

Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

New Age Leader Deepak Chopra Asks: “Will Pope Francis Become a Holy Man for the World?”

March 8th, 2016 | By Ray Yungen and the Editors at Lighthouse Trails

In an article released in January 2016 written by New Age leader Deepak Chopra titled, “Will Pope Francis Become a Holy Man for the World?,” Chopra states, “Pope Francis I is poised to be more than a very popular pontiff . . . He could rise to become a symbol of holiness beyond the Catholic Church.” For those of us who aren’t Catholic, there’s a universal message voiced personally by the Pope: “No one can be excluded from God’s mercy. The question, then, is how potent this mission will be.

Chopra says that “millions of non-Catholics feel a fresh wind blowing” because of the Pope’s actions and that Pope Francis has “become a spiritual exemplar.”

In the article, Chopra gives some advice to Pope Francis, that he not become another “theological” pope but rather one with a “higher consciousness” and like the “Jesus” who was not theological but rather “enlightened.” Chopra adds:

“I hope in a corner of my heart that Francis can open himself to a kind of Super-ecumenical position, not only allowing that other faiths have validity, but seeing that the Eastern tradition of higher consciousness is in fact universal - we must be realistic. Spiritual experiences occur in consciousness. There is no reason to reject meditation as “not Christian” when the point is that meditation, among other contemplative practices, alters brain function. In so doing, specific regions of the brain are trained to register subtle perceptions. The deeper your perceptions, the more subtle the levels of reality you are comfortable with. At the deepest level, we encounter the entire history of spiritual awakening, which is the opening of the self to the self through expanded awareness. . . . If we are in fact witnessing the career of the most conscious pope in modern times, let him tell us more about consciousness and the spiritual fulfillment it contains.”

Pope Francis is well on his way to doing just that. As a Jesuit contemplative priest, he is very much drawn to this mystical higher consciousness. That is why he named Thomas Merton as one of four most meaningful people when he was in the United States last year. As we have often pointed out, Merton found Buddhist enlightenment in contemplative prayer. Merton’s view that God is in every person is summed up in this statement:

During a conference on contemplative prayer, the question was put to Thomas Merton: “How can we best help people to attain union with God?” His answer was very clear: “We must tell them that they are already united with God. Contemplative prayer is nothing other than “coming into consciousness” of what is already there. (Brennan Manning, *The Signature of Jesus* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1996, Revised Edition), p. 211.)

Deepak Chopra and many other are hoping that Pope Francis will be that one who will bring the entire world into "superconsciousness" (the realization that man is divine). Remember the Parliament of World Religions this past fall that Lighthouse Trails reported on (see links below). It was a New Age/New Spirituality gathering of emerging church leaders, New Age leaders, Eastern religious leaders, and others who were looking for a "Coming Messiah" as Alice Bailey "prophesied" who could save the world. And who was the figure everyone was talking about at the Parliament with enthusiasm and hope? None other than Pope Francis.

As Jordan's King warns of civil war inside Islam & says Jordan has reached the boiling point, President Obama finally makes time to meet with him.

Here's the latest. by Joel Rosenberg

(Jerusalem, Israel) -- For months now, Jordan's King Abdullah II has been urgently warning Western leaders in blunt and stark language that the tidal wave of Syrian refugees into his country and the barbaric violence of the Islamic State poses a clear and present danger to his kingdom. He needs significantly more military and financial assistance than he is currently getting, and he needs it quickly.

ISIS is engaged in "a third world war" against the West and moderate Sunni Arab governments like his own, says the 54 year old monarch.

Jordan has reached "the boiling point," he adds. "Jordanians are suffering....and sooner or later I think the dam is going to burst."

"We need the rest of the world to work with us," the King insists. "This is why I say it [must be] Muslims, Christians, Jews, other religions, all of us fighting this global fight together. It is a war inside of Islam, it is our civil war, but we cannot do it by ourselves."

The King has taken his message to U.S. and European reporters, news anchors and conferences of world leaders. So far, he hasn't seen much response. And the stakes couldn't be higher.

Jordan has welcomed in more than 1.3 million Syrian refugees. Its spending a quarter of its annual budget on people who aren't Jordanian citizens. They are at the breaking point. Yet last year, the international community provided only about 35% of the financial aid they had promised to the Hashemite Kingdom. What's more, thus far the U.S. and international military effort against ISIS has been half-hearted. Today, the influence of ISIS is steadily growing. Its leaders are emboldened. And they are looking to hit new targets, like Jordan.

Adding insult to injury, in January -- as readers of this column will recall -- President Obama said he was too busy to meet when the King went to Washington on official business. In the end, the President carved out five minutes for the West's most faithful Sunni Arab ally. That was shameful.

Fortunately, the President made more time for Jordan's King last week -- finally. The two leaders met at the White House on Wednesday for an extended discussion of the current state of the fight against the Islamic State, the state of the Syrian civil war, the enormous financial pressures Jordan is facing, and other critical regional issues.

The meeting seemed to go well. The President praised the monarch as "one of our most stalwart allies in the world" and rightly noted that "Jordan is a country that punches above its weight when it comes to the fight against ISIL."

The King, in return, graciously thanked the President, Congress and the American people for their

generous military and financial aid to his kingdom. "We are so grateful for the support that you've shown me and our people, our country," he said. "Truly, no country other than the United States has given us so much support -- whether it's to the economy so that we can take the challenge of refugees to our country, but also to the military and security so that we can defend our borders, but also secure our people."

"I'm actually leaving Washington very optimistic about the level of support from the United States," the King added.

I'm glad the meeting happened. I'm glad the President has increased U.S. aid to Jordan in recent years. But I am not as optimistic as the king about the future. I believe Jordan is in grave danger from ISIS terrorism -- including chemical attacks -- and from the mass of Syrian refugees who I fear could be incited to launch an uprising in the hopes of trying to topple the kingdom. Thus, I believe the U.S. should be doing far more to help our Jordanian friends.

We need to pull out all the stops in our campaign to defeat ISIS, starting with liberating Mosul and all of northern Iraq from the ISIS scourge. At the same time we should be pressing our European allies and the rich Sunni Arab states to provide more financial aid to Jordan. And we should be working far more closely to build a strong alliance between Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states not just against ISIS but against the threat of a nuclear Iran, as well.

U.K. Police Warn ISIS Plotting 'Enormous and Spectacular Attacks' on West

BY: Morgan Chalfant
March 7, 2016 12:04 pm

ISIS, the terror group that claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks last November, is plotting "enormous and spectacular attacks" on the West, according to a senior British police official.

Mark Rowley, the Metropolitan police assistant commissioner, said Monday during a press briefing on the terror threat against the U.K. that authorities have detected more plans to launch attacks on "western" lifestyles, The Guardian reported.

"In recent months we've seen more plans to attack western lifestyle ... [ISIS has gone] from that narrow focus on police and military as symbols of the state to something much broader. And you see a terrorist group that has big ambitions for enormous and spectacular attacks, not just the types that we've seen foiled to date," Rowley told reporters.

"You see a terrorist group that while on the one hand has been acting as a cult to use propaganda to radicalize people to act in their name ... you also see them trying to build bigger attacks," Rowley continued.

Rowley further stated that ISIS has encouraged operatives who have underwent military training in Syria to travel to northern Europe and launch attacks there. Concerns of possible terrorist attacks in Europe and the United States have increased with the rise of ISIS in the Middle East, particularly following the coordinated attacks in Paris last November that killed 130 people.

Rowley said that U.K. authorities are prioritizing the search for potential links to terror networks.

"[The] shared effort to look for any possible links of those networks or other networks that have reached

the U.K. is obviously a massively high priority,” Rowley stated.

The U.K. has seen a considerable increase in terrorism arrests in recent years. The count of individuals arrested on suspicions of terrorism increased by 57 percent in the most recent three-year period when compared with the previous three years. Roughly half of these apprehensions led to suspects being charged.

Women accounted for 14 percent of counterterrorism arrests made in 2015, and 13 percent were age 20 or younger. Rowley said that these statistics point to the success of ISIS propaganda and the terror group’s ability to reach a diverse group of people.

“That would not have been the picture that one would have seen a few years ago. That is an indication of that radicalization, the effect of the propaganda and the way the messages of Daesh [ISIS] are resonating with some individuals,” Rowley said.

Collapse Of Italy's Banks Could Plunge The European Financial System Into Chaos



image:

<http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/images/recent/italymarch082016.jpg>

The Italian banking system is a "leaning tower" that truly could completely collapse at literally any moment. And as Italy's banks begin to go down like dominoes, it is going to set off financial panic all over Europe unlike anything we have ever seen before.

I wrote about the troubles in Italy back in January, but since that time the crisis has escalated. At this point, Italian banking stocks have declined a whopping 28

percent since the beginning of 2016, and when you look at some of the biggest Italian banks the numbers become even more frightening.

On Monday, shares of Monte dei Paschi were down 4.7 percent, and they have now plummeted 56 percent since the start of the year. Shares of Carige were down 8 percent, and they have now plunged a total of 58 percent since the start of the year. This is what a financial crisis looks like, and just like we are seeing in South America, the problems in Italy appear to be significantly accelerating.

So what makes Italy so important?

Well, we all saw how difficult it was for the rest of Europe to come up with a plan to rescue Greece. But Greece is relatively small - they only have the 44th largest economy in the world.

The Italian economy is far larger. Italy has the 8th largest economy in the world, and their government debt to GDP ratio is currently sitting at about 132 percent.

There is no way that Europe has the resources or the ability to handle a full meltdown of the Italian financial system. Unfortunately, that is precisely what is happening. Italian banks are absolutely drowning in non-performing loans, and as Jeffrey Moore has noted, this potentially represents "the greatest threat to the world’s already burdened financial system".

Shares of Italy's largest financial institutions have plummeted in the opening months of 2016 as piles of bad debt on their balance sheets become too high to ignore. Amid all of the risks facing EU members in 2016, the risk of contagion from Italy's troubled banks poses the greatest threat to the world's already burdened financial system.

At the core of the issue is the concerning level of Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) on banks' books, with estimates ranging from 17% to 21% of total lending. This amounts to approximately \$200 billion of NPLs, or 12% of Italy's GDP. Moreover, in some cases, bad loans make up an alarming 30% of individual banks' balance sheets.

Things have already gotten so bad that the European Central Bank is now monitoring liquidity levels at Monte dei Paschi and Carige on a daily basis. The following comes from Reuters...

The European Central Bank is checking liquidity levels at a number of Italian banks, including Banca Carige and Monte dei Paschi di Siena, on a daily basis, two sources close to the matter said on Monday.

Italian banking shares have fallen sharply since the start of the year amid market concerns about some 360 billion euros of bad loans on their books and weak capital levels.

The ECB has been putting pressure on several Italian banks to improve their capital position. The regulator can decide to monitor liquidity levels at any bank it supervises on a weekly or daily basis if it has any concern about deposits or funding.

A run on the big Italian banks has already begun. Italians have already been quietly pulling billions of euros out of the banking system, and if these banks continue to crumble this "stealth run" could quickly become a stampede.

And of course panic in Italy would quickly spread to other financially troubled members of the eurozone such as Spain, Portugal, Greece and France. Here is some additional analysis from Jeffrey Moore...

A deteriorating financial crisis in Italy could risk repercussions across the EU exponentially greater than those spurred by Greece. The ripple effects of market turmoil and the potential for dangerous precedents being set by EU authorities in panicked response to that turmoil, could ignite yet more latent financial vulnerabilities in fragile EU members such as Spain and Portugal.

Unfortunately, most Americans are completely blinded to what is going on in the rest of the world because stocks in the U.S. have had a really good run for the past couple of weeks.

Headlines are declaring that the risk of a new recession "has passed" and that the crisis "is over". Meanwhile, South America is plunging into a full-blown depression, the Italian banking system is melting down, global manufacturing numbers are the worst that we have seen since the last recession, and global trade is absolutely imploding.

Other than that, things are pretty good.

Seriously, it is absolutely critical that we don't allow ourselves to be fooled by every little wave of momentum in the stock market.

It is a fact that sales and profits for U.S. corporations are declining. This is a trend that began all the way back in mid-2014 and that has accelerated during the early stages of 2016. The following comes from Wolf Richter:

Total US business sales - not just sales by S&P 500 companies but also sales by small caps and all other businesses, even those that are not publicly traded peaked in July 2014 at \$1.365 trillion, according to the Census Bureau. By December 2015, total business sales were down 4.6% from that peak. A bad 18 months for sales. They're back where they'd first been in January 2013.

Sales by S&P 500 companies dropped 3.8% in 2015, according to FactSet, the worst year since the Financial Crisis.

I know that a lot of people have been eagerly anticipating a complete and total global economic collapse for a long time, and many of them just want to "get it over with".

Well, the truth is that nobody should want to see what is coming. Personally, I rejoice for every extra day, week or month we are given. Every extra day is another day to prepare, and every extra day is another day to enjoy the extremely comfortable standard of living that our debt-fueled prosperity has produced for us.

Most Americans have absolutely no idea how spoiled we really are. Even just fifty years ago, life was so much harder in this country. If we had to go back and live the way that Americans did 100 or 150 years ago, there are very few of us that would be able to successfully do that.

So enjoy the remaining days of debt-fueled prosperity while you still can, because great change is coming, and it is going to be extremely bitter for most of the population.

Read more at

http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=176#WV5jtYedoQwtW85R.99

Jacob's Sheep are Coming Back Home

Thursday, March 03, 2016 | Tsvi Sadan



"Let me go through all your flocks today and remove from them every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb" (Genesis 30:32).

The largest flock of one of the most ancient breeds of sheep, the Jacob Sheep, is found today in, of all places, the Canadian town of Abbotsford in British Columbia.

Gil and Jenna Lewinsky own 80 of these rare small spotted sheep that can grow up to six horns. Some say these are the very descendants of the breed that resulted from Jacob's mysterious breeding technique that made him a wealthy man on the run.

The Lewinskys' hope to bring these sheep back to the place of their origin will soon be realized after Rafi Barak, Israel's Ambassador to Ottawa, endorsed their efforts to bring the flock to Israel.

On February 23, CIJ News reported that "Ambassador Barak came to give an endorsement on the Jacob Sheep project and offered to continue to help facilitate their return. 'The first thing I did when I heard of this [project] from Jenna was, I opened the Bible to see if this is a true story. We have been helping Jenna and Gil with connecting with the Agricultural Ministry and we found that it is right for the Israeli culture to give the green light for this and to help it.'"

Barak has also said that the embassy follows "the project and do our best to help more than a year after the Lewinskys contacted us. Now there has been great progress in bringing the sheep and it is evident

that the Ministry of Agriculture is trying to help the issue. We hope that all the bureaucratic procedures required to bring the sheep [to Israel] will be completed soon and will be brought to the ground."

For their part, the Lewinskys have noted that "Israel currently only has Awassi sheep, which originated in the Syrian-Arabian desert. The Jacob sheep are an artifact of ancient Israel and prove that the story of Jacob and Laban took place."

(Editor's note: the CCA connection here is that there is a family in Canada that watches all of our services livestream and that also raises Jacob Sheep. They know this couple and are asking for prayer that the Lord blesses the transplanting of true Jacob Sheep back where they belong - In Israel. MD)

The Largest Behavioral Conditioning Experiment In History Has Begun

The largest behavioral conditioning experiment in the history of mankind has just begun in China and, for those who value their freedoms in the West, one can only pray it never makes it here.

A citizen score system has been developed which will rate each citizen on the basis of their political views, their expression on social media, the kinds of purchases they make, and their credit scores.

These scores, ranging between 350-950, will be taken into account when handing out loans, approving travel visas, and other grants from the government.

Such scores could also be used to determine who will have access to certain types of jobs. Essentially, your life opportunities will be determined by this score.

Where this system gets even more manipulating is that the scores of one's family and friends can also affect your score, thereby ensuring a social pressure to behave in the approved manner lest it affect those you know and care about.

There will be no hiding your score from family or friends and its impact on them, as everybody will have the ability to check anyone else's score online.

Once this system is in place, the government will have a very effective method of reinforcing the kind of behavior it believes to be politically and socially correct.

The scores will be linked to China's national ID card and, while currently voluntary, the government has announced that it will be mandatory by 2020.

Opponents of a national ID system in the US will no doubt point to the Chinese system as a warning for the US of what can happen when big government and big data get together.

Since most of the big social networks and payment gateways in China are controlled by Alibaba and Tencent, the two companies have been roped in to run this citizen score system for the government.

Yahoo, an American company, is a major stockholder in Alibaba and is already a participant in this oppression of the most populous nation on earth.

This blatant abuse of power should serve as a warning to Americans who are, themselves, handing away their liberties without realizing the consequences.

Every year Americans give away more and more personal information about themselves that makes assembling a profile on them very simple.

All the information required to enable such a system here is already easily available to the government through the cooperation of the major corporations in the country.

Think about it: you are being tracked everywhere you go through software on your phones, your laptops and computers send back usage reports, advertisers have enough information about you to target their products with increasing precision and all of your personal data on social networks is being mined for whatever use deemed necessary.

Credit card companies already use numerous factors in determining your risk as a card holder. With so much data made available it will be tempting for these companies to incorporate other non-financial indicators to determine one's credit worthiness .

With more and more people dependent upon government financial aid in the United States, it is not hard to see how a government that wants more control over its citizenry might one day want to take advantage of combining political manipulation with financial benefits or lack thereof.

Christian prophecy experts make note of the fact that Revelation 13 specifically speaks of a time in the future in which the "mark of the beast" is directly connected to political support for the "Beast" or Antichrist.

One will not be able to buy or sell without this mark and it is clearly a mark of loyalty and allegiance.

The merging of political allegiance and the ability to conduct commerce is clearly only beginning.

Read more at

http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?popular_news_slot=2L#fOe8PB4pTwOpVsyH.99