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

SHARIAH LAW? THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

Google app helps Muslims report 'blasphemy'

December 11, 2018 -- WND.com reports: "A new Google Android app helps Muslims report individuals who commit blasphemy or insult Islam.

With 'Smart Pakem,' launched in Indonesia last month at the request of the Indonesian government, users and government officials can report people who hold 'misguided' beliefs in violation of Islamic law, reports Big League Politics.

Islamic law, also called Shariah, forbids insults of Islam and the recognition of any other religion.

In Indonesia, which has the world's largest Muslim population, the criminal code prohibits blasphemy. It's defined as 'the act or offense of speaking sacrilegiously about God or sacred things.'

The penalty for blasphemy in the country of 207 million is a maximum of five years imprisonment.

Big League Politics noted Google's vice president for Southeast Asia, Rajan Anandan, has not shown any resistance to the app, which is available in the Google app store.

Human Rights Watch has reported 148 people have been convicted of blasphemy

in Indonesia since 2004..." (According to a 2017 report by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, there are 71 countries that criminalise views deemed to be blasphemous. The punishment for blasphemy range from fines to the death penalty. In the Middle East and North Africa, 18 of the 20 nations treat insults to Islam as a criminal offence, and 14 of those also criminalise apostasy. While Iran and Pakistan are the only two nations that enshrine the death penalty in law, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia carry it out.)

Middle Eastern Women Share Chilling Sharia Law Stories: 'Silence Is Killing Us'

December 14, 2018 -- Breitbart.com reports: "Rabia Kazan has witnessed first-hand the mistreatment and abuse of women in Iran who live under Sharia law, and she knows millions more are suffering and even dying from honor killings, female genital mutilation, child sex trafficking, and child marriage across the Middle East.

Kazan and almost two dozen other women from or with roots in the Middle East spent two days in Washington, DC, to share their stories and to take their message directly to President Donald Trump and Congress. They said they are grateful for Trump's willingness to confront these issues and will do their part to help him get elected to a second term in 2020.

'Unfortunately, the whole world ignores our pain,' Kazan said on Tuesday at the National Press Club. 'They torture our girls; they stone women; kill our women in the name of Sharia law under the Islamic regime.'

'We have to thank President Trump because in two years, finally, we're getting help,' said Kazan, a native of Turkey and founder of the Middle East Women's Coalition, the group that came to the nation's capital to get their message out.

'We're going to give a voice and endorse President Trump because silence is killing us,' Kazan said..." (As I have shared numerous times on our program and in the *Van Impe Intelligence Briefing*, the American Thinker web page lists the top ten reasons why sharia is bad for all societies coming to the conclusion that Sharia Law ultimately degrades societies and diminishes freedom:

- Islam commands offensive, aggressive and unjust jihad which is a holy war
- Islam orders apostates to be killed
- Islam orders death for Muslims

- and death for non-Muslim critics of Muhammad and the Quran, and even Sharia itself
- Islam orders unmarried fornicators to be whipped, put to death, and adulterers to be stoned
- Islam commands all homosexuals
- to be executed
- Islam commands that highway robbers should be crucified or mutilated
- Islam commands that a male and female thief must have a hand cut off
- Islam allows an injured plaintiff to exact legal revenge, physical eye for physical eye
- Islam allows husbands to beat their wives
- Islam commands that drinkers and gamblers be beaten.)

SANCTITY OF LIFE

Move to call abortion and assisted suicide 'human rights' is 'evil', says Princeton professor

December 15, 2018 -- ChristianToday. com reports: "The United Nations Human Rights Committee has been accused of elevating individual freedom above moral considerations after recently including abortion and assisted suicide among the 'human rights' that should be protected by states.

The committee's 'General Comment' on the right to life, issued at the end of October, argued for the decriminalization of abortion and the removal of restrictions that could subject women or girls to 'physical or mental pain' if they are unable to terminate their pregnancy.

It also put the rights of women and girls seeking an abortion before the rights of medical practitioners with conscientious objections to performing abortions.

'States parties should not introduce new barriers and should remove existing barriers that deny effective access by women and girls to safe and legal abortion, including barriers caused as a result of the exercise of conscientious objection by individual medical providers,' it said.

In addition, it said that states had an obligation to ensure access for women and men and 'especially, girls' and boys' to a 'wide range of affordable contraceptive methods'.

On assisted suicide, the committee stated that where this was legal, 'robust'

legal safeguards should be in place to protect patients from abuse.

Although General Comments are not legally binding, they can be used by state courts to determine rulings on cases..." ("These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren"-Proverbs 6:16-19 [emphasis mine]. "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, Who knowing the unmerciful: judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" -Romans 1:29-32. These barbarians will soon "...be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" - Mark 9:43, 44. See the next report.)

Emergency room promoting ... euthanasia!

December 3, 2018 -- *WND.com* reports: "An advertisement being run on TVs in the emergency rooms of a health system in Canada, where those who are hurting,

injured, depressed and suffering wait for help, is promoting ... euthanasia.

Officials with the Christian Institute in the United Kingdom described how the ads for Medical Aid in Dying are appearing at the emergency room for the William Osler Health System hospital.

'Campaigners have hit out at the adverts,' the report said, 'saying they normalize deliberate killing, and present euthanasia as a 'reasonable and even preferred method of alleviating suffering.'

The institute quoted Wesley Smith, of the Discovery Institute, who said those who are in those waiting rooms are the 'vulnerable,' who 'may be afraid, in pain or depressed.'

He said: 'The ad makes no mention of palliative care or other means to reduce or eliminate suffering without killing...'

Trans radicals threaten life of prof upholding basic biology

December 7, 2018 -- *WND.com* reports: "Supporters of 'transgender rights' are threatening the life of a professor in England whose offense is to believe that sex is determined at birth.

BBC News reported Professor Rossa Freedman of the University of Reading fears for her safety after she discussed a government program to help people who want to change their gender.

She's faced online abuse, telephone threats in the middle of the night and her office door was 'covered in urine.'

'The human rights lawyer had raised concerns on how the changes might affect women's rights,' the *BBC* said.

She expressed opposition to selfidentification, the concept that people can choose their gender.

Freedman also has attended debates on the nation's Gender Recognition Act, which supports 'gender identity.'

She's been called a 'Nazi' and been told she 'should be raped.'..." ("Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" - Isaiah 5:20. In 2016 New York City released a list of 31 genders – in 2014 Facebook listed 58 gender options – in 2018, Tumblr has a list of 112 genders. A recent poll of British adults believe that people should not only be able to choose their gender, but their age, race, and even species. Will this madness ever end? II Timothy 3 states: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters,

proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was. But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity,

patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.")

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Psych professor claims God lacked Mary's 'consent'

December 6, 2018 -- *WND.com* reports: "A Twitter user who profiles himself as an associate professor of clinical psychology and sexuality studies from Minnesota and lists interests as 'cats' and 'Poe' tried to apply the contemporary '#MeToo' movement to the New Testament story of the virgin birth.

Eric Sprankle claimed the 'virgin birth story is about an all-knowing, all-powerful deity impregnating a human teen.'

'There is no definition of consent that would include that scenario,' he said.

'Happy holidays,' Sprankle wrote.

Sprankle refused to cede the point when other Twitter users pointed out to him that the Bible, in Luke, 'states clearly that the angel communicated God's plan for Mary and in verse 38 she agreed. Whether you believe or disbelieve, it helps if you actually read the text.'

'The biblical god regularly punished disobedience. The power difference (deity vs mortal) and the potential for violence for saying 'no' negates her 'ves.' To put someone in this position is an unethical abuse of power at best and grossly predatory at worst,' he added..." (What utter nonsense. The prophecy of a virgin giving birth to the Messiah had been around for centuries - Micah 5:2 states: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." "From everlasting" literally means from the days of eternity, - the Messiah has eternally existed. Isaiah 7:14 states: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." And that passage would have been passed down from generation to generation, it is not inconceivable that Mary's mother

would have passed that prophecy on to Mary. Mary herself said to Gabriel: "...Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word..." – Luke 1:38.)

'No mention of Jesus in history,' claims Pakistan prime minister

December 2, 2018 -- WND.com reports: "The prime minister of Pakistan, a tenuous U.S. ally, contends Jesus was not a historical figure, reports *Joseph Farah's G2 Bulletin*.

The Middle East Media Research Institute reported Prime Minister Imran Kahn made the assertion in a speech on the day marked as the birthday of Muhammad.

Khan also lobbied for a worldwide law that would protect Islam from any criticism.

The prime minister said there is little mention of prophets of Allah other than Muhammad, and there is 'no mention of Jesus in history.'

'Moses is mentioned, but there is no

mention of Jesus in history,' he said. 'But the entire life of Muhammad, who was Allah's last prophet, is part of history.'...' (No mention of Jesus in history? The web site BeThinking. org has an article entitled "Ancient Evidence from Jesus from Non-Christian Sources at: https://www.bethinking.org/jesus/ancient-evidence-for-jesus-from-non-

christian-sources#_edn5 and they list the following:

Evidence from Tacitus: "Nero fastened the guilt... on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of ... Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome..."

Evidence from Pliny the Younger: "They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, and then reassemble to partake of food – but food of an ordinary and innocent kind."

Evidence from Josephus: "About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he ... wrought surprising feats....

He was the Christ. When Pilate ...condemned him to be crucified, those who had...come to love him did not give up their affection for him. On the third day he appeared ... restored to life.... And the tribe of Christians ... has ... not disappeared."

Evidence from the Babylonian Talmud: "On the eve of the Passover Yeshu was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald ... cried, "He is going forth to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy." [Regarding the statement about the cry of the herald, this article states that it may be what the Jewish leaders were planning to do, but Rome's involvement changed those plans.]

Evidence from Lucian: "The Christians ... worship a man to this day — the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account.... [It] was impressed on them by their original lawgiver that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after his laws.")

Board members quit over college's 'drift' from Christian orthodoxy

December 4, 2018 -- WND.com reports: "Two members of the board of trustees of a major evangelical Christian liberal arts university have resigned, contending the institution has 'drifted' from its foundation and mission, and now is at odds with its written policies, statement of faith and the Bible itself.

Raleigh Washington, a prominent pastor known for his leadership of the

Promise Keepers men's movement, and Dave Dias, a Sacramento-area business executive, submitted letters of resignation on Wednesday to the board of trustees of Azusa Pacific University in Southern California.

The two board members spoke to *WND* after explaining in their letters why they could no longer serve.

Washington, a trustee for 15 years, wrote that he had constantly confronted the board over the previous six years with abundant evidence that the administration and a substantial portion of the faculty were promoting a progressive ideology that clashed with the institution's statement of faith and core principles.

He charged that the board has failed in its responsibility to hold leadership accountable and has become 'complicit this disobedient behavior.'.." (Thank God for these two men who have taken this stand "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy *ministry*" – II Timothy 4:1-5.)

JERUSALEM: A CUP OF TREMBLING

Australia recognizes West Jerusalem as Israeli capital

December 15, 2018 -- BBC News reports: "Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has confirmed that

his government will recognise West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

However, he said Australia's embassy would not move from Tel Aviv, until a peace settlement was achieved.

He added Australia also recognized the aspirations of the Palestinians to a state with a capital in East Jerusalem.

The status of Jerusalem is one of the most contested issues between Israel

and the Palestinians.

Opposition Labor party leader Bill Shorten said he would reverse the decision if he won next year's elections. U.S. President Donald Trump drew international criticism last year when he reversed decades of American foreign policy by recognizing the ancient city as Israel's capital. The U.S. embassy was relocated from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in May..." ("...when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever...And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever" - II Samuel 7:12, 16. "I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations" - Psalms 89:3-4. "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end"-Luke 1:32, 33. Jerusalem is the Eternal Capital of Israel, and the Lord Jesus Christ will reign from David's Throne in Jerusalem for ever and ever. See the next report.)

> Israel said 'disappointed' by Australia's recognition of West Jerusalem only

December 15, 2018 -- The Times of Israel reports: "Israel's Foreign Ministry

on Saturday evening issued a positive yet decidedly tempered response to Australia's decision to recognize West Jerusalem as the nation's capital.

In a short statement, the ministry — which, due to the lack of a foreign minister, is directly under the authority of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — did not comment on the recognition itself, but called Canberra's decision to open a defense and trade office in Jerusalem 'a step in the right direction.' It also welcomed Australia's stance on 'sanctions against Iran and its steadfast position in support of Israel at the UN and against anti-Semitism.'

Meanwhile a senior Israeli official told Hebrew media anonymously that Israel was disappointed by Australia's decision to stress that its recognition only pertained to West Jerusalem.

'We're disappointed with the Australian decision... [Prime Minister Scott] Morrison only went half-way. It's a step in the right direction, but we expected more,' the official said..."

148 nations disavow Jewish ties to Jerusalem, Temple Mount

December 3, 2018 -- The Jerusalem Post reports: "The UN General Assembly in New York on Friday approved six anti-Israel resolutions including two that ignored Jewish ties to the Temple Mount.

The primary resolution on Jerusalem, that passed 148-11 with 14 abstentions, also disavowed Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem.

Both that text and a second more global one on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,

which passed 156-8, with 12 abstentions, spoke of Judaism's most holy site – The Temple Mount – solely by its Muslim name of al-Haram al-Sharif.

The votes comes as Israel is working to shore up international support for its sovereignty in Jerusalem.

A third text, which was approved 99-10 with 66 abstentions, called on Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights..." (In Genesis 22:1-14 God commanded Abraham to bring his son Isaac to the land of Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice there. As he was about to complete the sacrifice, God stopped him and provided a ram as a substitutionary sacrifice. In I Chronicles 21:18 - 26, King David purchased this mount so he could build an altar to offer a sacrifice when he confessed his sin. was the location where the angel of the Lord was commanded to stop the destruction of Jerusalem [I Chronicles 21:15]. In II Chronicles 3:1, King Solomon built the First Temple on Mount Moriah, this was started in 966 BC. This Temple stood until 586 BC when it was destroyed by the Babylonians. The Second Temple was built in 516 BC and enlarged by Herod the Great in 12 BC. It stood until it was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70. The Dome of the Rock was built in AD 692, and the Al Agsa Mosque was not built until AD 705. It is obvious who has the rightful claim to the Temple Mount.)

NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

State: Iran Tests Ballistic Missiles Capable of Carrying Nuclear Warhead to Europe

December 4, 2018 -- Breitbart.com reports: "Iran test-fired a medium-range

ballistic missile over the weekend capable of carrying a nuclear payload to parts of Europe, Israel, and anywhere else in the Middle East, a top U.S. Department of State (DOS) official

stressed Monday, arguing the move violates a United Nations resolution.

On Saturday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo revealed in a statement:

The Iranian regime has just test-fired

a medium range ballistic missile that is capable of carrying multiple warheads. The missile has a range that allows it to strike parts of Europe and anywhere in the Middle East. This test violates UN Security Council resolution 2231 that bans Iran from undertaking 'any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology...'

As we have been warning for some time, Iran's missile testing and missile proliferation is growing. We are accumulating risk of escalation in the region if we fail to restore deterrence. We condemn these activities, and call upon Iran to cease immediately all activities related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons..." (Nuclear war is part of the battle of the ages - see Revelation 9:18. Other prophesied texts are predicted in Psalm 97:3; Isaiah 66:15; Ezekiel 20:47: "... Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched..." Study also Zephaniah 1:8; Malachi 4:1; and **Revelation 8:7. The Oriental nations** along with Iran will be involved in World War III, Armageddon - Revelation 16:16. Iran and the Islamic nations will join Russia -Ezekiel 38 & 39. Then China, North Korea, and Oriental nations will join Russia in the second invasion of Israel - Revelation 16:12 and for the third and final invasion all nations will come against Israel - Isaiah 14:2.)

Fatah: If Hamas is a terrorist organization, so are we

December 7, 2018 -- Israel National News reports: "Today the UN General Assembly will be voting on a U.S.-proposed resolution to condemn Hamas for firing rockets into Israel and inciting violence. The resolution demands that Hamas and other terrorist

groups such as Islamic Jihad cease their 'militant' activities, including the use of airborne incendiaries.

Despite the rift between Hamas and Abbas' Fatah, Fatah has come to the defense of Hamas at the UN.

The resolution prompted one Fatah official to declare that if Hamas is considered a terrorist organization, then the entire Palestinian Arab people is 'involved in terrorism,' *Palestinian Media Watch* reported. Rather, he claimed, all the Palestinian factions are 'national liberation movements':

Fatah Central Committee member Abbas Zaki told Palestine Today: 'If Hamas, which is involved in resistance, is considered a terrorist movement, this means that all groups of the Palestinian people are involved in terrorism. This contradicts reality, as Hamas and the rest of the Palestinian factions are national liberation movements that are involved in resisting an Israeli occupation that is implementing terrorism against the members of our people... Hamas is part of us and we are part of it if a resolution is passed against it that defines its resistance as a crime. This is because Hamas regardless of the internal and political differences of opinion - constitutes a state of resistance, whether we want it or not. It has a broad Palestinian presence, and we cannot abandon it to fight alone on the battlefield.'..." (For once, I completely agree with Fatah - they are a terrorist organization. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come...evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" - II Timothy 3:1 & 13; and "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" - John 8:44.)

Netanyahu: Anyone who tries to harm Israel will pay heavy price

December 4, 2018 -- Israel National News reports: "Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spoke out Tuesday afternoon on the ongoing IDF operation along the Israel-Lebanon frontier, following the discovery of a cross-border terror tunnel originating in a south Lebanese village and leading into Israeli territory.

'This morning, the IDF launched Operation Northern Shield, with the goal of uncovering and neutralizing terror tunnels from Lebanon,' tweeted Netanyahu.

'We are proud of the officers and soldiers of the IDF for their complex operations and operational successes already in the initial stages of the operation. Anyone who tries to harm the State of Israel will pay a heavy price.'

'We are acting with determination and responsibility in all sectors simultaneously. We will continue with other actions, overt and covert, in order to ensure Israel's security.'..." (Prime Minister Netanyahu is "Why do the heathen correct. rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's

vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear,

and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him" – Psalm 2:1-12.)

TERRORIST THREAT

ANALYSIS: ISIS preparing for radioactive and biological attacks

December 10, 2018 -- Israel National News reports: "A year after the 'defeat' of the Islamic State Jihadist organization the group is witnessing a revival, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

The organization succeeded in maintaining a significant force of 30,000 armed terrorists who are in control of less than one percent of the territory of the self-proclaimed Caliphate in both Syria and Iraq, but it is 're-emerging as a guerilla force that is returning to its insurgent roots' the Pentagon warns.

This weekend, ISIS terrorists in eastern Syria managed to stave off an offensive by the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) against the town of Hajin, the group's last stronghold in the eastern Syrian desert near Deir Ez-Zur and recapture parts of the town.

The SDF offensive against ISIS' last strongholds in eastern Syria has been going on for three months and has caused most of the civilian population of Hajin to flee via safe passage corridors created by the Kurdish-dominated militia.

The U.S.-led coalition against Islamic State has already carried out 1000 airstrikes on Hajin, but the Jihadists are not willing to surrender and have vowed to fight to the death..." (According to the Answering Islam web page, there are 164 verses in the Koran that call for Muslims to carry out Jihad, or holy war against the infidels. They believe they will be rewarded if they die carrying out jihad.

One of the hadith's of Mohammad states: "Truly the martyr is given by

Allah Almighty six things:

- 1. Forgiveness of sins from the first drop of his blood to be shed;
- 2. Protection from the torment of the grave;
- 3. Safety from the Greatest Fear [i.e. the Day of Judgment];
- 4. Receiving the crown of veneration, a single sapphire of which is worth more than the whole world and its contents:
- 5. Marriage to seventy-two of the wide-eved virgins;
- 6. Intercession on behalf of seventy of his relatives.")

'Christian aspect' to Christmas increases risk of terrorist attacks, says security expert

December 16, 2018 -- ChristianToday. com reports: "There is a heightened risk of terrorist attacks at Christmas because of the 'Christian aspect' of the holiday, a security expert has warned.

Europe is on high alert after a gun attack on a Christmas market in Strasbourg that killed four people. The *BBC* reports that a fifth person is brain dead and 11 others are wounded.

The suspect in Tuesday's attack, Cherif Chekatt, was shot dead by police on Thursday night.

There were echoes of an attack in Germany in 2016 when a truck was driven into a Christmas market in Berlin, killing 12.

An unnamed senior counter-terror source told the *Daily Mirror* that public gatherings at Christmas were an 'obvious target' for attacks.

Another security expert, Colonel Richard Kemp, told the newspaper that the Islamic State could be looking for opportunities to attack in Europe after being pushed back in the Middle East. He added that Christmas is a riskier time of the year being a Christian celebration.

'This time of year is the highest at risk period because of the combination of large crowds of people enjoying themselves, perhaps not paying as much attention to security as they would normally – and the fact that there is the Christian aspect to it,' he said.

'It is an obvious target and recent history has led us to believe we should all be on our guard at this time..." (I have been reporting since September 2013 about the locations of thirty major militant Islamic groups in the U.S., and after the terrorist attacks in France in January 2015, it was reported by WND.com that the FBI is aware of at least 22 paramilitary Islamic communes in the U.S. Jesus predicted this tragic time in Matthew 24:21 & 22: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." See the next two reports.)

Electric grid 'prime target' of terrorists, says DHS

December 11, 2018 -- WND.com reports: "Warning that the electric grid is the 'prime target' of terrorists, the Department of Homeland Security is urging Americans to prepare for up to six months without electricity, transportation, fuel, money and health care, the Washington Examiner reports. The report, issued to President Trump by the President's National Infrastructure Advisory Council, concludes people

'no longer keep enough essentials within their homes, reducing their ability to sustain themselves during an extended, prolonged outage.'

'We need to improve individual preparedness,' says the report, titled 'Surviving a Catastrophic Power Outage.'

The *Examiner* notes it's the second report in a month to warn of a 'profound threat' to the electric grid from terrorism and naturally occurring events such as a solar storm or flare. The prior report was issued by federal agencies and the

military. The new one, with a similar warning, was prepared by industry and governmental leaders.

The advisory council said the 'profound risk' of an extended power outage 'requires a new national focus.'..."

U.S. man arrested for plotting synagogue attacks in Toledo. Ohio

December 11, 2018 -- The Times of Israel reports: "The FBI on Monday announced the arrest of a 21-year-old Ohio man on terrorism charges for allegedly plotting to attack two

synagogues in the U.S. city of Toledo, Ohio. He has been charged with one count of attempting to provide material support for the Islamic State terror group.

According to the Department of Justice, Damon M. Joseph was arrested on Friday after purchasing 2 AR-15 rifles and talking of killing many people, including a rabbi.

The affidavit filed in U.S. District Court in Toledo said Joseph was inspired by the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting attack in October, which killed 11 Jewish worshipers..."

RUSSIA AND THE KINGS OF THE EAST

China and Russia band together on controversial heating experiments to modify the atmosphere

December 17, 2018 -- The South China Morning Post reports: "China and Russia have modified an important layer of the atmosphere above Europe to test a controversial technology for possible military application, according to Chinese scientists involved in the project.

A total of five experiments were carried out in June. One, on June 7, caused physical disturbance over an area as large as 126,000 sq. km (49,000 square miles), or about half the size of Britain..." (Russia in Bible prophecy is the main instigator of death and suffering during Armageddon -Revelation 16:16. Ezekiel chapters 38 & 39, which I have proclaimed for sixty years, aided by Oriental and Islamic nations, bring total chaos and atomic devastation upon the world. Worse yes, it's just ahead of us. Every nation I included in World War III is forming exactly as taught this global blood bath six decades ago. The

only good news is that the Rapture precedes Armageddon – "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" – Revelation 3:10. Then our deliverance as believers – Revelation 4:1 and our joy because of missing Armageddon. See the next two reports.)

Russia Holds Naval War Games, Missile Drills in Black Sea near Ukraine

December 6, 2018 -- Breitbart.com reports: "Russia is holding naval war exercises and surface-to-air missile drills in the Black Sea region amid tensions with Ukraine and a U.S.-led alliance over the capture of three Ukrainian naval vessels and their crew off the coast of Moscow-annexed Crimea last month, the Kremlin's defense ministry reportedly announced on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg reportedly declared that the U.S.-led military alliance had intensified its presence in the Black Sea region in response to what he described as 'Russia's aggressive actions.'

'We will continue to assess our presence in the region,' he proclaimed..."

U.S. Challenges Russian Claims in Sea of Japan

December 6, 2018 -- Voice of America News reports: "A U.S. Navy destroyer Wednesday sailed into waters claimed by Russia in the Sea of Japan in a direct challenge to Moscow.

The guided-missile destroyer USS McCampbell 'sailed in the vicinity of Peter the Great Bay to challenge Russia's excessive maritime claims and uphold the rights, freedoms and lawful uses of the sea enjoyed by the United States and other nations,' U.S. Navy Lt. Rachel McMarr, a spokesperson for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, said in a statement.

The move is part of what the Navy calls 'freedom of navigation operation,' which challenges nations that claim sovereignty over waters beyond the 12 nautical miles allowed by international maritime law.

Russia claims all of Peter the Great Bay, which is home to its Pacific fleet..."