

"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

Christian woman sentenced to death in Pakistan 'for blasphemy'

The London Daily Telegraph reports: "Asia Bibi, a 45-year-old mother-of-five, denies blasphemy and told investigators that she was being persecuted for her faith in a country where Christians face routine harassment and discrimination.

Christian groups and human rights campaigners condemned the verdict and called for the blasphemy laws to be repealed.

Her supporters say she will now appeal against the sentence handed down in a local court in the town of Sheikhpura, near Lahore, Pakistan.

Ashiq Masih, her husband, said he had not had the heart to break the news to two of their children.

'I haven't told two of my younger daughters about the court's decision,' he said. 'They asked me many times about their mother but I can't get the courage to tell them that the judge has sentenced their mother to capital punishment for a crime she never committed.' Mrs. Bibi has been held in prison since June last year.

The court heard she had been working as a farmhand in fields with other women, when she was asked to fetch drinking water.

Some of the other women — all Muslims — refused to drink the water as it had been brought by a Christian and was therefore 'unclean', according to Mrs. Bibi's evidence, sparking a row.

The incident was forgotten until a few days later when Mrs. Bibi said she was set upon by a mob.

The police were called and took her to a

police station for her own safety.

Shahzad Kamran, of the Sharing Life Ministry Pakistan, said: 'The police were under pressure from this Muslim mob, including clerics, asking for Asia to be killed because she had spoken ill of the Prophet Mohammed.

'So after the police saved her life they then registered a blasphemy case against her.' He added that she had been held in isolation for more than a year before being sentenced to death.

'The trial was clear,' he said. 'She was innocent and did not say those words.' Earlier this year, Pakistan's internet service providers were ordered to block Facebook to prevent access to supposedly blasphemous images.

Human rights groups believe the law is often used to discriminate against religious minorities, such as the country's estimated three million Christians.

Although no one has ever been executed under Pakistan's blasphemy laws — most are freed on appeal — as many as 10 people are thought to have been murdered while on trial...**(The blasphemy law is wicked and favors Islam. The UN is pushing for its passage led by President Obama and 56 Muslim nations and is being created to persecute Christians. Beloved in Christ, stand firm on Jude 1:3, 4 — "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning**

the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ".)

Pakistan Cleric Offers Reward for Killing Christian Woman

Voice of America News reports: "A Pakistani cleric says if the government does not hang a Christian mother of five convicted of blasphemy against Islam, then his mosque will offer a reward of \$6,000 to anyone who kills her. Yousef Qureshi issued the call Friday, December 3rd.

Pakistan's Minister for Minority Affairs Shabaz Bhatti has recommended that Asia Bibi be pardoned or released from prison if her pending court appeal is not quickly addressed.

Bibi has denied claims by local women that she made derogatory remarks about the Prophet Muhammad.

Bibi is the first woman condemned to die under Pakistan's blasphemy law. Convictions under the law are common, but no executions have ever been carried out.

During her trial, Bibi told the court Muslim villagers were pressing her to accept Islam. She said she is being prosecuted because of her religion.

Bibi's husband says the family has been forced to flee their home near Lahore because of threats to his wife's life if she is released from prison...**(Imagine such hatred, filling a Muslim cleric's head and heart. His problem and punishment when he meets Christ on Judgment Day is described in I John 3:15: "Whosoever**

hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”)

Christians launch defense of faith ‘under attack’

BBC News reports: “Christians who believe their faith is ‘under attack’ in Britain are launching a campaign to defend it.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey will launch ‘Not Ashamed Day’ outside the House of Lords.

Campaigners say a mounting number of cases of workers being disciplined over their beliefs show Christianity is being ‘airbrushed’ from UK society.

The National Secular Society said ‘zealots’ were wrong to claim the faith was being deliberately undermined.

The day, organised by Christian Concern, will kick off a campaign to urge Christians to ‘wear their faith with pride’.

Lord Carey will launch a leaflet that warns Britain’s Christian culture is ‘under attack’. Later in the day copies will be delivered to Downing Street and Buckingham Palace, followed by a lobbying event in Parliament.

Lord Carey said hostility towards the religion came from a combination of ‘well-meaning’ political correctness, multiculturalism and ‘overt opposition to Christianity’...” (1 Timothy 6:12 — *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called...”*)

Iraqi Christians flee homes after fresh Baghdad attacks

The Christian Science Monitor reports: “A wave of bombings and mortar attacks struck Christian areas across Baghdad, sending families fleeing their homes a day after Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki

pledged the government would protect them.

Interior Ministry officials said improvised bombs and a car bomb were detonated near the homes of Christians in at least seven neighborhoods in Baghdad... killing at least four people and wounding more than 16.

The bombings, which came 10 days after more than 50 Christians were killed by Al Qaeda-linked gunmen who stormed a church during Sunday mass, have sown panic in the close-knit community.

Some fled their homes to seek refuge at the very church which was attacked on Oct 31.

‘We were so afraid — we left without taking anything,’ says Umm Danny, surrounded by her three children, a niece, and a nephew in the church hall of Our Lady of Salvation in central Baghdad. She said they hear explosions so often in their south Baghdad neighborhood of Dora they didn’t think anything of it until one detonated on their block near the home of a particularly devout Christian family.

‘We went barefoot onto the roof and climbed onto our Muslim neighbor’s house,’ she says. ‘They helped us and told us to stay with them but we were afraid.’ Umm Danny, who did not want her full name used, said the neighbors cried when they left.

‘I think this is only a warning,’ says another Christian planning to leave for the Kurdish capital of Erbil. ‘We are expecting anything at any time. It seems as if they can do anything without anyone stopping them.’...” (One million Chaldean Christians have fled Iraq because of Muslim persecution and death squads. Two priests and 58 believers were slaughtered when the Catholic Mass was invaded and disrupted. What a blessing Revelation 2:10 promises — *“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 also the next article.)

Church leader urges Iraqi Christians to quit country

BBC News reports: “A senior Iraqi Christian has called on believers to quit the country, after gunmen targeted a church in Baghdad.

Archbishop Athanasios Dawood, who is based in the UK, made his appeal during a service at the Syrian Orthodox Church in London. The archbishop said Christians had been without protection since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

At least 52 people died as security forces stormed a Catholic church in Baghdad to free dozens of hostages.

A number of gunmen entered Our Lady of Salvation in the city’s Karrada district during Mass on Sunday 31 October, sparking an hours-long stand-off.

The militants made contact with the authorities by mobile phone, demanding the release of al-Qaeda prisoners and also of a number of Muslim women they insisted were being held prisoner by the Coptic Church in Egypt.

After negotiations failed, Iraqi security forces stormed the building, before the gunmen reportedly threw grenades and detonated their suicide vests.

...Archbishop Dawood advised all Christians to leave Iraq now al-Qaeda had warned of more attacks there.

He told the *BBC* the attack on the church amounted to ‘genocide’ and there was now no place for Christians in Iraq.

‘The Christians are weak — they don’t have militia, they don’t have a (political) party,’ he said...”

SIGNS IN THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS

Scientists Find 200 Sextillion More Stars in the Sky

Fox News reports: “The night sky may be a lot starrier than we thought.

A study suggests the universe could have triple the number of stars scientists

previously calculated. For those of you counting at home, the new estimate is 300,000,000,000,000,000,000. That’s 300 sextillion.

The study questions a key assumption that astronomers often use: that most galaxies have the same properties as our

Milky Way. And that’s creating a bit of a stink among astronomers who want a more orderly cosmos.

It’s one of two studies being published online in the journal *Nature* that focus on red dwarf stars, the most common stars in the universe. The study that offers the new

estimate on stars is led by a Yale University astronomer. He calculates that there are far more red dwarfs than previously thought, and that inflates the total star count.

A second study led by a Harvard University scientist focuses on a distant 'super Earth' planet and sees clues to the content of its atmosphere — the first of this kind of data for this size planet. It orbits a red dwarf.

Red dwarf stars — about a fifth the size of our sun — burn slowly and last much longer than the bigger, brighter stars, such as the sun in the center of our solar system, said Yale astronomer Pieter van Dokkum. His study looks at how many red dwarfs are in elliptical-shaped galaxies.

When scientists had estimated previously how many stars there were in the universe, they assumed that all galaxies had the same ratio of dwarf stars as in our galaxy, which is spiral-shaped. Much of our understanding of the universe is based on observations inside our Milky Way and then extrapolated to other galaxies.

But about one-third of the galaxies in the universe are not spiral, but elliptical, and van Dokkum found they aren't really made up the same way as ours.

Using the Keck telescope in Hawaii, van Dokkum and a colleague gazed into

eight other distant, but elliptical, galaxies and looked at their hard-to-differentiate light signatures. The scientists calculated that elliptical galaxies have more of those dwarf stars. A lot more.

'We're seeing 10 or 20 times more stars than we expected,' van Dokkum said. By his calculations, that triples the number of estimated stars from 100 sextillion to 300 sextillion..." (Psalm 19:1-3; Psalm 8:4; Psalm 14:1; 53:1.)

Giant space bubbles baffle astronomers

The London Daily Telegraph reports: "The two vast structures, stretching to the north and to the south of the centre of the Milky Way, are so big that a beam of light, travelling at 186,282 miles per second, would take 50,000 years to get from the edge of one to the edge of the other.

The previously unseen bubbles were discovered by astronomer Doug Finkbeiner, of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, using NASA's Fermi Gamma-Ray Telescope. He admitted: 'We don't fully understand their nature or origin.'

They span more than half the visible sky, from the constellation of Virgo to the

constellation of Grus, and are thought to be millions of years old. They were not noticed before because they were lost in a fog of gamma radiation across the sky.

Astronomers' best guess is that the bubbles were created by an eruption from a supersized black hole at the centre of our galaxy.

Mr Finkbeiner and his team discovered the bubbles by processing publicly available data from Fermi's Large Area Telescope. The space telescope, launched in 2008, is the most powerful detector of gamma rays, which are the most energetic form of light.

Scientist David Spergel, of Princeton University, New Jersey, said: 'In other galaxies, we see that starbursts can drive enormous gas outflows.

Whatever the energy source behind these huge bubbles may be, it is connected to many deep questions in astrophysics...' ("...there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars... Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." — Luke 21:25 – 27.)

KNOWLEDGE INCREASED

Large Hadron Collider creates 'mini Big Bang' with lead ions

The London Daily Telegraph reports: "The Large Hadron Collider has succeeded in recreating a miniature version of the Big Bang by smashing stripped-down lead atoms together.

The reaction created temperatures a million times hotter than the centre of the Sun, which have not been reached since the first billionths of a second following the Big Bang. This was expected to cause atomic particles such as protons and neutrons to melt, producing a 'soup' of matter in a state previously unseen on Earth.

Scientists, including British particle physicists, will now study the particles in the hope of discovering what holds atoms together and gives them their mass.

The collisions were produced by firing lead ions — atoms with their electrons

removed — at incredible speeds in opposite directions around the LHC's underground tunnel at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, near Geneva.

The heavyweight particle collisions follow seven months of earlier experiments crashing protons — which are 200 times lighter than lead ions — at near-light speeds.

Dr David Evans, of Birmingham University, said: 'We are thrilled with the achievement. The collisions generated mini Big Bangs and the highest temperatures and densities ever achieved in an experiment.

'This process took place in a safe, controlled environment generating incredibly hot and dense subatomic fireballs with temperatures of over ten trillion degrees — a million times hotter than the centre of the Sun...' (The Big Bang attempt is only a beginning. Many Physicists and Astronomers fear what an upcoming blast might create; including

mass devastation across much of our planet. Read Luke 21:25-27 again.)

X-37B US military spaceplane returns to Earth

BBC News reports: "A prototype spaceplane built for the US military has returned to Earth after seven months in orbit.

The unpiloted X-37B touched down at a US Air Force base in California at 0116 PST (0916 GMT).

The project has been shrouded in secrecy, prompting widespread speculation about the craft's purpose.

The Air Force has not said whether it carried anything in its cargo bay, but insists the primary purpose of the mission was to test the craft itself.

The X-37B was launched atop an Atlas 5 rocket from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air

Force Station on 22 April, with a maximum mission duration of 270 days.

At 9m (29ft) long and with a 4.5m (15ft) wingspan, the reusable spaceplane is about one-quarter the size of the shuttle, with a large engine mounted at the rear of the ship

for changing orbit.

The vehicle returned to Earth on ‘auto-pilot’; the successful return marks the first autonomous re-entry and landing in the recorded history of the U.S. space programme...” (“...fearful sights and

great signs shall there be from heaven... and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity [mass confusion]... And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption [the Rapture] draweth nigh” — Luke 21:11, 25, 28.)

CYBER TERRORISM

Report: State-led cyberterrorism set to rise

SpaceDaily.com reports: “State-led cyberterrorism is expected to rise in 2011, a white paper issued by Imperva data security company said.

Imperva said its predictions for the Top 10 security trends for 2011, compiled by the company’s Application Defense Center, were aimed at helping information technology security professionals defend their organizations against the next onslaught of cybersecurity threats.

The white paper study, led by Imperva’s Chief Technology Officer Amichai Shulman, said state-sponsored hacking will build on concepts and techniques from the commercial hacker industry to create more powerful ‘advanced persistent threats.’ APT preoccupied governments and corporate organizations worldwide in 2010 and required extra expenditure on improving online Internet-based security.

‘In this upcoming year, we expect to see growing awareness of security incidents due to insiders,’ said the paper. ‘Attention will grow as a consequence of an increased flow of incident reports where data theft and security breaches are tied to employees and other insiders. The cause of this trend will be the emphasis put on new regulations covering the act of notification and disclosure (rather on the actual protection of data).’

‘Man-in-the-browser’ attacks will increase and there will be a noticeable growth in the role played by MitB attacks in cyber-criminal activity, said the report. MitB is a form of Internet threat related to ‘Man-in-the-Middle,’ a Trojan that infects a Web browser and has the ability to modify pages, modify transaction content or insert additional transactions, all in a covert fashion that is invisible to both the user and host application...” (“*This know also,*

that in the last days perilous [dangerous] times shall come” — II Timothy 3:1. See also the next three reports.)

Gates: U.S. faces ‘huge’ cyber threat in the future

SpaceDaily.com reports: “Defense Secretary Robert Gates warned that potential cyber attacks posed a ‘huge’ future threat that had to be tackled through joint efforts by US military and civilian agencies.

Asked to assess the danger posed to digital networks, Gates said: ‘There is a huge future threat and there is a considerable current threat.

‘And that’s just the reality that we all face.’

He said the Pentagon had bolstered security for the military’s networks and hoped to do the same for defense industry contractors.

‘We are working with our partners in the defense industrial base to bring them under that umbrella, to provide them with protection,’ he said at a *Wall Street Journal* conference of chief executives...”

NATO targets terrorism, cybersecurity as central to 21st century mission

The Christian Science Monitor reports: “NATO adopted a ‘plan of action’ for 21st-century security threats that draws on both the recent lessons of Afghanistan and the alliance’s longer experience with defense by deterrence.

The new ‘strategic concept,’ which is NATO’s first mission statement in more than a decade, elevates the role of political and civilian answers to security challenges. For the first time, for example, the military alliance will create a small civilian component to assist the military side in future interventions such as the one in Afghanistan.

But the 11-page statement, which is concise by NATO standards, also makes clear that the Atlantic alliance will maintain its nuclear deterrent to ward off conventional threats even as it adapts to face newer challenges like cybersecurity, terrorism, and failed states.

‘This is NATO’s road map for the next 10 years,’ said NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen. As if to answer skeptics who have predicted for months that this year’s summit would actually mark NATO’s retreat to irrelevance, Mr. Rasmussen added, ‘This strategic concept will ensure that NATO remains as effective as ever.’...”

China ‘hijacks’ 15 per cent of world’s internet traffic

The London Daily Telegraph reports: “A state-owned Chinese telecommunications firm re-routed around 15 per cent of all web traffic through its own servers during a brief period on April 8, the report said.

The incident has raised fears that China may have harvested highly-sensitive information from re-routed emails.

Another theory is that it could be testing a cyberweapon that could disrupt internet traffic from foreign servers.

The traffic included email exchanges from websites of the U.S. Senate and the Department of Defense, along with ‘many others’ including NASA and the Department of Commerce.

Chinese internet officials have claimed that the re-routing was accidental, but the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission’s annual report suggested the hijacking could have been ‘malicious’.

‘Evidence related to this incident does not clearly indicate whether it was perpetrated intentionally and, if so, to what ends,’ the report said.

‘However, computer security researchers have noted that the capability could enable severe malicious activities.’

Larry Wortzel, a member of the

commission, said: ‘We don’t know what was done with the data when they got it. When I see things like this happen, I ask, who might be interested with all

the communications traffic from the entire Department of Defense and federal government? It’s probably not a graduate student at Shanghai University...’

TERRORIST THREAT

Al Qaeda Promises U.S. Death By A ‘Thousand Cuts’

ABC News reports: “Printer bombs planted on two cargo flights cost only a few thousand dollars and were intended to affect the American economy, according to a newly published Al Qaeda-affiliated magazine.

The attempt was called ‘Operation Hemorrhage,’ boasted the magazine, and the entire plot cost al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, only \$4,200.

...A special edition of *Inspire* magazine — an English-language propaganda publication produced by AQAP — gave a detailed description of how the attempted attack was conceived and produced.

‘Two Nokia mobiles, \$150 each, two HP printers, \$300 each, plus shipping, transportation and other miscellaneous expenses add up to a total bill of \$4,200,’ one article said. ‘That is all that Operation Hemorrhage cost us. In terms of time, it took us three months to plan and execute the operation from beginning to end.’

The magazine also revealed the attack was not meant to kill more than the plane’s pilot and co-pilot, and was meant to force the U.S. government to spend billions of dollars on preventive security screening measures.

The strategy, the magazine said, was ‘of attacking the enemy with smaller, but more

frequent operations is what some may refer to as the strategy of a thousand cuts. The aim is to bleed the enemy to death.’...” **(President Obama states: We are not at war with Islam and never will be. That’s wishful thinking on his part.**

9/11 began the war as 3,000 of America’s people were slaughtered and cremated. Our President admires President Franklin D. Roosevelt. When Japan slaughtered 2,200 of our military men at Pearl Harbor December 7th, 1941, Roosevelt immediately declared war.)

In first Hebrew message, Al Qaida-linked group threatens revenge on Israel

Haaretz reports: “A group with avowed Al-Qaida links issued a threat in Hebrew swearing to avenge Israel’s killing of two Gaza militants, in what an expert said was the first use of the language for such propaganda.

In the half-minute-long recording posted on a website used by declared Al-Qaida affiliates, a hoarse male voice tells the ‘aggressor Jews’ they will not be safe from rockets and other attacks until they ‘leave the land of Palestine’.

The speaker identifies himself as a member of the group Jema’a Ansar al-Sunna or ‘Community of Sunna Supporters’, which has a presence in Gaza.

Mohammed Nimnim and Islam Yassin, killed in Israel Defense Forces air strikes on November 3 and 17, were Gazan leaders of the Army of Islam, a Palestinian Islamist group inspired by al-Qaida. Israel accused them of having planned to attack Israelis in the Egyptian Sinai.

Matti Steinberg, an Israeli intelligence veteran who specializes in Islamism, said it was unprecedented for Hebrew to be used on an Al-Qaida forum.

While Osama bin Laden’s followers have made public appeals in languages other than Arabic, this was usually to ‘win over, educate and preach to the wider Muslim world’, Steinberg said. ‘Here, by contrast, it seems the idea to make Jews feel that the threat is close at hand - and not some distant menace.’

The recording, which was quoted on Army Radio, ends by invoking ‘al Quds’, Arabic for Jerusalem. The speaker’s reference to rockets suggests links with Palestinians in Gaza, where this has been a favorite mode of attack against Israel...” **(Islam’s goal is to fulfill Psalm 83:4 — “They have said, Come, and let us cut them [the Jews] off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.” God says: “...I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off” — Isaiah 56:5.)**

NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Egypt: World should push toward establishment of Palestinian state

Haaretz reports: “Major powers should push Israel and the Palestinians to agree a

deadline for establishing an independent Palestinian state before a two-state solution becomes impossible to achieve, Egypt said.

Israelis and Palestinians held three rounds of U.S.-backed talks in September.

Palestinians pulled out when a 10-month freeze on Jewish settlement building in the West Bank and East Jerusalem ended on Sept. 26.

In some of Egypt’s strongest language since the talks ended, Foreign Minister

Ahmed About Gheit said discussions should shift to an 'end-game for a Palestinian settlement' after Washington had failed to push Israel to halt building work.

'The Americans have been informing all of us that their efforts did not succeed. They wanted to reach a moratorium on settlement activities with Israel. That came to an end now.'

He said Egypt's concern was that 'we continue haggling without (making) any breakthrough, then in few years there would not be a possibility of two states living side by side.'

The Palestinians said 'Israeli obstinacy' made Washington give up on efforts to freeze Jewish settlements and questioned whether the United States could ever help them attain independence.

Egypt became the first Arab state to reach peace with Israel when it signed a deal in 1979..." **(The above headline is ominous and will become disastrous for the Mid-East and entire world. See where this one state solution could lead to in the next two reports. Joel 3:2.)**

Poll: Most Palestinians view talks as precursor to 1 state

YnetNews.com reports: "The majority of Palestinians support direct talks and the two-state solution, but ultimately want the entire area between the Jordan River and Mediterranean Sea to turn into one Palestinian state, a poll sponsored by The Israel Project, a Jewish-American organization, shows.

The data, collected by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research in October, shows that the Palestinians blame Hamas for the current state of affairs in the Gaza Strip, and are hostile not only towards the Islamic organization but also towards Iran.

According to the poll, 61% of Palestinians from both Gaza and the West Bank support direct negotiations with Israel, and 60% accept the two-state solution. A 54% majority also agree peace is possible with Israel.

A closer look, however, reveals a different picture: According to the poll, most Palestinians refuse to reconcile with the idea of Israel as a Jewish state. While 23% accept the statement that 'Israel has a permanent right to exist as a homeland

for the Jewish people,' two-thirds prefer the alternative statement that 'over time Palestinians must work to get back all the land for a Palestinian state.'

Moreover, the Palestinians perceive the two-state solution as a precursor to this entirely Palestinian state. When presented with the statement that 'the best goal is for a two-state solution that keeps two states living side by side,' 30% agreed, while 60% opted for the alternative statement that 'the real goal should be to start with two states but then move it to all being one Palestinian state.'..."

Hamas: Palestinians must resist against Israel in West Bank

Haaretz reports: "Hamas leader Khaled Meshal said that his group faced 'huge challenges' in the West Bank as a force against Israel.

Armed struggle has a powerful appeal among the inhabitants of the occupied territory, where the rival Fatah faction has been extending influence since a civil war with Hamas in 2007, Meshal told a conference in the Syrian capital.

'The resistance is facing huge challenges, especially in the West Bank,' Meshal told a meeting of leading pro-Hamas politicians, writers and thinkers opposed to the U.S.-supervised peace process between the Palestinians and Israel.

'Our inalienable rights are threatened with extinction if the scene in the West Bank does not change by launching the resistance against the Israeli occupation and the settlements,' he added.

The Palestinian Authority, dominated by Fatah, intensified a campaign of arrests against Hamas after its fighters killed four Jewish settlers in the West Bank on Aug. 31.

The attack was on the eve of the launch of direct Middle East peace talks, which subsequently broke down over Israel's refusal to meet demands by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to freeze Israeli settlement building..."

Syria warns Israel: Evading peace will lead to Mideast war

Haaretz reports: "Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Moallem criticized stalled peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, warning that closing the

horizons to peace could lead to war in the Middle East.

In an interview with the Russian newspaper *Moscow News*, Moallem accused Israel of evading peace and said that the window of opportunity for a peace deal is slowly closing.

'The possibility of war always exists in our region since Israel almost always scandalously evades the commitment to peace,' said Moallem. 'There is no doubt that closing the horizons to peace could lead to war,' he said.

Moallem warned of the ramifications of a new Middle Eastern war emerging, saying that in a new war everyone will lose due to the existing advanced military technology which could cause great damage even for the side with the greater military might.

...Syria condemned an Israeli bill that sets tough requirements for any withdrawal from the Golan Heights or East Jerusalem, saying it was further proof that the Israeli government was not interested in peace..." **(The headline is accurate whether peace is made or evaded. See Jeremiah 6:14 and 8:11. God in Isaiah 17:1 forewarns Syria stating "...Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap.")**

Iran tells Gulf Arabs: We're not a threat to Mideast

Haaretz reports: "Iran told Gulf Arab states it was not a threat and wanted cooperation, in an apparent attempt to lower tension after revelations that Gulf Arab leaders are deeply anxious about its nuclear program.

In his first trip to the region since WikiLeaks published U.S. diplomatic cables reporting Gulf Arab worries about Tehran, Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told a Gulf security conference in Bahrain a more powerful Iran was nothing to fear.

'Our power in the region is your power and your power in the region is our power,' he said in a speech to an audience including Gulf Arab ministers and officials.

'Our growth will only pave the way for others to grow.'

Gulf Arab reaction was muted.

A senior official of a Gulf Arab state security service said Gulf Arabs would be

concerned about Iran until it dealt 'openly' with the international community over its nuclear activities..." (Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan don't believe Iran and fear Ahmadinejad's intentions when he gets the bomb. Hence Saudi Arabia has purchased \$60 billion dollars' worth of armaments from America, including F-15 fighter planes and bunker buster bombs to blast Iran's underground nuclear installation to smithereens.)

'Iran is a latter-day Nazi Germany'

Haaretz reports: "If it were up to Reza Kahlili, he would immediately order a

bombing of his native Iran, in order to halt its nuclear program and bring down the Islamic Republic and the ayatollahs. And since he doesn't believe the United States will do that, he hopes Israel will.

'I strongly believe that it's 1938 all over again,' he says in a telephone interview from California, when the world groveled before Germany, hoping to appease the looming Nazi monster. 'The difference is that this time the consequences would be much worse than World War II. The West had the opportunity to overthrow this regime in Tehran without firing a single bullet last year when the mass uprising happened, but now I truly believe it

will be war whether we want it or not, and for that reason I think we should determine the terms of it. The question to ask ourselves is: Do we want to confront them now or when they have the nukes? That's going to make a big difference to the millions who will lose their lives once they get the nukes...' (The above headline is intriguing. Hitler was an occultist and proclaimed that when the destruction of Atlantis occurred the spirits of the deceased entered the bodies of the Germans and Iranians — hence his title for both races as "Aryans". Whatever the case, Ahmadinejad and Hitler both had and have one goal — the destruction of the Jews and Israel — Psalm 83:4.)

'STAR WARS' MISSILE DEFENSE

Emirates seek gulf-wide missile shield

SpaceDaily.com reports: "The United Arab Emirates is reported to be strengthening its missile defense network and plans to integrate it with other Arab states in the Persian Gulf to counter Iran's missile might.

Experience shows that is unlikely to happen anytime soon. But even so, the emirates ordered four batteries of U.S. Raytheon Patriot MIM-104 PAC 3 air-defense missiles worth \$3.3 billion in 2008.

In September, the U.S. Congress cleared the sale of three Terminal High Altitude Area Defense anti-ballistic missile systems produced by Lockheed Martin Space Systems. Other key contractors are Boeing, Raytheon and Honeywell.

THAAD is designed to intercept and destroy short-, medium- and intermediate-range ballistic missiles such as the Soviet-era Scud, up to Iran's Shehab-3b weapon that currently constitutes Tehran's strategic missile force.

The THAAD deal could be worth up to \$7 billion. The emirates, which are at odds with Iran over its occupation of three strategic islands in the gulf, would be the first regional state to be armed with THAAD.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are also looking to upgrade their Patriot PAC 2 systems to PAC 3 standard..." (The United Arab Emirates is following in the footsteps of

Saudi Arabia — the destruction of Iran and its nuclear installation.)

Israel Unveils Newest Anti-Missile System

SpaceDaily.com reports: "While intelligence assessments consistently paint a grim portrait of thousands of missiles and rockets showering down on Israel's civilian population and infrastructure in the future, the Jewish state unveils its next-generation missile-defense system.

Arrow III, an interceptor designed to knock out ballistic missiles, has until now been shrouded in secrecy. A full-scale model was put on display at the second annual International Aerospace Conference and Exhibition held in Jerusalem.

In line with the perception that the upgrading of existing systems is a never-ending process in light of changing threats, the engineers who are developing Arrow III have been tasked with achieving a daunting technological feat: creating a booster-rigged kamikaze satellite that will collide with incoming long-range ballistic missiles beyond Earth's atmosphere with pinpoint accuracy...

Following the aftermath of the 2006 Lebanon war, in which an estimated 4,000 Katyusha rockets and mortars slammed into northern Israel, the country's best and brightest engineers were recruited in a national mission to come up with

countermeasures...

At the government-sponsored conference, missile defense program directors were each given 15 minutes to update an audience of military and civilian professionals on the progression of leading missile-defense systems.

Some are already operational, while other systems are still under development and slated to be operationally ready in the coming years. The Israeli missile-defense concept presented here is described as a multi-tier active air defense (MTAD), a network which aims to provide a comprehensive shield against a multitude of threats on several fronts.

At the lowest tier of MTAD is Iron Dome, which intercepts rockets at ranges of 5 to 70 km. Rafael developed the system in record time 'about two-and-a-half years from the drawing board to the operational stage,' said defense officials..." (Israel will definitely use their advanced systems as she and Yahweh God sends fire against Magog [Russia] and her allies — Ezekiel 38, 39; Daniel 11:40; Isaiah 17:1; Ezekiel 38:5-7; Psalm 83:5-7.)

Russian tactical nuclear missiles a U.S. concern

SpaceDaily.com reports: "Russia moved tactical nuclear warheads to within miles of its borders with NATO countries as recently as late spring, complicating U.S. ties

with Moscow, a report said as Congress mulled a new arms control treaty.

The Wall Street Journal cited U.S. officials who described the movements and cautioned that they ran afoul of pledges Moscow made as early as 1991 to remove the weapons from outposts near Eastern European NATO allies such as Poland.

U.S. diplomatic cables out of Moscow leaked just before the *Journal* report highlighted a flurry of negotiations between the two former Cold War adversaries over their nuclear stockpiles, tactical weapons and a controversial U.S.-NATO missile defense system in countries that border Russia.

U.S. Senator John McCain, the top Republican on the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee, said the report was cause for concern.

‘It’s very disturbing because it’s a violation of a commitment they made back in 1991, and they did not inform us,’ McCain told *AFP*.

‘It argues for a strict verification on any treaty, any agreement on which we’re engaged.’

The Russian deployment of the weapons — which unnamed officials said has been expanded several times in recent years — was being seen as an apparent hedge against the U.S.-NATO missile

defense system.

...Russian President Dmitry Medvedev warned that failure by Russia and the West to agree on a new missile shield for Europe could spark ‘a new round of the arms race’ that would see Moscow deploy new weapons systems...” **(We will face Russia at the mid-point of the 7 year campaign of Armageddon — Revelation 16:16; Ezekiel 31:1, 2, 13, and 16. See also the next report.)**

Medvedev sees arms race if missile shield not agreed

BBC News reports: “Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has said a new arms race could begin in the next decade if NATO and Moscow fail to agree on a joint missile shield.

In his annual speech to the nation, he said he had advocated a ‘fully fledged joint mechanism of co-operation’ at a recent NATO-Russia summit.

On domestic issues, Mr. Medvedev argued for families of three children or more to stem Russia’s population decline.

Confounding expectations, he did not talk about his own political future.

With less than two years to the next presidential ballot, many believe his powerful predecessor, Vladimir Putin, will

seek to return to the Kremlin in his place.

Mr. Putin, who was among the audience for the speech, has been serving as prime minister since leaving office in 2008.

Just a few days before the speech, in his video blog, Mr. Medvedev warned Russia was in danger of ‘political stagnation’ if it did not create a more level playing field for opposition parties.

Analysts have been wondering if this was a deliberate criticism of the political system largely built by Mr. Putin while president.

After the NATO-Russia summit in Lisbon earlier, NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen announced that Russia had agreed to co-operate on NATO’s programme to defend against ballistic missile attacks.

‘For the first time the two sides will be co-operating to defend themselves,’ he said.

...President Medvedev said a joint shield would combine ‘the potentials of Russia and NATO and ensure the protection of all European countries from missile threats’...” **(This headline is already in progress in Russia.)**

PLAGUES AND PESTILENCES

Haiti: Cholera could affect 650,000, says UN

BBC News reports: “The United Nations has warned that the cholera epidemic in Haiti could affect many more people than previously believed.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that health officials now estimated that 650,000 people could become infected over the next six months.

He also said that the UN believed the number of deaths could be twice as high as the official figure of 1,800.

Mr. Ban said there was an urgent need for more medical personnel.

Officials from the Pan-American and World Health Organisations estimate that an additional 350 doctors are needed on top of the 300 medical staff already committed

by Cuba...” **(Matthew 24:7; Luke 21:11; Revelation 6:7 8. See also the next report.)**

As Cholera Spreads in Haiti, Authorities Expect Disease to Remain for Years

Voice of America News reports: “International aid groups are trying to stop the spread of cholera in Haiti’s capital Port-au-Prince, where many earthquake survivors live in makeshift camps and filthy slums.

Cholera strikes so fast it is sometimes called the lightning disease. Without rehydration therapy, or antibiotics for severe cases, cholera can kill in a matter of hours. The disease causes acute diarrhea that can lead to severe dehydration.

Most of the more than one million Haitians displaced by a powerful earthquake last January live in tent cities around the capital, and waterborne cholera bacteria spread easily in unsanitary conditions where supplies are shared for cooking and washing. But unsanitary conditions in Haiti are not limited to these camps.

‘Before this, Port-au-Prince for the most part, was a large urban slum with very poor water and sanitation conditions,’ noted Dr. Jon Andrus of the Pan American Health Organization, an arm of the World Health Organization. ‘This is ripe for the rapid spread of cholera. We expect transmission to be extensive.’...”