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JUNE 2024 VOL. 30 NO. 6 | P.O. BOX 7004 TROY, MICH. 48007-7004 | E-mail: jvimi@jvim.com | www.jvim.com
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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

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

George Barna identifies biggest threats facing the Church: ‘We’ve reached a time of Christian invisibility’

May 21, 2024 -- *The Christian Post* reports: “George Barna, a leading expert in church and worldview trends, has weighed in on some of the biggest issues facing the Church — including the steady decrease in a biblical worldview and dwindling concern for spiritual formation — at a time of ‘Christian invisibility in our culture.’

In an interview with *The Christian Post*, the 69-year-old founder of The Barna Group, a market research firm specializing in studying Americans’ religious beliefs and behaviors, said that over the last few decades, he’s seen certain negative trends increasingly permeate Western Christianity.

‘People have become more selfish, churches have become less influential, pastors have become less Bible-centric,’ he said. ‘Families have invested less of their time and energy in spiritual growth, particularly of their children. The media now influences the Church more than the Church influences the media, or the culture for that matter. The Christian Body tends to get off track arguing about a lot of things that really don’t matter.’...”
(Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to

*the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it. – Amos 8:11-12. There is a famine of the Word of God in America, a famine caused by pastors who as Dr. Van Impe often stated “Preach little sermonettes that create Christianettes.” There is no substance to their messages. Hadden Robinson, author of Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages was lecturing his students on preparation for preaching and said “If it’s a mist in the pulpit, it’ll be a fog in the pews.” Paul wrote to Timothy: *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. Pastors, teach your people! See the next report.)**

Only 6% of self-professed Christians hold biblical worldview amid increasing syncretism in the U.S.: survey

May 2, 2024 -- *The Christian Post* reports: “Only 6% of Christians have a

biblical worldview as many Americans embrace syncretism, according to a new survey.

The Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University released a new batch of research from the American Worldview Inventory 2024.

‘Syncretism is the term used to describe a customized blend of philosophies of life that a person pieces together for their own satisfaction,’ the report explained. ‘Syncretism is the result of people relying upon their emotions to appropriate elements of various recognized worldviews toward creating an idiosyncratic, personally pleasing understanding of and response to reality.’

Adherence to syncretism has increased since 2021, when the Cultural Research Center found that 88% of American adults subscribed to the worldview...”

Persecution watchdog warns of growing hostility to Christians in U.S.: ‘Frogs in the kettle’

April 30, 2024 -- *ChristianPost.com* reports: “The president of a nonprofit Christian persecution watchdog that monitors hostility to faith and freedom abroad warned that too few Christians in America and the West seem aware of how such trends are manifesting at home.

‘Basically, we are frogs in the kettle, and the bubbles keep coming up under us,’ Jeff King, president of the Washington, D.C.-based International Christian Concern (ICC), told *The*

Christian Post.

Jeff King, president of International Christian Concern (ICC), warned that Americans are like ‘frogs in the kettle’ regarding increasing persecution. | International Christian Concern

ICC, which was founded in 1995 to advocate for the persecuted church around the world, has been speaking out, particularly about Staci Barber’s case in Texas.

Barber is a school teacher who sued the Katy Independent School District near Houston in March after her principal allegedly reprimanded her last September for praying with two other teachers at the school’s flagpole as part of ‘See You At the Pole,’ an annual international event...” (Jesus stated the reason for the persecution of Christians worldwide. It is because the world hates Him. Why? *If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin... If I had not done among them the works that none other man did, they had not had sin... – John 15:22, 24.* Before Jesus came to the earth, mankind could look at each other and say “I’m

not as bad as that person is, I’ve never murdered, I’ve never stolen,” much like the Pharisee did in Luke 18:10 – 14 – *I thank thee that I am not as other men... Once Jesus came to the earth, those rationalizations were no longer valid. As a result, the world strikes out against God, and against Christians. Jesus also stated in Matthew 5:10 – 12: Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.)*

Three Christian missionaries from Oklahoma-based group killed in Haiti

May 27, 2024 -- *Voice of America News* reports: “Three Christian missionaries from Missions in Haiti were shot and killed in an ambush by a gang in Haiti, the Oklahoma-based group said Friday. The missionaries were shot by gang members at about 9 p.m. CDT (0200 GMT) Thursday, the group said in two

Facebook posts.

Months of gang violence in Haiti have forced the government into retreat, and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has warned the country is close to becoming a failed state.

Haiti’s main international airport in Port-au-Prince reopened this week, nearly three months after it shut due to deadly gang-related violence. But gangs still control much of the capital, and Haiti’s main seaport remains closed...” (*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 – Revelation 2:10.* Jesus said in the Beatitudes: *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you – Matthew 5:10 – 12.)*

ABANDONING ISRAEL?

PM Netanyahu answers Biden: ‘If Israel is forced to stand alone, Israel will stand alone’

May 9, 2024 -- *Israel National News* reports: “Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded on Thursday to U.S. President Joe Biden’s threats by sharing a video of an address he had made several days earlier to social media.

In the address that Netanyahu shared, which he made on Sunday at the ceremony marking Holocaust Remembrance Day at Yad Vashem, the Prime Minister stated: ‘Eighty years ago, in the Holocaust, the Jewish people were totally defenseless against those who sought our destruction. No nation came to our aid.’

‘Today, we again confront enemies bent on our destruction.’

Netanyahu continued: ‘I say to the leaders of the world, no amount of pressure, no decision by any international forum, will stop Israel from defending itself.’

He concluded by pledging: ‘As the Prime Minister of Israel – the one and

only Jewish state – I pledge here today from Jerusalem on this Holocaust Remembrance Day: If Israel is forced to stand alone, Israel will stand alone. But we know we are not alone because countless decent people around the world support our just cause. And I say to you, we will defeat our genocidal enemies. Never again is now!’...” (*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore. – Psalm 121.*

We believe that the second half of verse 1 should actually be a part of verse 2. *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills – possibly the Psalmist is looking up and seeing himself surrounded by*

enemies. *From whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth – Israel’s help always has been and always will be from the Lord. Notice especially verse 4 – “Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.”* During his confrontation with the prophets of Baal, Elijah mocked the prophets after they were unable to get a response from Baal. I Kings 18:27 states: “*And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.*” God does not sleep, and He will preserve Israel. See the next two reports.)

Biden in message to Israel: I will stop sending bombs over major invasion of Rafah

May 9, 2024 -- *Israel National News* reports: “U.S. President Joe Biden told *CNN* on Wednesday he would halt shipments of American weapons to Israel if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu orders a major invasion of the city of Rafah.

‘Civilians have been killed in Gaza as a consequence of those bombs and other ways in which they go after population centers,’ Biden told *CNN’s* Erin Burnett in an exclusive interview, referring to 2,000-pound bombs that Biden paused shipments of last week.

‘I made it clear that if they go into Rafah – they haven’t gone in Rafah yet – if they go into Rafah, I’m not supplying the weapons that have been used historically to deal with Rafah, to deal with the cities – that deal with that problem,’ Biden added.

Biden said while the U.S. would continue to provide defensive weapons to Israel, including for its Iron Dome air defense system, other shipments would end should a major ground invasion of Rafah begin...

Betrayal of allies: U.S. pauses munitions, while threatening Israel’s security – editorial

May 10, 2024 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: “Amid the conflict in Gaza, the United States administration’s decision to delay a crucial shipment of munitions to Israel is not just a logistical delay; it is a major erosion of trust between staunch allies.

On a seemingly ordinary Monday, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin made a startling revelation: the U.S. would withhold one shipment of essential munitions from Israel due to concerns about possible civilian casualties in the strategic Rafah region. This announcement added a layer of complexity and doubt at a time when decisive action is most needed. Austin’s move strikes at the heart of the operational readiness of the IDF and sends a worrying signal about the U.S.’s resolve to stand by its ally.

The timing and reasoning behind this pause are particularly troubling. It came during a critical phase of Israel’s operations against Hamas, a terrorist organization that poses a relentless threat to the security of Israeli civilians. Allies depend on consistent and reliable support in times of crisis; however, this decision by the U.S. suggests a wavering commitment, raising questions about its reliability as a strategic partner...

IDF: We have enough arms for Rafah; PM: ‘We’ll fight with our fingernails’ if needed

May 10, 2024 -- *The Times of Israel* reports: “The Israel Defense Forces

asserted Thursday that the military had enough munitions for its planned missions, after United States President Joe Biden threatened that some arms shipments would be frozen if Israel launched a planned offensive in southern Gaza’s Rafah.

‘The IDF has armaments for the missions it is planning, including missions in Rafah. We have what we need,’ IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said, responding to a question at a press conference...

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in his first direct response Thursday to Biden’s warning, said that if Israel ‘has to stand alone, we will stand alone.’

‘During the War of Independence 76 years ago, we were few against many,’ he said. ‘We had no weapons, there was an arms embargo on Israel, but with the strength of the soul, the bravery and the unity within us — we won.’

‘Today we are much stronger,’ Netanyahu continued. ‘We are determined and we are united to defeat our enemy and those who seek to destroy us... If we need to, we will fight with our fingernails. But we have much more than fingernails.’...

(“For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; but because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations” – Deuteronomy 7:6-9. It is amazing that Israel, a nation whose land mass fits inside Lake Michigan, is considered the 8th most powerful nation in the world. See the next three reports.)

Israeli source: Rafah will be conquered – even without U.S. assistance

May 9, 2024 -- *Israel National News* reports: “A senior Israeli source on Thursday morning said that Israel will

conquer Rafah – with or without U.S. weapons shipments.

The statement follows a threat by U.S. President Joe Biden that the U.S. will halt weapons shipments to Israel if there is a major invasion of Rafah.

‘We have enough means to enter Rafah and conquer it without U.S. aid,’ journalist Amit Segal quoted the source as saying. ‘Rafah will be conquered regardless.’

The source stressed that ‘the main problem is the message that this sends to Hezbollah and Iran – that Israel will come to the clash in the north seemingly without weapons. Biden has made a grave mistake – both ethically and politically.’

Foreign Minister Israel Katz also responded to Biden’s statement, writing, ‘Israel will continue to fight Hamas until [Hamas] is eradicated. There is no war more just than this.’...

Netanyahu: ‘It’s either us – Israel, or them – the Hamas monsters’

May 13, 2024 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: “Israel is in an existential war in which defeat is not an option, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said during Monday’s ceremony at the Mt. Herzl Military Ceremony to mark the annual Remembrance Day.

‘It’s either us – Israel, or them – the Hamas monsters of Hamas,’ he said, as the country paid homage to fallen soldiers from all its wars, as a time when it was battling the terror group in Gaza.

What is at stake, Netanyahu said, is Israel’s ‘existence, liberty, security and prosperity.’

Should Israel fail, it could face another October 7th-like attack, in which there would be ‘torture, massacre, rape and slavery.’

Israel, he said, is ‘determined to win this fight. We have exacted and will exact a heavy price from the enemy for his criminal acts.’

‘We will achieve the goal we set out for victory, central to which is the return of all the hostages,’ Netanyahu stated...

Israeli official says ‘no power’ will stop Israel from combating Hamas

May 24, 2024 -- *YnetNews.com* reports: “The International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague is set to announce its ruling on Friday on South Africa’s

appeal for a motion to stop the IDF's operation in Rafah. Despite concerns in Jerusalem ahead of the ruling, a government official told the Reuters news agency, 'No power on Earth will stop Israel from protecting its citizens

and going after Hamas in Gaza.'

The appeal is part of a broader lawsuit accusing Israel of carrying out genocide in Gaza. Estimates in Israel say the likelihood of South Africa's original demand for stopping the war in Gaza

being accepted is moderate, but the chances of partial acceptance of the demand, focusing on a cease-fire in the Rafah area and issuing additional orders to increase humanitarian aid to the Strip, are higher..."

DEATH TO ISRAEL

Iran's Khamenei tells visiting Hamas chief that Israel 'will one day be eliminated'

May 23, 2024 -- *The Times of Israel* reports: "Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei met Wednesday with Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, who visited Tehran as the Palestinian terror organization's representative at the funeral for Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi after he died in a helicopter crash. 'The divine promise to eliminate the Zionist entity will be fulfilled and we will see the day when Palestine will rise from the river to the sea,' Khamenei told Haniyeh during a meeting at his office. The Hamas politburo chief responded: 'God willing we will see that day together.'

The Iranian leader also commented on the anti-Israel protests that pro-Palestinian students are holding on university campuses in the United States and elsewhere.

'Who would have believed that one day, slogans in support of Palestine would be raised in U.S. universities and that the flag of Palestine would be raised there? Who would have believed that one day in Japan in demonstrations in support of Palestine, the slogan 'Death to Israel' would be chanted in Persian?' he was quoted as saying by the *Tehran Times*..." **(When will Israel be destroyed? The answer is found in a 1970's Country music song lyric – "Exactly one minute past eternity." It will never happen. God has promised Israel: I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off. – Isaiah 56:5. Jesus will reign from Israel forever: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the**

Lord of hosts will perform this. – Isaiah 9:6-7; 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; But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. – Micah 4:1-3. See the next report.)

Chants of 'Death to Israel' as masses throng Raisi funeral procession in Tehran

May 22, 2024 -- *The Times of Israel* reports: "Huge crowds of Iranians thronged the streets of the capital Tehran on Wednesday for the funeral procession of president Ebrahim Raisi and his entourage, who died in a helicopter crash.

In the city center, mourners clutching portraits of Raisi gathered in and around the University of Tehran, where Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, led the prayers.

Flanked by top officials, Khamenei said prayers over the coffins of the dead, who also included Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

The leader of Palestinian terror group Hamas outside of Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh, joined the procession, as did the deputy leader of Lebanese terror group Hezbollah, Naim Qassem.

'I say once again... we are sure that the

Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its support for the Palestinian people,' Haniyeh told the crowd to chants of 'Death to Israel.'..."

Anti-Israel groups call for 'worldwide escalation' with 'intifada in every capital'

May 28, 2024 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Several anti-Israel groups called for worldwide escalation and disruptions in cities and universities in response to the ongoing military operations against Hamas in Rafah on Monday.

'Escalate protests to an open intifada in every capital and city in order to deprive the world from its heavy slumber that comes at the expense of the bodies and remains of those that survive; disrupt all facets of daily life until our people can breathe freely without the taint of the Israeli, American, and European war machine,' said a call for a 'worldwide escalation' issued by the small Gaza Group, but was shared by the Harvard Palestine Solidarity Committee, Princeton SJP, Penn Students Against the Occupation, Writers Against the War on Gaza

The anti-Israel groups not only called for the paralysis of normal life outside of the Levant, but also across 'historic Palestine, from every checkpoint and street corner to the face of every settler and soldier.'

The call for escalation came in response to an Israeli airstrike on two Hamas senior commanders on Sunday which caused the accidental death of dozens of Palestinian civilians..." **(Why do the heathen 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. See the next report.)

'Muslim Terrorists Are in Our Midst': Florida Imam Calls for Annihilation of All Jews

May 14, 2024 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: "Jews — who are 'tyrannical' and the 'brothers of apes and pigs' — should be 'annihilate[d],' according to a Florida Islamic cleric, who also accused Israel's army of being 'worse than the Nazis.'

During a sermon at the North Miami Islamic Center in Florida in late April, Imam Dr. Fadi Kablawi called for Allah to support 'our oppressed brothers' in Palestine, as well as for the total annihilation of Jews, whom he referred to as 'apes and pigs' — a phrase that radical Islamists have historically used to describe Jews.

'Oh Allah, annihilate the tyrannical Jews... for they are no match for You,' he said. 'Oh Allah, annihilate the brothers of apes and pigs... [and] cut off their seed.'

A clip of the sermon, which was originally streamed live on the mosque's Facebook page and later published by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), garnered nearly 80,000 views as of Monday afternoon..."

Calls to murder Jews after explosion in Rafah

May 27, 2024 -- *Israel National News* reports: "Palestinian Arab media is accusing Israel of a 'massacre' at the temporary camp north of Rafah, after according to them eight missiles were

launched at the site, causing 30 deaths and hundreds of injuries.

A Telegram Channel affiliated with the Islamic Jihad terror group published calls for revenge against Israel for the 'massacre' in Rafah.

'The solution now is to be armed. The solution now is bloodshed. The solution now is to die for Allah,' read one message.

'The solution now is to answer the call to enlist by Abu Khaled (Mohamed Deif, the commander of the Hamas militant wing) on October 7th. The solution now is not a strike or a march. The solution is war.'

Another message stated: 'You sons of al-Karmi, A'biyat, Ayash, Tawalbeh, Jaradat, Barghouti, al-Hunud, and Ayat (Fatah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad officials who Israel eliminated), you sons of the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the inside (within 1967 Israel), you who carry weapons: kill them (the Jews) every place you find them.'...'' **(Why are the Jews so persecuted? Answer — the Devil, and I Chronicles 21:1 states: ...Satan stood up against Israel... and every anti-Semitic Jew hater is controlled by this demonic spirit. See the next two reports.)**

Two men accused in UK of plotting ISIS-style machine gun terror attack on Jews

May 16, 2024 -- *The Times of Israel* reports: "Two men accused of plotting to gun down Jews in an Islamic State-inspired attack in northwest England were held without bail Tuesday after appearing in a London court.

Walid Saadaoui, 36, and Amar Hussein, 50, were accused of planning to use machine guns to kill Jews, police and military personnel, prosecutors said in Westminster Magistrates' Court.

The duo face charges of preparing terrorist acts between December 13 and May 9..."

U.S. man threatened synagogue he'd 'kill all the Jews and the children'

May 27, 2024 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "A California man was

arrested on Friday for threats against several North Carolina synagogues, law enforcement, and elected officials, including a threat to a rabbi that he would murder his congregants and their children, the U.S. Justice Department said in a statement.

Huntington Beach resident Kevin Dunlow, 62, allegedly contacted a rabbi on May 7 and told him 'Jews didn't deserve to live. Jews didn't deserve to be on this earth. I'm going to kill the Jews. I'm coming to the Temple to kill all the Jews and the children.'

The Wake County Sheriff's Office received bombing threats from Dunlow, who faced 10 years in prison for the charges of threats to harm and false bomb reports..."

Palestinian Columnist: 'We Do Not Want a Ceasefire, We Want Ongoing War'

May 15, 2024 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: "A Palestinian columnist writing in Arabic in a Qatari newspaper declared this week: 'We do not want a ceasefire, we want ongoing war. Victory is at hand.'

Palestinian journalist Samir Al-Barghouti, writing in the Qatari daily *Al-Watan*, as translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), made the case for war to continue as a means to highlight the Palestinian cause.

Al-Barghouti argued that the world had forgotten about the Palestinians until the October 7 terror attack, but now — thanks to the spectacular violence, and to protests in the west, the 'free world' is united behind the Palestinians..."

(Hamas's goal is found in Psalm 83:4: Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. As Dr. Van Impe has emphatically stated before — it won't happen. God has promised: ...I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off — Isaiah 56:5.)

RUSSIA AND THE KINGS OF THE EAST

Putin renews oath for fifth term with Russia under firm control

May 7, 2024 -- *BBC.com* reports: "For

the fifth time Vladimir Putin took the long walk through the Grand Kremlin Palace to the St Andrew's Throne Hall.

There he took the oath of office and was sworn in as Russia's president for a new six-year term.

‘We are a united and great people. Together we will overcome all obstacles, we will bring all our plans to fruition, and together we will win,’ President Putin told an audience of ministers and dignitaries.

The red carpet route may have been familiar to him. But much has changed since President Putin’s first inauguration ceremony in May 2000.

Back then, President Putin pledged to ‘preserve and develop democracy’ and to ‘take care of Russia.’

Twenty-four years on, the Kremlin leader is waging war against Ukraine; a war in which Russia has suffered heavy losses. At home, instead of developing democracy, President Putin has been curtailing it: jailing critics, removing all checks and balances on his power.

‘Putin thinks of himself now as Vladimir the Great, as a Russian tsar,’ believes Fiona Hill, a former White House national security advisor...’ (Vladimir Putin has been in power as either the Prime Minister or President of Russia since 1999. He has in essence, set himself up as ruler for life in Russia, much as Xi Jinping is set to be ruler for life in China. Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 predict the union of Russia and China [Revelation 16:12; Daniel 11:44] as leaders in the battle for the greatest war in history called Armageddon – Revelation 16:16. Revelation 9:14 – 18 pictures its upcoming disastrous results.)

Russia’s message to Britain

May 7, 2024 -- *Israel National News* reports: “A threatening statement released by the Kremlin stated that ‘British military facilities may be targeted’ by the Russian army. A similar threat was also directed at France.

The threats from Russia come after statements by French President Emmanuel Macron and British Foreign Secretary David Cameron, who expressed support for Ukraine’s right to use British weapons in the war with Russia, and Macron did not rule out the possibility of deploying French troops to assist Ukraine in the war.

In addition, the Kremlin announced the start of military exercises involving the use of nuclear weapons, in response to the statements of Macron and David Cameron. British and French ambassadors in Russia were summoned for clarification at the Russian Foreign Ministry, where they were informed

that Russia sees France and Britain as being ‘de facto’ involved in the war...” (Russia in Bible prophecy is the main instigator of death and suffering during Armageddon – Revelation 16:16. Ezekiel chapters 38 & 39, which Dr. Van Impe 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 he 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 report.)

Russia is Preparing to Launch ‘Physical Attacks’ Against West, Says British Intelligence Chief

May 15, 2024 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “While Russia is already advanced in encouraging ‘non state cyber actors’ to attack the West, it is moving towards grooming other groups for ‘physical attacks’, the chief of Britain’s eavesdropping and cyber security bureau has said.

The West needs to be prepared for what may amount to state-backed terrorist attacks for Russia, the director of the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) spy agency Anne Keast-Butler has warned in a rare address. As previously reported, however, several instances of such activity are alleged to have already been discovered by European police and security agencies, suggesting this new trend is already well underway...”

Xi, Putin hail ties as ‘stabilising’ force in chaotic world

May 16, 2024 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: “Leaders Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin framed their nations’ ties as a stabilising force in a chaotic world as they met Thursday in Beijing, where the Russian president is seeking greater Chinese support for his war effort in Ukraine.

It is Putin’s first trip abroad since his March re-election and the second in just over six months to China, an economic

lifeline for Russia after the West hit it with unprecedented sanctions over its military offensive in Ukraine.

Putin was greeted by Xi at a grand welcoming ceremony outside Beijing’s Great Hall of the People, footage by state broadcaster *CCTV* showed.

In a meeting, Xi then told his ‘old friend’ Putin that China-Russia relations were ‘conducive to peace’.

‘China is ready to work with Russia to... uphold fairness and justice in the world,’ Xi added.

Putin, in turn, told Xi the two countries’ relations were ‘stabilising factors in the international arena’.

‘Relations between Russia and China are not opportunistic and not directed against anyone,’ Putin said, according to a Kremlin readout.

‘Together, we uphold the principles of justice and a democratic world order that reflects multipolar realities and is based on international law,’ he added...”

(China will become a basic partner with Russia for the rapidly approaching battle of Armageddon – Revelation 16:16. Russia will lead invasion number one – Ezekiel 38 & 39. China will lead invasion number two – Revelation 16:12; Revelation 9:14 – 16. Then all nations will come against Jerusalem for the final invasion at which point Jesus will return to stop the bloodshed and set up his eternal kingdom upon earth – [He gathers] *all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken... Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south* – Zechariah 14:2 – 4. Then Psalm 2:6 occurs as God the Father says: *...I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion [Jerusalem].* See the next report.)

Russian, Chinese defense ministers tout close bilateral ties during meeting

May 1, 2024 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: “The defense ministers of Russia and China have emphasized the close bilateral ties between the two nations even as the United States voices displeasure over China’s stance on the

Ukraine war.

China's Dong Jun met with Russia's Sergey Shoigu in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Friday during a meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization member nations, and both leaders made statements affirming their cooperation.

'We are determined to implement all agreements reached at the highest level,' the Russian defense chief said, according to an official statement.

The two sides, he said, generally agreed 'on the fundamental issues of the current world order and pressing international problems.'

Russia and China 'are consistently working to build comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation' in a world where 'new hotbeds of tension are emerging and things are getting worse in the existing ones. In fact, this is the result of the West's geopolitical escapades and selfish neocolonial activities,' Shoigu said.

Meanwhile, China's Dong said it is 'particularly important that the relations between our armed forces maintain a high dynamic and respond to the trends of the times,' the Russian state news agency TASS reported.

The relationship between the two countries 'is important for strategic stability on the planet,' Dong said...

China says tailed, 'issued a warning' to U.S. Navy ship in South China Sea

May 10, 2024 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "Beijing's military on Friday said it had tailed and issued a warning to a U.S. Navy ship near the Paracel Islands in the disputed South China Sea.

China 'organised naval and air forces to tail and monitor the ship in accordance with laws and regulations and issued a warning to drive it away', military spokesman Tian Junli said in a statement.

The guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey 'illegally intruded into China's territorial waters near the Xisha Islands without approval from the Chinese government', Tian said, referring to the Paracel Islands by their Chinese name.

'The actions by the United States seriously violate China's sovereignty and security,' he added...' (God help America. Revelation 9: 14 – 18 is the prophecy describing Armageddon: ... *Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.*" The good news is that Dr. Van Impe dogmatically believed that this battle is fought after the Rapture: "*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; ...I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter – Revelation 4:1; ... the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord – I Thessalonians 4:16 – 18. Rest upon God's Word: Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ – Titus 2:13)*

North Korea Condemns China for Supporting 'Denuclearization'

May 28, 2024 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: "North Korea on Monday

lashed out at South Korea, Japan, and even Pyongyang's patron China for supporting the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula at a summit in Seoul.

North Korea's rhetoric was par for the course with regard to South Korea and Japan, but unusually harsh against China, which went out of its way to avoid criticizing the North Korean regime during the summit.

China was less insistent on denuclearization at this weekend's summit than it was at a similar event held in the Chinese city of Chengdu in 2019. The trilateral meeting issued a statement on Monday that said disarmament and stability on the peninsula are important for all three countries, but avoided the phrase 'complete denuclearization' of the Korean Peninsula, which appeared in the 2019 joint statement.

'We reiterated positions on regional peace and stability, denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the abductions issue, respectively. We agree to continue to make positive efforts for the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue,' the new statement said.

'Abductions' refers to North Korea's horrific policy of kidnapping Japanese citizens during the 1970s and 1980s. A few of the abductees were later returned to Japan, but the Japanese government has long demanded a full accounting of all of their fates. North Korea periodically claims to be 'investigating' the matter, without results...' (Even if North Korea gives up its nuclear weapons, there are enough remaining in the world to create havoc. 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.)

SIGNS IN THE SUN, MOON AND STARS

Russia accuses U.S. of seeking to place weapons in space

May 21, 2024 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "Russia on Tuesday said the United

States was seeking to place weapons in space, the latest accusation in an ongoing row that comes a day after Washington vetoed a Russian non-proliferation

motion at the United Nations.

'They have once again demonstrated that their true priorities in the area of outer space are aimed not at keeping space

free from weapons of any kind, but at placing weapons in space and turning it into an arena for military confrontation,’ Russia’s foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

The two superpowers have traded multiple accusations of seeking to weaponise space in recent months.

In February, Washington said it was concerned by an ‘anti-satellite capability that Russia has developed’ after U.S. media outlets reported that intelligence agencies had warned their allies that Russia could launch a nuclear weapon into orbit.

Moscow denied those accusations as ‘malicious’ and ‘unfounded,’ saying it does not possess such systems.

Russia has since levelled similar charges at the United States...” **(Jesus said: And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 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. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh— Luke 21:25 – 28.

Everyone in the world is dependent on satellites, especially for communication and navigation. You can well imagine the chaos if this system were disrupted. One post shall run to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to shew the king of Babylon that his city is taken at one end, And that the passages are stopped, and the reeds they have burned with fire, and the men of war are affrighted – Jeremiah 51:21,32 – lines of communication were disrupted in this passage – with frightening results. See the next report.)

Space Officials Outline Key Investments Needed to Ensure U.S. Maintains Edge

May 23, 2024 -- SpaceWar.com reports: “In testimony before a Senate Armed Services subcommittee, John D. Hill, deputy assistant secretary of defense for

space and missile defense, outlined key investments in DOD’s budget request for fiscal year 2025 needed to keep pace with challengers to the U.S. in the space-warfare domain.

‘We are clearly in a time of rapid change in the space strategic environment,’ Hill told the Strategic Forces Subcommittee. ‘One that does not favor the slow or those resistant to change.’

He noted efforts by China and Russia to rapidly field space and counterspace capabilities meant to degrade and challenge the joint forces’ use of space-based services that provide warfighters with key advantages on the battlefield.

‘The scale and scope of the threats in space present significant risks to the American people, to our national interests, [and] to allies and partners,’ Hill said...

‘Space has never been more critical to the security of our nation, and the success or failure of the joint force depends heavily upon the capabilities that we present,’ Guetlein said. ‘Repeated actions by both the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China underscore the urgency for action’...

KNOWLEDGE INCREASED

US vows to stay ahead of China, using AI for fighter jets, navigation

May 13, 2024 -- Voice of America News reports: “Two Air Force fighter jets recently squared off in a dogfight in California. One was flown by a pilot. The other wasn’t.

That second jet was piloted by artificial intelligence, with the Air Force’s highest-ranking civilian riding along in the front seat. It was the ultimate display of how far the Air Force has come in developing a technology with its roots in the 1950s. But it’s only a hint of the technology yet to come.

The United States is competing to stay ahead of China on AI and its use in weapon systems. The focus on AI has generated public concern that future wars will be fought by machines that select and strike targets without direct human intervention. Officials say this will never happen, at least not on the U.S. side. But there are questions about what a potential adversary would allow, and the military sees no alternative but to get U.S. capabilities fielded fast.

‘Whether you want to call it a race or not,

it certainly is,’ said Adm. Christopher Grady, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. ‘Both of us have recognized that this will be a very critical element of the future battlefield. China’s working on it as hard as we are.’...” **(The prediction in Revelation 13: 16 – 18 will soon occur. The rise in artificial intelligence and cyberwarfare. Here’s what happens at that hour in history after the Rapture mentioned in Revelation 4:1. Then the following Big Brother event occurs: ... he [the False Prophet] causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six – Revelation 13:16 – 18. See the next report.)**

US, China to hold AI talks in Switzerland

May 14, 2024 -- Voice of America News reports: “U.S. and Chinese officials plan to meet in Switzerland on Tuesday to discuss artificial intelligence security

concerns.

U.S. officials said the Geneva talks will not open the door for China to influence technology policy. Representatives from both countries will discuss ways to reduce the dangers associated with AI, U.S. officials said.

‘We certainly don’t see eye to eye...on many AI topics and applications, but we believe that communication on critical AI risks can make the world safer,’ a U.S. senior official said.

Beijing and Washington are in a tight race to dominate the AI landscape. China is leveraging AI ‘capabilities across civilian as well as military/national security sectors,’ a U.S. official said. Beijing’s use of AI could compromise ‘both U.S. and allied national security,’ he added.

Another official said the U.S. is competing with China to set the rules on AI and ‘explore if some of the rules can be embraced by all countries.’

The AI talks were initiated last month following U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s visit to Beijing, where he met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi...”