

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

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Franklin Graham warns 'wicked' America

WND.com reports: "He was banned from a Pentagon prayer service because of Muslim complaints about his beliefs, and he later charged that Barack Obama has 'shaken his fist' at God by endorsing same-sex 'marriage,' so no one would expect mild platitudes from the strong-willed Franklin Graham.

But to liken America's current situation to the status of the Old Testament tribe of Judah under Manasseh, the 'wickedest king to rule?'

That the message that can be taken from a recent public letter posted on the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association website.

There, Franklin Graham warns that the nation's financial cliff is nothing to worry about compared to the spiritual cliff he sees. That financial cliff was a mix of new taxes to be imposed, old tax breaks to expire and spending cuts to be imposed automatically Jan. 1. Congress avoided it by raising taxes on American families to raise another \$600 billion for Obama's spending plans.

'Since the recent election, we've seen same-sex couples lining up

at courthouses in several states to receive their marriage licenses, and hundreds of people gathering in public places to light up marijuana cigarettes in the states where it has just been decriminalized,' Graham wrote.

'This is only the tip of the iceberg. The moral decline we see on television programs – blatant immorality, senseless violence, media-friendly gay and lesbian behavior – is just a reflection of the moral corruption that has infected our entire nation. These are indeed dark days ... but there is hope...' *(Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived – II Timothy 3:13. See Romans 1:26 – 32 and Jude 1:6 – 8.)*

Christianity 'close to extinction' in Middle East

The London Daily Telegraph reports: "The study warns that Christians suffer greater hostility across the world than any other religious group.

And it claims politicians have been 'blind' to the extent of violence faced by Christians in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The most common threat to

Christians abroad is militant Islam, it says, claiming that oppression in Muslim countries is often ignored because of a fear that criticism will be seen as 'racism'.

It warns that converts from Islam face being killed in Saudi Arabia, Mauritania and Iran and risk severe legal penalties in other countries across the Middle East.

The report, by the think tank Civitas, says: 'It is generally accepted that many faith-based groups face discrimination or persecution to some degree.

'A far less widely grasped fact is that Christians are targeted more than any other body of believers.'

It cites estimates that 200 million Christians, or 10 per cent of Christians worldwide, are 'socially disadvantaged, harassed or actively oppressed for their beliefs...' **(The latest report by two famous Rabbis is that the most hated and persecuted group in 121 nations is Christianity.**

Soon Islam will be carrying out the prophetic predictions of Revelation 6:9; 13:15 – 18; and 20:4.

See the next three reports for comments about Islam, the religion of peace --- Bunk!

Iraqi Christians: out of frying pan into fire

WND.com reports:” Thousands of Iraqi Christians who escaped persecution in Iraq by going to Syria are now returning to Iraq – to escape persecution.

Christian Solidarity International, USA President John Eibner, who recently returned from Iraq on an aid mission, couldn’t estimate the number of two-time refugees, but pointed to a report compiled by a special United Nations group that determined the Syrian civil war is now largely ‘sectarian.’

‘The conflict [in Syria] has become overtly sectarian in nature,’ Eibner said, quoting from the U. N. report. ‘Entire communities are at risk of being forced out of the country or of being killed inside the country.

‘That means genocide,’ Eibner explained, ‘according to the Genocide Convention of 1948.’

Eibner explained Iraqi Christians who fled Iraq to get away from Muslims trying to kill them have now found the same danger cropping up in Syria.

‘The displaced Iraqis whom we met earlier were forced by Islamic terror to flee their country and found refuge in Syria, where they enjoyed security and a better standard of living than they had in Iraq,’ Eibner said. ‘[But] now they are witnessing sectarian violence in Syria that is reminiscent of what they experienced in Iraq in the run up to the reign of terror in 2006-2008.’

The returning Iraqi Christians, however, will likely still face ongoing persecution in the predominately Sunni-led Iraq...”

Egypt’s Christians fear ‘things will only get worse’

The National Post reports: “A campaign of intimidation by Islamists left most Christians in this southern

Egyptian province too afraid to participate in the referendum on an Islamist-drafted constitution they deeply oppose, residents say. The disenfranchisement is hiking Christians’ worries over their future under empowered Muslim conservatives.

Around a week before the vote, some 50,000 Islamists marched through the provincial capital, Assiut, chanting that Egypt will be ‘Islamic, Islamic, despite the Christians.’ At their head rode several bearded men on horseback with swords in scabbards on their hips, evoking images of early Muslims conquering Christian Egypt in the 7th Century.

They made sure to go through mainly Christian districts of the city, where residents, fearing attacks, shuttered down their stores and stayed in their homes, witnesses said.

The day of the voting itself on Saturday, Christian voting was minimal — as low as 7% in some areas, according to church officials. Some of those who did try to head to polling stations in some villages were pelted by stones, forcing them to turn back without casting ballots, Christian activists and residents told *The Associated Press*.

The activists now see what happened in Assiut as a barometer for what Christians’ status will be under a constitution that enshrines a greater role for Shariah, or Islamic law, in government and daily life. Even under the secular regime of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, Egypt’s Christians complained of discrimination and government failure to protect them and their rights. They fear it will be worse with the Islamists who have dominated Egypt’s political landscape since Mubarak’s ouster in February 2011...”

More Christians jailed in Iran

ChristianToday.com reports: “Two Christians from the Church of Iran

denomination, Behzad Taalipasand and Mohammadreza (Johann) Omidi, were detained on New Year’s Eve in the northern city of Rasht.

The arrests are the latest developments in a December crackdown on house churches by the Iranian government.

In an annual ritual ironically referred to by local Christians as a ‘Christmas gift’, the Iranian regime generally intensifies its campaign of repression during the Christmas season. In 2010, 70 Christians were arrested during this period, while in 2011, the authorities in the southern city of Ahwaz aided and detained an entire Assemblies of God (AoG) congregation, including the Sunday school children.

2012 had been no exception. On 25 December Pastor Yousef Nadarkhani of the Church of Iran, acquitted of apostasy in September, was jailed again in Rasht at the instigation of prison authorities to serve the remaining 45 days of a three year sentence for evangelising Muslims.

Then on 27 December, around 50 Christians were arrested at a residential home in Tehran where they had gathered to celebrate Christmas. According to reports received by Iranian news agency *Mohabat News*, the majority were released after being interrogated and handing over mobile phones, full contact details and passwords to emails and social networking sites.

However, 60-year old Reverend Vruir Avanesian was detained in Evin Prison, despite suffering severe health challenges. The reverend has since been escorted by guards to a specialist clinic for compulsory dialysis treatment, where he was briefly visited by his wife before being returned to prison...”

CREEPING SHARIA

Islamists' harsh justice is on the rise in north Mali

The New York Times reports: "Moctar Touré was strapped to a chair, blindfolded, his right hand bound tight to the armrest with a rubber tube. A doctor came and administered a shot. Then Mr. Touré's own brother wielded a knife, the kind used to slaughter sheep, and methodically carried out the sentence.

'I myself cut off my brother's hand,' said Aliou Touré, a police chief in the Islamist-held north of this divided nation. 'We had no choice but to practice the justice of God.'

Such amputations are designed to shock — residents are often summoned to watch — and even as the world makes plans to recapture northern Mali by force, the Islamists who control it show no qualms about carrying them out.

After the United Nations Security Council authorized a military campaign to retake the region, Islamists in Gao, Mr. Touré's town, cut the hands off two more people accused of being thieves the very next day, a leading local official said, describing it as a brazen response to the United Nations resolution. Then the Islamists, undeterred by the international threats against them, warned reporters that eight others 'will soon share the same fate...' **(This is but one of the numerous methods used to deal with thieves under Sharia Law. Also, death to unmarried females who have had sex, homosexuals, apostate Muslims and infidels [all religions not Islamic] is pronounced and carried out on such offenders of Sharia Law, by crucifixion and beheading Sura 5:33, and 47:4, as demanded in the Sunnah's, and hadiths of Mohammed and the Koran.)**

Al-Qaida in Yemen offers 3 kg of gold for murder of U.S. ambassador

Haaretz reports: "Al-Qaida's branch in Yemen has announced that it will pay tens of thousands of dollars to anyone who kills the U.S. ambassador in Sanaa or an American soldier in the country.

A piece of audio produced by the group's media arm, the al-Malahem Foundation, and posted on militant websites said it offered three kilograms of gold, worth \$160,000, for killing the ambassador.

The group said it will pay 5 million Yemeni riyals (\$23,000) to anyone who kills an American soldier inside Yemen.

It did not say how the bounty could be collected, but said the offer is valid for six months.

The bounties were set to 'inspire and encourage our Muslim nation for jihad,' the statement said...' **(The headline above portrays Al-Qaida's reward to murderers. Christianity loves and forgives any and every confessed sin and sinner, and then forgets the transgression ever occurred. What an eternal reward — I John 1:7; Hebrews 8:12.)**

Mosque puts fatwa on Christmas

The Sydney Morning Herald reports: "The Lakemba Mosque has issued a fatwa against Christmas, warning followers it is a "sin" to even wish people a Merry Christmas.

The religious ruling, which followed a similar lecture during prayers at Australia's biggest mosque, was posted on its Facebook site.

The head imam at Lakemba, Sheikh Yahya Safi, had told the congregation during prayers that they should not take part in anything to do with Christmas.

Samir Dandan, the president of the Lebanese Muslim Association, which

oversees the mosque, could not be reached for comment.

The fatwa, which has sparked widespread community debate and condemnation, warns that the 'disbelievers are trying to draw Muslims away from the straight path'.

It also says that Christmas Day and associated celebrations are among the 'falsehoods that a Muslim should avoid ... and therefore, a Muslim is neither allowed to celebrate the Christmas Day nor is he allowed to congratulate them'...' **(The reason for such hatred is because it is the memorial day of God, the Second Member of the Trinity leaving His eternal home to take a body prepared by His Father, containing blood, to pay the price for sin and redeem whosoever will receive Christ as Savior.**

Read Hebrews 10:25; Philippians 2:5 – 11; I Corinthians 15:3, 4; I John 1:7; and Revelation 5:9, 10. Look at these verses in the order presented for a blessing.)

Iran urges OIC to move to harness insult to Islam

The Fars News Agency reports: "Iran condemned the insults leveled against the prophet of Islam in the U.S. and European movies and magazines, and called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to compile a convention to prevent such blasphemous acts.

Speaking to reporters in his weekly press conference in Tehran, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehman-Parast deplored certain western media for promoting and supporting sacrilegious acts against divine sanctities and the prophet of Islam.

'We want those who are behind this move to go on trial and be punished and we expect the OIC to take urgent action to compile a convention to prevent such acts and don't allow these

publications to create a rift among divine religions,' he underlined.

His remarks came after a number of western movies and cartoons were released in the western media in recent years which insulted the prophet of Islam and Muslims..."

(What about the blasphemies spoken against Christ within the Islamic writing?)

1. Jesus is not the Son of God.

2. Jesus never died on the cross for the sins of mankind.

3. Jesus is not the Savior of the world.

4. Jesus is coming back as a radical Muslim.

5. Jesus will come back just outside of Damascus.

6. Jesus will be subordinate to the Muslim Messiah Mahdi.

7. Jesus will rule under divine law – Sharia Law.

8. Jesus becomes a great Muslim evangelist and preaches for the Muslim faith.

9. Jesus will testify against Christians, the ones who called Him the Son of God.

10. Jesus will abolish Christianity.)

THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Belgium looks at euthanasia for minors, Alzheimer's sufferers

France24.com reports: "Belgium is considering a significant change to its decade-old euthanasia law that would allow minors and Alzheimer's sufferers to seek permission to die.

The proposed changes to the law were submitted to parliament Tuesday by the Socialist party and are likely to be approved by other parties, although no date has yet been put forward for a parliamentary debate.

"The idea is to update the law to take better account of dramatic situations and extremely harrowing cases we must find a response to," party leader Thierry Giet said.

The draft legislation calls for 'the law to be extended to minors if they are capable of discernment or affected by an incurable illness or suffering that we cannot alleviate.'

Belgium was the second country in the world after the Netherlands to legalise euthanasia in 2002 but it applies only to people over the age of 18.

Socialist Senator Philippe Mahoux, who helped draft the proposed changes, said there had been cases of adolescents who 'had the capacity to decide' their future.

He said parliamentarians would also consider extended mercy-killing to people suffering from Alzheimer's-type illnesses..." **(Job 7:1 asks: "Is**

there not an appointed time to men on the earth?"

God's Ten Commandments are eternal. The term in Exodus 20:7 stating "Thou shalt not kill" is murder. Our Lord Jesus translated the commandment correctly in Matthew 19:18. All who kill and murder others will be eternally separated from God – that includes abortionists and euthanasia's.)

France takes first step toward medically-assisted suicide

France24.com reports: "A government-commissioned report has recommended that France allow doctors to 'accelerate death' for terminally-ill patients who want to end their lives.

French people overwhelmingly support medically-assisted suicide, with an October poll showing 89% in favour.

Examining the case for medically-assisted suicide was a campaign pledge made by French President François Hollande ahead of his election in May 2012.

Hollande pledged to act on the recommendations of the government-commissioned report, which will be referred to a national council on medical ethics that will examine the precise circumstances under which doctors can assist in ending a patient's life.

Draft legislation could be produced in France as early as June 2013.

"The existing legislation does not meet the legitimate concerns expressed by people who are gravely and incurably ill," Hollande told reporters, referring to a 2005 law that allows doctors to 'leave patients to die'..."

Are you prepared to handle human clones?

WND.com reports: "The British scientist whose work cloning frogs in the 1950s led to the replication of Dolly the sheep in 1996 is now predicting human clones are very possible within the next 50 years.

John Gurdon, this year's Nobel Prize winner for medicine, told a *BBC Radio* program that when he was conducting his research on frogs, he had forecast the successful replication of a mammal within 50 years, and that 'maybe the same answer is appropriate' for the jump to copying humans.

Gurdon explained, 'When my first frog experiments were done, an eminent American reporter came down and said, 'How long will it be before these things can be done in mammals or humans?'

'I said: 'Well, it could be anywhere between 10 years and 100 years – how about 50 years? It turned out that wasn't far off the mark as far

as Dolly was concerned. Maybe the same answer is appropriate.’

The scientist likened creating a human clone to the formation of an identical twin, and experts would merely be ‘copying what

nature has already produced.’...” **(The one obvious lesson I see in cloning human beings is directed to apostate clergy members who ridicule Christ’s virgin birth. If man can create human beings by**

cloning is it impossible to think that God could send His eternal Son into the world without a sexual act? Perish the thought. Study Hebrews 10:25; Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 7; and Luke 1:28 – 35.)

PSALM 83:4

‘Not a single Jew will be left on the face of the Earth’

WND.com reports: “A Muslim cleric from Egypt is forecasting an end times annihilation of every Jew on the face of the Earth and says that will be the ultimate victory for Islam.

In a recent broadcast on *Al-NAS Television* in Egypt, cleric Mahmoud al-Masri pontificated on his belief about the future of the nation of Israel and the Jewish people.

‘The final annihilation [of the Jews] will come at the time of the Mahdi, or shortly before the Mahdi appears. Then the Muslims will regain the Al-Aqsa mosque, if they do not manage to spread Islam throughout the land,’ he said.

‘A small group of Jews will remain, but not the Jews living in Palestine. A group of Jews from Isfahan will survive, and they will follow the Antichrist, but eventually, they will also be killed, along with the Antichrist,’ he continued. ‘Ultimately, not a single Jew will be left on the face of the Earth. Victory is coming, Allah willing.’...” **(Islam wants to rid the world of every Jew – Psalm 83:4, 5. It won’t happen to God’s beloved chosen people – Deuteronomy 7:6 – 9. Therefore the God of Judaism and Christianity says: “I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name...” – Isaiah 56:5.**

See the next two anti-Israel idiotic reports.)

Morsi aide: Israel will cease to exist within decade

Israel National News reports: “Deputy head of the Muslim Brotherhood’s political arm in Egypt, the Freedom and Justice Party, announced that Israel would cease to exist by the end of the decade.

Essam el-Erian, who serves an advisor to Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi, had attempted to dispel a recent controversy over comments he made in an interview, in which he invited Egyptian born Jews to return to the country.

In an interview with the Saudi-backed newspaper *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, Erian said that the ‘ideology of Zionism’ had ended in failure and denounced Israel as ‘Palestine’s occupiers.’

‘Jewish occupiers of the territory of historic Palestine are an obstacle to the Palestinians’ right of return,’ he said. ‘Anyone who can read the future can see that this project has a decade, less than a decade to go, and it is our faith that the people of Palestine can then return to Palestine.’

‘There will be no such thing as Israel,’ he continued, ‘instead there will be Palestine which will be home to Jews, Muslims and Druze and all the people who were there from the start.’

‘Those who want to stay will stay as Palestinian citizens. Those who conquered Palestine will have to go back to their countries,’ he added...”

Haniyeh: Israel is a ‘cancerous tumor’

Israel National News reports: “ Hamas’s de-facto Prime Minister in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh, took advantage of an educational conference to attack Israel, *Channel 10 News* reported.

‘Israel is a cancerous tumor that must be removed and uprooted,’ Haniyeh was quoted as having said during an international conference on education.

‘The hand of the resistance and the jihad fighters has begun to uproot the tumor, and will work to end the occupation of Palestine as a whole. Allah willing, we will break the occupation,’ Haniyeh said in a speech which was heard by representatives from Egypt, Tunisia and Qatar.

He called for Gazan teachers to ‘raise a generation that will fight and liberate the Palestinians from the occupation,’ according to *Channel 10*.

Haniyeh added that his organization is working to rebuild the destruction caused by Israel during the various wars in Gaza.

Recent Palestinian Authority polls have indicated that Hamas is gaining strength at the expense of PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas.

A new independent poll in the PA, released earlier, found that Arabs in Judea, Samaria and Gaza are rejecting Abbas in favor of Haniyeh...”

NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Qatari state-owned Al Jazeera to get 'larger U.S. footprint'

Israel National News reports: "The Arab satellite broadcaster is set to purchase American news network *Current TV* from its current owner, former Vice President Al Gore. With the purchase, *Al Jazeera* will have the opportunity to significantly expand its reach in the U.S., with a potential audience of as many as 40 million households.

Al Jazeera announced Thursday that it would shutter *Current TV*, and replace it with a brand new network called *Al Jazeera America*, which would broadcast content specifically developed for U.S. audiences. *Al Jazeera* already has an English language satellite service that broadcasts around the world, including in some U.S. cities.

Current has been on the air since 2005, and was started by Gore in 2004, several years after losing the 2000 Presidential elections, which the former Vice-President in the administration of President Bill Clinton lost to George W. Bush. Gore started the network as a 'progressive' alternative to other news networks, Gore said at the time.

Terms of the deal for *Current* were not immediately disclosed, but *Forbes* reported that the deal could be worth as much as \$400 million.

In a press release, *Al Jazeera* Director General Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani said, 'By acquiring *Current TV*, *Al Jazeera* will significantly expand our existing distribution footprint in the U.S., as well as increase our newsgathering and reporting efforts in America...' 'We look forward to working together with our new cable and satellite partners to serve our new audiences across the U.S.'...'' (Bill O'Reilly vocally and honestly called Al Gore

a hypocrite for selling his cable television network to the most anti-American, anti-Christian network, the Arab broadcaster *Al Jazeera*.

I believe Al Gore like Judas sold Christ and Christianity for 30 pieces of silver. Gore did it for \$400 million with his share being \$100 million. Jesus said "no man can serve two masters" God and mammon [money] result Acts 1:18 – 25.)

Morsi expands Brotherhood influence in Egyptian Cabinet

Voice of America News reports: "Egypt's Islamist President Mohamed Morsi has expanded the number of Muslim Brotherhood ministers in his Cabinet as part of a reshuffle aimed at improving the government's handling of an economic crisis.

Ten Egyptian ministers were sworn in, three of them members of Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood movement. A Brotherhood spokesman said the reshuffle increases the number of Brotherhood Cabinet ministers from five to eight.

Morsi also appointed a Brotherhood-allied expert in Islamic finance as the new finance minister. El-Morsi Hegazy replaces former finance minister Mumtaz el-Said, whom the Brotherhood had accused of being too close to the Egyptian military, which ruled the country for more than a year before handing power to Morsi in June.

In another key appointment, Morsi named a new interior minister, Mohammed Ibrahim, to replace Ahmed Gamal Eddin, who was criticized for his handling of last month's violent street protests for and against Egypt's new Islamist-backed constitution..." (President Morsi wants to establish Sharia Law

immediately as well as breaking the peace contract between Egypt and Israel created by Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin during the Carter administration.

This vicious Muslim Brotherhood leader seeks a bloodbath against Israel soon and Obama is still planning to help him with a two billion dollar gift to further his murderous plans. Save the money and give it to our military heroes who are being deprived of jobs and assistance as they return home from Afghanistan – give honor to whom honor is due – Romans 13:8.)

Egypt's islamist president: new constitution ushers in a new republic

Haaretz reports: "Egypt's president said that the disputed constitution just approved in a referendum establishes a new republic and he called on the opposition to join a dialogue to heal rifts over the charter and shift the focus to repairing the economy.

In the first speech since official results a day earlier showing the constitution was approved, Mohammed Morsi said he acknowledges the 'respectable' proportion that voted against the constitution drafted by his Islamist allies. But he offered no concrete gestures to an opposition that has so far rejected his offer of dialogue and vowed to fight the charter.

'As we set on a new phase moving from the first republic to the second republic, a republic that has this constitution as its strong base. ... I renew my pledge to respect the law and constitution,' Morsi said, repeating his oath of office based on the new charter.

Morsi's comment signaled a break with the governing system in place

in Egypt since 1952, when a military coup pushed out the Western-backed king, and Egypt was declared a republic.

The constitution is Egypt's first since the ouster of authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak in February 2011. The opposition questioned its legitimacy, arguing it passed with a very low turnout of around 33 percent and without a national consensus. They say the charter restricts freedoms, ignores rights of minorities and women and enshrines Islamic rule.

Morsi countered that argument, saying it was the country's first constitution passed and drafted through a popularly approved process. He said the charter respects human dignity and enshrines values of moderation. It protects freedoms and ensures the right to work, to education and to health, he said..."

(The push for a new republic under Sharia Law is the final prophecy before Christ returns. The leader of the New World Order and One World Religion will change times and Laws [Sharia] – Daniel 7:25. The next article signifies the beginning of the end.)

Egypt to pursue relationship with Hezbollah

The Jerusalem Post reports: "In a dramatic policy shift, Egypt will seek to forge 'tight' relations with the Hezbollah terror organization, Egyptian Ambassador to Lebanon Ashraf Hamdy revealed in a candid interview published in Lebanon's *Daily Star*.

'You cannot discuss politics in Lebanon without having a relationship with Hezbollah,' Hamdy was quoting as saying, before describing the terror group as

'real force on the ground' with 'big political and military influence.'

In this respect, Hamdy announced that Muslim-Brotherhood-dominated Egypt would begin 'stretching [its] hand out in the proper, balanced way to all regional powers,' including Hezbollah, in order to forge 'tight' contacts with Lebanon's rulers.

Egypt-Hezbollah relations, generally strained under former President Hosni Mubarak, in large part due to Egypt's peace treaty with Israel, reached rock bottom in 2008 during Israel's Cast Lead military operation. At that time, Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah called on Egypt, to no avail, to intervene militarily on behalf of Gaza-based Palestinians. For its part, Egypt in the past has accused Hezbollah of operating terror cells in the country..."

SIGNS IN THE SUN, MOON & STARS

Milky Way could contain 100 billion planets

Voice of America News reports: "It seems like hardly a week goes by without another planet being discovered in some far off stellar system, but a new study, released by the California Institute of Technology, indicates there will likely be many, many more such discoveries.

The Caltech team made this conclusion based on analyzing the planets orbiting the Kepler-32 star, which contains five planets and which the scientists say is representative of the vast majority of stars in our galaxy. Kepler-32 is classified as an M dwarf, and scientists say three out of every four stars in the galaxy are M dwarfs, also known as red dwarfs.

'There's at least 100 billion planets in the galaxy—just our galaxy,' says

John Johnson, assistant professor of planetary astronomy at Caltech and coauthor of the study, which was recently accepted for publication in the *Astrophysical Journal*. 'That's mind-boggling.'

Scientists say their estimate of 100 billion stars is conservative because it doesn't take into account planets which may be orbiting further away from M dwarfs or planets orbiting other types of stars..." (Psalm 19:1 – 3; Psalm 8:3, 4. See the next report.)

Tau Ceti's planets nearest around single, Sun-like star

BBC News reports: "The nearest single Sun-like star to the Earth hosts five planets - one of which is in the 'habitable zone' where liquid water can exist, astronomers say.

Tau Ceti's planetary quintet

- reported in an online paper that will appear in *Astronomy and Astrophysics* - was found in existing planet-hunting data.

The study's refined methods of sifting through data should help find even more far-flung worlds.

The star now joins Alpha Centauri as a nearby star known to host planets.

In both those cases, the planets were found not by spying them through a telescope but rather by measuring the subtle effects they have on their host stars' light.

In the gravitational dance of a planet around a star, the planet does most of the moving. But the star too is tugged slightly to and fro as the planet orbits, and these subtle movements of the star show up as subtle shifts in the colour of the star's light we see from Earth..."

NEWS FROM RUSSIA

India, Russia seal defense deals worth billions

Voice of America News reports: “India and Russia have sealed defense deals worth billions of dollars during a visit by the Russian president, in a move which reaffirms the long-standing strategic alliance between the two countries.

Calling Russia a key partner in the effort to modernize India’s armed forces, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced the deal to buy 71 military helicopters worth \$1.3 billion, and kits to assemble 42 Sukhoi fighter jets worth \$1.6 billion.

India and Russia were close allies during the Cold War days, with Moscow being the main supplier of India’s armed forces. But analysts say Russia has been losing out on India’s lucrative defense market in recent years, as New Delhi increasingly hands out contracts to countries such as Israel, France and the United States, establishing closer links with many Western countries...” **(Russia preparing to fulfill Ezekiel 38:1, 2, 8, 16; Joel 2:3, 20, 30 for the Armageddon campaign – Revelation 16:16 – which will be fought against America, the EU and the entire Western World. Islamic armies will align themselves with Russia and China for holy jihad – holy war – Ezekiel 38:13; Daniel 11:40; Isaiah 17:1; Ezekiel 38:5-7; Psalm 83: 4 – 7. See the next four reports.)**

Russia widens anti-U.S. retaliation

SpaceDaily.com reports: “Russia widened its retaliation against the United States, banning adoption of Russian children by U.S. citizens and warning of tit-for-tat measures against U.S. visitors over a spiraling human rights debate.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said he informed U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton of Moscow’s decision to bar Americans

guilty of human rights violations.

Lavrov’s statement was a response to new U.S. legislation that streamlines trade with Russia but authorizes sanctions against Russians found guilty of human rights violations.

Russians on a U.S. black list can be barred, denied U.S. visa and have assets frozen under the new law, called the Magnitsky Act to commemorate Russian lawyer and whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky, who died in a Russian prison three years ago, allegedly of torture.

Lavrov said Russia would do likewise.

‘We will bar entry to Americans who are in fact guilty of human rights violations,’ he said...”

Russia sends military destroyer to Iran

Israel National News reports: “A Russian destroyer has berthed in the southern Iranian Port of Bandar Abbas, an Iranian Navy commander announced.

‘Marshal Shaposhnikov, which is a heavy Russian destroyer, has berthed in this zone to consolidate the military ties between the two countries,’ the Commander of Iran’s First Naval Zone, Admiral Hossein Azad, said, according to a report in the Iranian *Fars News Agency*.

Azad said the Iranian navy has arranged certain programs to be carried out during the presence of the Russian destroyer in the region, but said these programs will be announced later.

Iran and Russia have long held constant consultations on key regional and global issues and the two countries have close commercial ties...”

Russia to build new heavy ICBM by 2018

SpaceDaily.com reports: “Russia will have built a new heavy

liquid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missile by late 2018, a missile that will prove largely superior to all of its predecessors, including the world’s most powerful strategic missile Voevoda, (NATO reporting name SS-18 Satan), in terms of combat effectiveness and the ability to penetrate the U.S. missile defence system.

This came in a statement for journalists by the Commander of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces Sergei Karakayev.

He pointed out that it is the deployment of the U.S. global missile defence system, a system that grows more powerful each year that prompted Russia to think of counteraction...”

Russia to hold large-scale Mediterranean, Black Sea naval drills

RIA Novosti reports: “Russia will hold large-scale naval drills in the Mediterranean and Black Seas in late January with the involvement of warships from the Northern, Baltic, Black Sea and Pacific Fleets, the Russian Defense Ministry’s press office reported.

‘The Russian Navy’s drills of this scope will be held for the first time over the past few decades and are designed to improve control, ensure and practice multiservice force interaction of the fleets in the far-off maritime zones,’ the press office said.

The drills will be held in line with the Russian Armed Forces’ 2013 combat training plan and will aim to ‘practice the issues of establishing a multiservice grouping of forces (troops) outside Russia, planning its use and conducting joint actions as part of a united naval grouping based on a common plan,’ the press office said...”