

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

PSALM 83:4

Report: Saudi textbooks teach annihilation of Jews

YnetNews.com reports: "Despite promises to clean up violent and xenophobic content from textbooks, recent editions in Saudi Arabia continue teach school children barbaric practices, *Fox News* reported.

The news network, which was able to obtain translated copies of the recently-printed books from the Institute for Gulf Affairs in Washington, DC, said that the books teach ninth graders that the annihilation of Jews is imperative.

'The hour (of judgment) will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them,' one part reads. 'There is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.'

The reviewed editions were printed for the 2010-2011 academic year. Another book teaches 10th graders how to cut off the hands and feet of a thief.

'This is where terrorism starts, in the education system.' Ali Al-Ahmed, director of the Institute for Gulf Affairs, said, noting that the books were financed by the Saudi government...' **(Proverbs 22:6 states: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This, of course is talking about the teaching of God's Holy Word. All of Islam in every nation is promoting Anti-Semitism including Wahabism, the Muslim denomination that is the most brutal. It began in Egypt. Iran of the Shia denomination informs the world that his messiah,**

Mahdi comes after a slaughter of most of the Jews. See Matthew 24:9; John 16:2; Psalm 83:4. This all fails — Isaiah 56:5: "...I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name..." Also see the next two reports.)

Muslim Brotherhood vows not to recognize Israel

The Jerusalem Post reports: "Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood will not recognize Israel 'under any circumstance,' the party's deputy leader Dr. Rashad Bayoumi told Arabic daily *al-Hayat* in an interview..."

In recent Egyptian elections the Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) won 36.3 percent of the list vote, while the ultra-conservative Salafi al-Nour Party took 28.8%.

When asked whether it is a requirement for the government in Egypt to recognize Israel, Bayoumi responded by saying: 'This is not an option, whatever the circumstances, we do not recognize Israel at all. It's an occupying criminal enemy.'

The deputy leader stressed during the interview that no Muslim Brotherhood members would ever meet with Israelis for negotiations. 'I will not allow myself to sit down with criminals.'

Bayoumi went on to say that the Muslim Brotherhood would take legal procedures towards canceling the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel that was signed in 1979.

'The Brotherhood respects international conventions, but we will take legal action

against the peace treaty with the Zionist entity,' he told the paper.

At the beginning of December, Egypt's two leading Islamist parties won about two-thirds of votes for party lists in the second round of polling for a parliament that will help draft a new constitution after decades of autocratic rule...' **(The PLO wants statehood. Presently in Islam's eyes, Israel is not a state or nation. Israel appears nowhere on Islam's maps. It won't get better until Israel's Messiah appears. By the way the criminals are not Jews, God's Chosen People – Deuteronomy 7:7, 8.)**

'PLO might revoke recognition of Israel'

YnetNews.com reports: "As Fatah and Hamas promote their reconciliation efforts and as signs indicating that the Islamic Jihad may be warming up to the idea of joining the Palestine Liberation Organization become more evident, the Palestinian Authority seems to be taking a harsher stand vis-à-vis Israel.

PLO Executive Committee Member Hanan Ashrawi said that the PLO may choose to revoke its recognition of Israel 'should all other (political) avenues fail.'

In an interview with the *Voice of Palestine* radio station, Ashrawi stressed that while the possibility has yet to be discussed by the PLO, it was nonetheless considered as a viable option by the Palestinian leadership...' "

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Stand up for Christian values, says Prime Minister Cameron

The London Daily Standard reports: “David Cameron attacked a ‘slow-motion moral collapse’ in Britain and called for a revival of traditional Christian values.

In a keynote speech, he condemned a growing ‘do as you please’ culture in which people, including political leaders, increasingly feared criticising the bad choices of others.

‘Whether you look at the riots last summer, the financial crash and the expenses scandal or the on-going terrorist threat from Islamist extremists around the world, one thing is clear,’ said the Prime Minister. ‘Moral neutrality or passive tolerance just isn’t going to cut it anymore.’

Addressing Church of England members at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, he went on: ‘Put simply, for too long we have been unwilling to distinguish right from wrong. ‘Live and let live’ has too often become ‘do what you please.’

Mr. Cameron, whose speech marked the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, said people should openly proclaim the explicit values of Christianity...” **(Praise God for Prime Minister Cameron who knows who the real criminals are and calls his people to: “live and let live” England’s Christians to stand for Christ and Christianity — Jude 1:3, 4, 10, 12-18.)**

Iraq Christians fearful post-US pullout

SpaceWar.com reports: “Iraq’s Christians, markedly fewer in number following attacks on their minority community, are increasingly fearful in the face of a rise in sectarian tensions after the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Estimated to number more than one million before the U.S.-led invasion of 2003, living primarily in Baghdad, the main northern city of Mosul, and the disputed oil hub of Kirkuk, some two-thirds of the population are estimated to have fled since, with more continuing to leave the violence-wracked country.

Their plight was highlighted by an October 31, 2010, assault on a Baghdad church by Al-Qaeda that left 44 worshippers, two priests and seven security force members dead. According to some accounts, the attack only accelerated the exodus.

‘We have concerns about the U.S. withdrawal, despite the security forces saying it will be safe,’ said Louis Sako, Chaldean archbishop of Kirkuk and Sulaimaniyah, the latter of which lies in the autonomous Kurdish region.

‘There has been a failure to ensure the safety of Christians — the security forces are not sufficiently prepared to ensure the protection of Christians. Even though we have repeatedly asked to raise the level of security, the results are not encouraging.’

U.S. troops completed their withdrawal on December 18, 2011, leaving security in the hands of an Iraqi force more than 900,000-strong...” **(The Lord Jesus spoke about a time of upheaval and great tribulation — Matthew 24:21. Pray for our Brothers and Sisters in Christ living in Iraq — I Thessalonians 5:17.)**

Christians face an uncertain future in North Korea

ChristianToday.com reports: “North Korea has entered a period of uncertainty following the death of its leader Kim Jong-Il.

The 69-year-old dictator died unexpectedly of a heart attack, prompting

concerns for the stability of the region in the transition to new leadership under his son, Kim Jong-un.

Between 1994 and his death on December 17, 2011, Kim Jong-Il led a regime with one of the worst human rights records in the world.

There is no religious freedom in the country and anyone caught practising Christianity faces a lengthy prison sentence or even execution, according to Christian rights groups.

President of Open Doors USA, Dr. Carl Moeller, said Kim’s death marked a ‘significant day in North Korean history’.

‘Though this brutal dictator, who was responsible for so many atrocities, has died, the future is still unknown,’ he said.

Observers are split over whether the human rights situation will get better or worse under Kim Jong-un. In the face of uncertainty, Mr Moeller called on Christians to pray for the country and the estimated 50,000 Christians being held in North Korean prison camps.

‘We simply do not know the future of North Korea, but God does,’ he said.

‘This is why it is vital that Christians around the world pray for North Korea during this transitional time. Pray especially for the brave Christians inside North Korea.

‘They are fearful that they might face even more suffering...’” **(The world hates Christ, Christianity and Christians. Jesus said in John 15:18: “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.”)**

Syria’s Christians ‘caught in the crossfire’

ChristianToday.com reports: “The situation for Syria’s Christians is worsening amid anti-regime protests, Open Doors USA has warned.

Despite international outcry over the brutality of the crackdown on the uprising, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has ignored calls to step down.

In an interview with U.S. TV channel *ABC News*, he denied issuing orders to kill his own people and questioned the credibility of the UN and its latest report putting the number of people killed since the outbreak of protests at 4,000.

Open Doors said Christians in the country are afraid of what might happen to them in the future, especially if radical Muslims gain power.

The organisation's President, Dr. Carl Moeller, fears Christians may soon have to think about leaving Syria.

'Christians inside Syria are caught in the crossfire as they are in many other Middle Eastern countries,' he said.

'Until the protests started against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, the Christian community enjoyed some protection. Now they are afraid of the future. Will they have to flee their country like Iraqi Christians have done over the last several years? Please lift them up in your prayers.'

There are around 1.5 million Christians in Syria, including 100,000 Christian refugees who fled from Iraq because of violence and persecution there..." **(The hatred toward genuine Christians is beginning with greater vengeance by Islamic extremists and terrorists. We are rapidly heading for the Great Tribulation of Revelation 7:14; a time of great persecution, slaughter and death — Revelation 6:9; 13:15; 20:4; Revelation 2:10. Many will escape this horrendous hour — Revelation 3:10; I Thessalonians 4:16-18.)**

Nigeria churches hit by blasts during Christmas prayers

BBC News reports: "Bomb blasts targeting Christmas Day church services in two Nigerian cities have left at least 28 people dead, with three more attacks on other towns.

The Islamist group Boko Haram said it had attacked St. Theresa's Church in Madalla, near the capital Abuja, killing 27 people.

A second explosion shortly after hit a church in the central city of Jos. A policeman died during gunfire.

Three attacks in northern Yobe state targeted a church and security forces.

Two hit the town of Damaturu, and a third struck Gadaka. Yobe state has been the epicentre of violence between security forces and Boko Haram militants.

Boko Haram — whose name means 'Western education is forbidden' — often targets security forces and state institutions.

The group carried out an August 2011 suicide attack on the UN headquarters in Abuja, in which more than 20 people were killed..." **(Nigeria is different in that Muslims and Christians are evenly numbered and divided 50 / 50. Nevertheless these ungodly murderers killed Christians on Christmas Day as they were honoring Jesus. Matthew 23:15, 33 describe them. See the next two reports.)**

Nigerian Christians dismayed by President's security response

Voice of America News reports: "The Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, met with President Goodluck Jonathan at the State House in Abuja to express concern after the Christmas Day church bombings by Boko Haram. The president of CAN criticized the government's security response to Boko Haram and suggested that Christians may have to defend themselves from Muslim militants.

At a news conference after their meeting about the Christmas Day terror attacks, which left at least 39 dead, the president of CAN, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, had some harsh words for Jonathan, himself a Christian.

'After consultation with the Christian community, which constitutes the

majority of the Nigerian population, I have been mandated to convey as follows. The Christian community in Nigeria is deeply sorrowed over the deteriorating state of insecurity and apparent inability of the government to protect and guarantee lives, churches and properties of our members,' said Oritsejafor.

Oritsejafor added that concerns are heightened by the lack of high-profile arrests. Boko Haram — which means 'Western Education is Sinful' in Hausa — has been blamed for hundreds of deaths this year alone. The group wants to establish a strict Islamic state in Nigeria — a country nearly evenly divided between Christians and Muslims.

President Jonathan acknowledged the criticism, but said that terrorism is a new phenomenon in Nigeria and that the government is making adjustments to confront it. He called for the assistance of all Nigerians, Christian and Muslim alike..."

Nigeria church attack leaves five dead

ChristianToday.com reports: "At least five people have been killed in an attack on a church in northern Nigeria on January 5.

Pastor Johnson Jauro told the *AFP* news agency that he was leading the congregation in prayers when the gunmen stormed into the church and opened fire.

He said the five worshippers killed included his wife.

Although no one has claimed responsibility for the attack yet, it comes after the militant group Boko Haram warned Christians that they had three days to leave the predominantly Muslim north.

The attack on the Deeper Life Church in Gombe is another sign of the worsening situation for Christians in northern Nigeria.

Boko Haram, which wants to impose Sharia law, said it was behind the Christmas Day attacks on churches that killed at least 50 people..."

Extremists 'infiltrating' Christian groups in India

ChristianToday.com reports: "Islamic and Hindu extremists in India are reportedly posing as Christians to obtain information about them and pass it on to radical groups.

The Catholic Secular Forum (CSF) said in a report to the *Fides* news agency that the radicals have infiltrated churches and Christian NGOs.

They are gathering information about church property and members of the Christian communities, including conversions and baptisms.

The CSF believes the information is being passed on to extremist political parties and terrorist organisations to be used against Christians.

Although Christians in most parts of India enjoy religious freedom, there are pockets in the country, most notably Orissa, where Christians are being targeted by radicals..." (Jesus said: "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." — Matthew 24:9.)

Iranian pastor awaiting execution may face another year in prison

ChristianToday.com reports: "There are unconfirmed reports that an Iranian pastor sentenced to death for apostasy may have to spend another year in prison.

The case of Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani has twice been referred to the Supreme Leader of Iran, who has yet to issue a decision.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide said that a final ruling is expected at any time and that it had received unconfirmed reports indicating that execution may be delayed for up to a year to allow time to convince the pastor to renounce his faith.

The organisation said it had also received reports that another jailed pastor, Behnam Irani, was suffering as a result of 'frequent' assaults by inmates.

He is serving a five year sentence in Ghezel Hesar prison in Karaj for carrying out an 'action against national security'.

The beatings have reportedly been so severe that he now has difficulty walking.

There are reports that the pastor was held incommunicado in a small cell where guards would repeatedly wake him from sleep as a form of psychological torture..." (Revelation 2:10 — "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." See the next report.)

Clinton calls for release of Iranian pastor facing execution

ChristianToday.com reports: "U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has

called on Iran to release a Christian pastor facing death due to his faith in Jesus.

Nearly 200,000 Americans have signed a petition for the U.S. government to intervene and help gain freedom for Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani.

In calling for Nadarkhani's unconditional release, Clinton said, 'Today, we call on every government to release all prisoners of conscience immediately and unconditionally, including Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani.'

The strong words from the U.S. Secretary of State come after nearly 200,000 Americans signed a petition by the American Center for Law and Justice calling upon the United States to help bring about Nadarkhani's release.

Nadarkhani was arrested in October 2009 for speaking out against new policies in the Iranian education system that would force his children to join Muslim students reading from the Koran.

The charge against the married father of two was later changed to apostasy, and he was suddenly accused of attempting to evangelise Muslims. Nadarkhani was quickly found guilty and given the death sentence.

The 34-year-old pastor was the leader of a network of Christian house churches, and is a member of the Protestant evangelical Church of Iran..."

GOG OF MAGOG

Moscow protest: Thousands rally against Vladimir Putin

BBC News reports: "Tens of thousands of people have rallied in central Moscow in a show of anger at alleged electoral fraud.

They passed a resolution 'not to give

a single vote to Vladimir Putin' at next year's presidential election.

Protest leader Alexei Navalny told the crowd to loud applause that Russians would no longer tolerate corruption.

'I see enough people here to take the Kremlin and (Government House) right now but we are peaceful people and

won't do that just yet,' he said.

Demonstrators say parliamentary elections on 4 December, which were won by Mr. Putin's party, were rigged. The government denies the accusation.

A sea of demonstrators stretched along Sakharov Avenue, a few miles from the Kremlin, in sub-zero temperatures.

Rallies were taking place across Russia, with the first big protest in the far eastern city of Vladivostok.

At least 28,000 people turned out in the capital, according to the Russian interior ministry, but rally organizers said the true number was around 120,000.

President Dmitry Medvedev announced political reforms, but many demonstrators say it is not enough.

They are demanding a re-run of the poll, which was won by Vladimir Putin's party - but with a much smaller share of the overall vote..." **(Will Putin return to becoming the next elected President? Will he become the "Gog of Magog" that leads the world into World War III? We will know March 12th. If he wins, a bloodbath wreaked against the protesters is possible. Regardless of who is elected, I believe Russia is**

presently preparing for Armageddon — Ezekiel 38:1, 2, 8, 14; 29:1, 2, 12, 13. See the next report.)

Gorbachev calls on Russia's Putin to quit amid unrest

Fox News reports: "Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev called on Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to resign as tens of thousands of demonstrators cheered opposition leaders and jeered the Kremlin in the biggest show of outrage in Putin's 12-year-rule.

'I would advise Vladimir Putin to leave now. He has had his three terms: two as president and one as prime minister. Three terms — that is enough,' Gorbachev told *Moscow Echo* radio in an interview, reports *Sky News*.

The Moscow demonstration on

December 24, 2011 was even bigger than a similar rally two weeks earlier, signaling that the protest movement ignited by the fraud-tainted December 4 parliamentary election may be growing. Protest were also held in dozens of other cities and towns across Russia.

Rally participants densely packed a broad avenue, which has room for nearly 100,000 people, about 2.5 kilometers (some 1.5 miles) from the Kremlin, as the temperature dipped well below freezing. They chanted 'Russia without Putin!'

A stage at the end of the 700-meter (0.43 mile) avenue featured placards reading 'Russia will be free' and 'This election is a farce.' Heavy police cordons encircled the participants, who stood within metal barriers, and a police helicopter hovered overhead..."

KIM JONG IS DEAD — LONG LIVE KIM JONG

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il dies

BBC News reports: "North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il has died of a heart attack at the age of 69, state media has announced.

Millions of North Koreans had been 'engulfed in indescribable sadness', the *KCNA* news agency said. People were seen weeping in the capital Pyongyang.

His son Kim Jong-un was described by *KCNA* as the 'great successor' who North Koreans should unite behind.

Pyongyang's neighbours are on alert. Unconfirmed South Korean reports say the North has tested a missile.

Yonhap news agency in Seoul said a short-range missile was fired off the eastern coast of the poor and isolated nuclear-armed nation, but it was not clear if the

test was connected to the announcement of Kim Jong-Il's death.

South Korea put its armed forces on alert after the death was announced, saying the country was on a crisis footing. Japan's government convened a special security meeting.

China — North Korea's closest ally and biggest trading partner — expressed shock at the news of his death and pledged to continue making 'active contributions to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in this region.'

Asian stock markets fell after the news was announced..." **(This brutal dictator put many people to death. He'll pay for his wicked ways — Revelation 21:8. His son will undoubtedly be just as vicious. See the next report.)**

North Korea Hails Kim Jong Un as 'Supreme Leader'

Voice of America News reports: "With a distant siren the only sound, an ocean of people bowed silently before North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

From a balcony, he looked out over hundreds of thousands gathered for a silent memorial to his father — and a pledge of unwavering loyalty to him.

The North's new leader is not yet 30-years-old, but is already referred to in state media as 'Supreme Commander' and 'Great Successor.'

As the military fired weapons in salute, senior leaders flanking the younger Kim sought to leave no doubt about a smooth power transition from father to son..."

THE KINGS OF THE EAST

Analysts: Expect attack from Chinese military

WorldNetDaily.com reports: “Analysts are becoming increasingly concerned that China may launch a surprise military attack on India in 2012, based on conditions today that are similar to those present the last time China attacked India — in 1962, says a report from *Joseph Farah’s G2 Bulletin*.

The concerns center on an ongoing border dispute between the two countries and joint energy projects that India has entered into with Vietnam in areas of the South China Sea which China claims as its own territory.

Even today, China continues to hold onto Indian territory it captured in 1962, and it continues to initiate troop provocations along the disputed border, warning India against taking it back, despite attempts at confidence building measures.

The Chinese actions suggest it has no intentions of reaching a peaceful resolution to the confrontation...” **(China and Russia will become allies in the final war of history, North and East battling unitedly after Russia loses the first battle with Israel — Daniel 11:44; Revelation 16:12; Revelation 9:14-18; Joel 2:2, 20, 30; Ezekiel 39:1, 2, 12, 13. See the next three reports.)**

China warns U.S. on Asia military strategy

BBC News reports: “China’s state media have warned the U.S. against ‘flexing its muscles’ after Washington unveiled a defence review switching focus to the Asia-Pacific.

In an editorial, official news agency *Xinhua* said President Barack Obama’s

move to increase U.S. presence in the region could come as a welcome boost to stability and prosperity.

But it said any U.S. militarism could create ill will and ‘endanger peace’.

Mr. Obama also plans \$450bn (£290bn) in cuts to create a ‘leaner’ military.

Thousands of troops are expected to be axed over the next decade under the far-reaching defence review.

The defence budget could also lose another \$500bn at the end of this year after Congress failed to agree on deficit reduction following a debt-ceiling deal in August 2011.

Mr. Obama said the ‘tide of war was receding’ in Afghanistan and that the U.S. must renew its economic power.

However, he told reporters at the Pentagon: ‘We’ll be strengthening our presence in the Asia-Pacific, and budget reductions will not come at the expense of this critical region.’

Xinhua said the U.S. role could be good for China in helping to secure the ‘peaceful environment’ it needed to continue its economic development.

But it added: ‘While boosting its military presence in the Asia-Pacific, the United States should abstain from flexing its muscles, as this won’t help solve regional disputes...’

China criticizes U.S. sanctions against Iran

Voice of America News reports: “China is voicing strong opposition to U.S. sanctions against Iran. Authorities in Beijing say Chinese interaction with the Middle Eastern country does not violate United Nations resolutions and therefore should not be affected by the latest sanctions.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei repeated China’s position that, on Iran, it prefers dialogue to sanctions. Hong specifically said China opposes one country placing its domestic law above international law and imposing unilateral sanctions on other countries.

He was referring to a days-old American law that targets Iran’s oil industry. The legislation calls for sanctions against financial institutions that deal with Iran’s central bank, which is its main clearinghouse for oil exports. The European Union also is expected to impose new sanctions against Iran within the next few weeks...” **(Iran, Ezekiel 38:5, that changed its name from Persia to Iran in 1935 unites with Russia and China for Armageddon — Revelation 16:16.)**

China beefing up military presence in Indian Ocean

SpaceWar.com reports: “Little by little China is forming military links in Africa and in the Indian Ocean in order, experts say, to protect Beijing’s economic interests in the region.

In the past three weeks Beijing has committed to supporting Ugandan forces operating in Somalia and to helping the Seychelles fight piracy.

‘It is very clear that the Chinese leaders recognize that military force will play a bigger role to safeguard China’s overseas interests,’ Jonathan Holslag, of the Brussels Institute of Chinese Contemporary Studies told *AFP*.

‘There is a willingness, and even a consensus, in China, that this process will take place...’

WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

Gulf States brace for unwanted U.S. - Iran war

SpaceDaily.com reports: “The Arab states that lie just miles across the Gulf from Iran are nervously eyeing the prospects of a war between Tehran and the West that none of them want and all know could devastate their economies.

This very real fear is prompting the oil-rich states to enhance their defences while hoping that diplomacy can rein in Tehran’s regional ambitions and put an end to its worrying nuclear programme.

‘No one in the Gulf States wants war but everyone is preparing for the possibility that it might happen,’ said military analyst Riad Kahwaji.

Tension has escalated as the West continues to squeeze Tehran over its nuclear programme, with the EU threatening a total ban on Iranian oil imports.

Iran has threatened to close the strategic Strait of Hormuz — which links the Gulf to the Arabian Sea and through which 20 percent of the world’s sea-transported oil flows — if its petroleum sales are blocked.

The United States, whose navy’s Fifth Fleet is based in the Gulf state of Bahrain and which has a military presence in a number of other countries — has told Tehran bluntly that it will not tolerate any such move...” **(Ted Koppel reported on Brian Williams program *Rock Center* that the American embassy housing 17,000 American employees and staff is only 20 miles for Iran’s border. He believes Ahmadinejad will either (A) Go to war. (B) Kill the Americans in the**

embassy. Or (C) Take control of Iraq’s oil as well as the shipments of oil going through the Straits of Hormuz creating astronomical costs for gas. See also the next two reports.)

Iran plans more military drills in Gulf amid tensions with U.S.

Haaretz reports: “Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi said that Iran planned to hold more military exercises after a 10-day drill in the Persian Gulf raised tensions with the United States.

‘The maneuver of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards would be held soon,’ the *ISNA* news agency quoted Vahidi as saying after the weekly cabinet meeting. He gave no further details.

The Iranian navy carried out drills near the Strait of Hormuz after it threatened to block the strait, where some 35 percent of the world’s seaborne oil passes, if the West imposed new sanctions over its disputed nuclear program.

The United States approved sanctions targeting Iran’s oil sector, the government’s main source of income, and the European Union will consider similar measures later this month. Iran denies western claims that its nuclear program has a military dimension.

The United States has dismissed a warning by Iran not to return a U.S. aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf. The aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis left the Gulf on December 27 and a Pentagon spokesman said it would return...”

Legislator underscores Iran’s ability to confront US

The Fars News Agency reports: “A prominent Iranian legislator stressed that the Iranian nation is fully capable of defending the country against U.S. threats.

‘The U.S. should know that the Iranian people are armed with the power of faith and belief in addition to scientific and technical capabilities and can cut its (America’s) breath in the Strait of Hormuz,’ Seyed Mohammad Saddat Ebrahimi said, addressing a parliament session here in Tehran.

The remarks by the Iranian lawmaker came days after U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Martin Dempsey acknowledged that Iran is able to close the Strait of Hormuz.

‘They’ve invested in capabilities that could, in fact, for a period of time block the Strait of Hormuz,’ Dempsey said in an interview aired on the *CBS ‘Face the Nation’* program.

Lieutenant Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran’s Navy Rear Admiral Gholam Reza Khadem Biqam said the naval forces are ready to protect the country and repel enemies’ threats whenever and wherever needed.

‘The Navy confronts any threat posed against us toughly no matter in the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf or in the Oman Sea,’ Khadem Biqam said...”

NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Report: Israel preparing for nuclear Iran within a year

Haaretz reports: “Israel is preparing for an Iran with nuclear capabilities within the next 12 months, according to a report by the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), an Israeli think tank.

The U.K. daily *Times* newspaper published extracts of the report by the Tel Aviv University institute according to an *AFP* report.

The INSS was asked to prepare possible scenarios in case Iran carries out nuclear weapons tests by security, intelligence and diplomatic officials, *AFP* reported the *Times* as saying.

According to INSS predictions, Iranian nuclear weapons tests would change the balance of power in the Middle East region.

If Tehran carries out nuclear weapons tests, the U.S. will offer Israel a defense pact, but would urge Israel not to respond with an attack on Iran, according to *AFP*.

Russia would be expected to sign a deal with the U.S. in order to prevent armament in the region, and Saudi Arabia would be likely to develop its own nuclear capabilities, according to the report...” **(World leaders are concerned. If Iran gets their nuclear bombs created, all hell will break loose globally — Revelation 8:7. Read Revelation 9:14-18 at this point. The world is in its greatest danger ever — II Timothy 3:1; Luke 21:25.)**

Ahmadinejad: Israel’s attempts to ‘Judaize’ Jerusalem will bring about its end

Haaretz reports: “Israeli attempts to ‘Judaize’ Jerusalem will bring about its end, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said, saying Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land was the most important topic in the world.

Speaking to a delegation to the Turkish-Palestinian Parliamentary Friendship Group, Ahmadinejad was quoted by

Iranian state television that the ‘Zionists, who have no faith in religion or even God, now claim piety and intend to take away the Islamic identity of the Holy Quds.’

‘This ridiculous move is in fact the continuation of the colonialist policies of oppressors, which will not save the Zionist regime, but also take the regime closer to the endpoint of its existence,’ the Iranian president added.

Speaking of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Ahmadinejad was quoted by Iran’s official news agency Iran as saying that the ‘issue of Palestine is the main issue in the region and the whole world and nobody can ignore it...’ **(The above headline is baloney created by Ahmadinejad, the butcher of Iran. 120 times Yahweh God promises the eternal existence of Israel, as well as our Lord Jesus Christ ruling the world from Jerusalem during the reign of His eternal kingdom — Luke 1:32, 33.)**

Russian naval force arrives at Syria port in ‘show of solidarity’

Haaretz reports: “A large Russian naval force arrived at the Syrian port city of Tartus, the French *AFP* news agency reported on January 8, 2012, in what the regime of President Bashar Assad is calling a show of ‘friendship.’

Last November, a Syrian news agency reported that Russian warships were planned to arrive at Syrian territorial waters, indicating that the move represented a clear message to the West that Moscow would resist any foreign intervention in the country’s civil unrest.

Citing the official Syrian news agency *SANA*, *AFP* reported that a large Russian naval flotilla, led by an aircraft carrier, is making a six-day port call to Tartus. *SANA* also quoted a Russian naval officer as saying that the visit was ‘aimed at bringing the two countries closer together and strengthening their ties of friendship.’

‘The commanders of the Russian naval

vessels docked in Tartus took turns to express their solidarity with the Syrian people,’ *SANA* added...” **(Syria unites with Russia in earth’s final war — Ezekiel 38, 39 — and Isaiah 17:1. The solidarity is just beginning. Rick Warren’s praise of Assad of Syria has been a great disappointment because Assad has already slain 5,000 of his Muslim brothers. Here is what God says about Assad’s murderous reign: “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.” — I John 3:15. See the next report.)**

Syria’s Bashar al-Assad blames ‘foreign conspiracy’

BBC News reports: “Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has blamed a foreign conspiracy for trying to destabilise Syria, as a mass uprising against his rule continues.

The ‘external conspiracy is clear to everybody’, he said in his first public remarks in months.

His violent crackdown on dissent has drawn international condemnation.

He said elections could be held later this year but ‘terrorism’, which he blames for the unrest, would be met with an ‘iron fist’.

‘Regional and international sides have tried to destabilise the country,’ President Assad said in a speech broadcast live nationally from Damascus University.

It was his third televised address since protests against his rule began in March, and lasted nearly two hours.

‘Our priority now is to regain [the] security [in] which we basked in for decades, and this can only be achieved by hitting the terrorists with an iron fist,’ he said.

‘We will not be lenient with those who work with outsiders against the country.’...”