 Lebanon war between Israel and Hezbollah.

According to initial reports, the morning's clash began after Lebanese soldiers shot at IDF paratroopers on the border, prompting them to return fire. In contrast with Lebanese reports, UNIFIL reported that the incident included gunfire and no injuries.

IDF sources stated that the skirmish occurred during a military drill beyond the border fence in an enclave under Israeli sovereignty.

A Lebanese military official said the shooting occurred after Israeli forces briefly entered Lebanese territory. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, said the shooting took place along the Wazzani River in the southeastern corner of Lebanon across from Israeli positions..." (Iran supports Hezbollah which is presently controlling Lebanon. The above report is again Ahmadinejad's attempt to rid the world of Jews. It fails — Isaiah 56:5.)

Hamas leader: Palestinian UN bid a 'scam'

Haaretz reports: " Hamas has the Gaza Strip firmly under its control. Although Israel's blockade of the salient is aimed at weakening it, money laundering and revenue from the smuggling tunnels under the border with Egypt has kept the radical Islamist movement afloat.

The movement's charter calls for an Islamic state to be established in all of historical Palestine (including Israel).

Hamas leaders have firm views on the attempt by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to get the United Nations to recognize a Palestinian state based on the pre-1967 borders, before Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan.

'Just nonsense,' says Mahmoud al-Zahar, a prominent Hamas member in Gaza. 'A Palestinian state means land, people and authority. And now, what is the border of Israel? Israel has had many borders in the last 30, 40 years. What border are we going to speak about?'

The approach to the UN, he says, is a 'political scam.' He is equally unequivocal on the so-called two-state solution, which aims at an Israeli state and a Palestinian state existing side by side.

'We are not going to recognize Israel. That is very simple. And we are not going to accept Israel as the owner of one square centimeter because it is a fabricated state.'

'On what moral basis was Israel established? On the right of return (of the Jews) after 4,000 years? It's just imagination.'

He says accepting Israel's right to exist would 'cost 10 million Palestinians their right to Palestine. Who can pay that price? Who will go to the refugee camps and tell the people you have no right on Palestine?...' (This Hamas leader is totally ignorant of the Bible and history. Israel belongs to the Jew. Ezekiel 36:24, Ezekiel 37:11-14; Amos 9:15. Islam wants to destroy Israel — Psalm 83:4, 5. It won't happen — Isaiah 56:5. Jerusalem belongs to Israel mentioned 930 times in the Bible. The Koran never

mentions it once. It doesn't take brains to understand whose land it always has been and is today.)

Iran's Supreme Leader Terms U.S. Most Unpopular State among Muslims

The Fars News Agency reports: "Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei underscored that the United States' wrong policies and measures in the region and the world have turned the country into the most resented state in the Muslim world.

"The regional and global hatred for the U.S. is on the rise and the U.S. is the most unreliable and most hated country in the region and in the Muslim world," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a meeting with the heads of Iran's three branches of power, top military commanders of the armed forces, senior statesmen and officials in Tehran.

"If European people become aware of the real cause of their problems, which is the domination of the U.S. and the Zionist regime over the policies of their governments, certainly the declining trend of the United States' popularity in Europe will further accelerate," he stated, and added, "And this event will happen in the near future."

According to a new survey of public opinion in six Arab countries released in July, the United States' popularity in the Arab world has plummeted to levels lower than the last year of the George W. Bush administration..." (Beware America! The billions spent on our Islamic enemies to meet their national and physical needs has been a useless and hopeless situation. Let's pour our tax dollars into helping nations that love America and help their poor as well as our own at home through our tax dollars. See Luke 14:13, 14.)

TURMOIL IN SYRIA

UN to Assad: Stop Military Force Against Civilians Now

Voice of America News reports: “United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has told Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to immediately stop using military force against civilians taking part in a four-month-old anti-government uprising.

The UN press office says Mr. Ban conveyed the message in a rare telephone call with the Syrian president. It says the UN Secretary-General also expressed ‘strong concern’ at the mounting violence and death toll in the Syrian uprising in recent days.

The UN statement says Mr. Assad made a reference in the conversation to a ‘large number of lives lost’ among Syrian security forces and police trying to crush the revolt. It says Mr. Ban responded by condemning violence against both civilians and security forces in Syria...” **(Senator McCain in his recent visit called Assad, the leader of Syria, a bloody butcher. This is the Assad that Rick Warren praised and promoted on Islamic radio and television while in Syria. Mixing politics and religion leads to error. Let’s proclaim and promote Jesus Mr. Warren — Philippians 2:10, 11. See the next four reports.)**

Assad: Syria target of foreign conspiracy

Haaretz reports: “Syrian President Bashar Assad said his country is capable of foiling any conspiracy to undermine its national unity, the state-run news agency *SANA* reported.

‘Syria is capable of foiling the new chapter in the conspiracy through the awareness of its people and national unity,’ Assad said in a speech published in the *People’s Army Magazine* to mark the 66th anniversary of the Syrian Arab Army.

SANA quoted Assad as saying that ‘conspiracies make us stronger, and pressure causes it to adhere more to our standards

and rights that cannot be liquidated or marginalized.’

The government has blamed the five-month uprising in Syria on ‘armed gangs’ working for some Arab and Western countries.

‘The army was a model of commitment to the nation’s causes and a defender of its rights, proving to be an impregnable fortress foiling the dreams and suspect plans of enemies,’ the Syrian president said.

Assad’s comments came a few hours after the army stormed the central city of Hama and other villages across the country which resulted in 136 deaths, including 97 in Hama...”

‘Dozens killed in Hama as Syrian tanks, snipers deployed’

The Jerusalem Post reports: “Dozens of people were killed in the northeastern Syrian city of Hama, a city that has seen some of the most violent elements of President Bashar Assad’s bloody crackdown on anti-government protesters, pan-Arab news channel *Al Arabiya* quoted human rights activists as saying.

Snipers were seen on the roofs of buildings, activists told *Al Arabiya*, and tanks were deployed in various districts of the city.

...Armed forces shot dead four people near Damascus and in southern Syria after nightly Ramadan prayers, activists said, as the United States sharpened criticism of the Assad regime’s fierce crackdown against anti-government protesters.

Three protesters were killed and at least ten wounded in the town of Nawa near Deraa, cradle of the five-month uprising against 41 years of Assad family rule, according to Abdullah Abazeid of the Syrian Revolution Coordinating Committees.

The Local Coordination Committees, another activist organization, said one more person was killed in the Damascus suburb of Qadam when four buses full of security

police surrounded a demonstration there and fired at the crowd.

The reports come amid an ongoing military siege of the central city of Hama in which activists say some 200 people have been killed in recent days. The city - where in 1982 Assad’s father Hafez waged a ruthless counter-insurrection against the Muslim Brotherhood that killed tens of thousands - has been virtually snuffed out, with water and electricity cut off and residents unable to connect with the outside world.

Borzou Daragahi, a Middle East correspondent for *The Los Angeles Times*, wrote on Twitter that ‘they’re hiding something ugly in Hama.’ You ‘don’t cut off phones, internet, power, water, roads to plant roses,’ he wrote...”

Syrian army ‘resumes shelling Deir al-Zour’

BBC News reports: “The Syrian army is shelling the eastern city of Deir al-Zour for a second day, reports say, as regional pressure mounts on President Bashar al-Assad.

Activists and residents said explosions and gunfire resumed and that troops backed by tanks had re-entered the city’s eastern side.

At least 50 people died after the army launched a pre-dawn assault.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah said the violence against civilian protesters in Syria was unacceptable.

He said the Mr. Assad’s government had to implement real reforms and stop what he called the ‘death machine’ before it was too late.

Turkey and the Arab League earlier made similar appeals while Jordan has called for dialogue between the government and protesters.

Human rights activists say at least 1,700 civilians have been killed and tens of thousands arrested since the uprising began in mid-March. More than 300

people are believed to have died in the past week alone...”

Saudi Arabia Recalls Ambassador to Syria

Voice of America News reports: “Saudi Arabia has recalled its ambassador to Syria as the international community ramps up pressure on the Syrian government to end its crackdown on opposition protesters.

Saudi King Abdullah issued a statement urging Syria to end the bloodshed. He said the situation is not in accord with religion, values or ethics.

The Saudi king’s message follows similar statements by the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council, which is made up of six Arab states, including Saudi Arabia. Up to this point, Arab leaders had been

largely silent on the issue...” **(The Saudi King seems to have a better grasp on Assad’s irreligious actions than Rick Warren who has forgotten one of God’s commandments — “Thou shalt not kill” — Exodus 20:13.)**

Moscow warns against interference in Syrian conflict

RIA Novosti reports: “The Russian Foreign Ministry has warned against outside interference in the Syrian conflict, saying the country’s citizens should solve their problems themselves.

‘The settlement in this country should be carried out by the Syrians themselves without outside interference and should be based on an all-Syria dialogue, which is the only way to resolve the conflict,’ the

ministry said in a statement.

Moscow’s stance was voiced after French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said that the UN Security Council may take a tougher stance on Syria if the ruling regime fails to halt its deadly crackdown on protesters.

Juppe’s comments came as Syrian troops and tanks continued their assault on the city of Hama, a center of opposition protest, and just hours after the Security Council adopted a statement condemning the ‘widespread violations of human rights and the use of force against civilians by the Syrian authorities.’...” **(Syria will undoubtedly unite with Russia during the Russian — Arab alliance against Israel — Ezekiel 38:1, 2, 8, 16. When she does, Isaiah 17:1 warns that “Damascus [Syria] shall become a ruinous heap.”)**

KNOWLEDGE INCREASED

Breakthrough hailed in quest for ‘God particle’

The Independent.co.uk reports: “You wait millions of years for a God particle to come along, and then two clusters turn up at once.

Scientists in the U.S. announced they may have detected the elusive and potentially universe-changing Higgs boson particle just two days after rivals in Switzerland signaled that they, too, have caught their first sight of it.

The physicists working at the Fermilab facility in Illinois may not be as well-known as their more illustrious competitors at the Cern Institute near Geneva, which attracted widespread media attention and predictions of an apocalypse when its Large Hadron Collider was turned on in 2008.

However, Fermilab have their own version of the \$10 billion collider, known as the Tevatron, in which they are also accelerating beams of protons and

antiprotons around tunnels many miles long at extreme speeds. Both teams are doing this to create high-energy collisions between the particles, which they believe should produce the mysterious Higgs boson.

This puzzling sub-atomic object is the key missing element in the Standard Model theory of particle physics, hence its ‘God particle’ nickname.

If its existence can be proven, it will confirm our understanding of why some elements of our universe have a mass, while others, such as light, do not. And the problem, scientists believe, is not so much in creating the boson but in observing it.

The team working on the Cern project said they had finally detected the first ‘bumps’ in data collected from their particle collisions, and that was followed by similar, though not quite as strong, results released from the Fermilab team.

However, while there was excitement at the announcements at the Europhysics

conference in Grenoble, south-eastern France, it could be as long as a month before the results can be verified. For now, the researchers are saying their findings are merely ‘hints’, and what they think are signs of the Higgs boson could yet be eliminated during the filtering of the data.

But coming together in such a short space of time and offering similar forms of data, the work of these two labs appears to offer reassurance that the Standard Model is correct — and that the billions of dollars invested in the programmes have been well spent. The Fermilab team will doubtless feel especially pleased as the Large Hadron Collider has made their Tevatron obsolete, and it is set to close in September...” **(Mankind wants to play God and recreate the “Big Bang Theory”. It won’t happen. Those who attempt to prove there is no God will soon be labeled as “fools” by God — Psalm 14:1; 53:1.)**