

Newsbytes

The First Watch

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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

Darkness falling over Turkey. Israel tells its citizens to leave Turkey immediately as ISIS threat to Jews & Christians grows.

March 28, 2016 at 7:07 pm

Joel Rosenberg

I've been to Turkey at least a half dozen times over the years and have always loved it there. Just last October, I traveled to Istanbul for a series of meetings. I visited the Blue Mosque and various locations that I'd written about in *The Third Target*, including the area of restaurants and cafes where I'd set a fictional terrorist attack.

I'm so glad I went, but it's going to be awhile before I go back. Turkey is fast turning from a moderate, peaceful democracy — indeed, long model of tolerance in the Islamic world since the fall of the Ottoman Empire in the early 1920s — into a dangerous dictatorship under President Erdogan, an increasingly tyrannical Islamist. What's more, Turkey is becoming both a transit point for ISIS and al Qaeda and other jihadists, and even a target of Radical Islamic terrorism.

On March 20th, for example, a suicide bomber with links to ISIS blew himself up in the heart of Istanbul, killing four and wounded 36 people. Among the dead were three Israelis, including two with dual U.S.-Israeli citizenship. Eleven more Israelis were among the wounded. It was just one of many recent attacks.

Intelligence agencies are warning that Jews and Christians could be targeted with more terror attacks soon. Now the Israeli government is warning its citizens to leave Turkey immediately.

Soon, I plan to write more about the darkness falling over Turkey, a country I love dearly and one where I've taken my wife and children repeatedly over the years.

For now, here's more on the warning issued to Israeli citizens:

“The Counter-Terrorism Bureau at the Prime Minister's Office on Monday issued a travel warning calling on the public to avoid visiting Turkey and urging Israelis currently there to leave as soon as they can,” reports the Times of Israel.

The warning, which raised the terror risk in Turkey from level 3 (basic concrete threat) to level 2 (high concrete threat), came in the wake of a terror attack in central Istanbul on March 19, in which three Israelis were killed and several others wounded,” the Times noted. “That attack, the PMO said in a statement, underscored the threat emanating from Islamic State cells that seek to attack tourism sites and proved that IS has ‘high capabilities of carrying out further attacks.’”

“Terrorist infrastructures in Turkey continue to advance additional attacks against tourist targets –

including Israeli tourists – throughout the country,” the statement added. Israelis in Turkey should “leave as soon as possible.””

On Saturday, Turkish police warned of possible Islamic State attacks against Christians and Jews. “IS has been blamed for four of six bombings that have rocked Turkey in the past eight months, including a double suicide attack at a peace rally in the capital, Ankara, in October that left 103 people dead,” noted the Times.

“The police have warned that IS group members may have scouted out places of worship as well as consulates and embassies, saying that churches and synagogues especially in Ankara, as well as foundations belonging to non-Muslims, should be on their guard,” the article noted. “Israel has not stated definitively whether last Saturday’s blast had deliberately targeted Israelis. It has praised Turkey for its handling of the aftermath of the bombing. The Israeli victims of the attack were Yonathan Suher, 40, Simha Dimri, 59, and Avraham Goldman, 69. Suher and Goldman were also United States citizens.”

Joel Osteen Says He's Not Cheating People by Not Preaching About Hell

March 28, 2016|12:48 pm

Lakewood Church Pastor Joel Osteen says he isn't cheating anyone by not talking about Hell and repentance, insisting that people feel guilty enough already, and he wants to lift up believers instead of bringing them down.

When asked in an Easter Sunday interview by CBS News' "Sunday Morning" program "Do you feel like you're cheating people by not telling them about the Hell part? Or repentance part?" Osteen answered: "No, I really don't, because it's a different approach."

He continued: "You know, it's not hellfire and brimstone. But I say most people are beaten down enough by life. They already feel guilty enough. They're not doing what they should, raising their kids — we can all find reasons. So I want them to come to Lakewood or our meetings and be lifted up, to say, 'You know what? I may not be perfect, but I'm moving forward. I'm doing better.' And I think that motivates you to do better.

Osteen, who leads one of the largest megachurches in the U.S., also rejected suggestions that one has to be "poor and broke and defeated to show that you're humble," and noted that his father, John Osteen, came from humble beginnings, before he founded Lakewood.

"You know, my dad was very, very poor," the pastor said. "No milk, no food, no heating in the winter. And you know what? He stepped up. And he had a big dream for his life. And look what he's done for us. And so my whole thing is, you don't have to stay there. You gotta believe that you can rise higher."

Osteen also revealed that his ministry spends as much money supporting missionaries, TV evangelizing efforts, and paying staff as it earns.

"In just big broad terms, \$30 million goes to the TV effort. What's left, it's paying staff, it's supporting missionaries and missions' work, it's just the organization of making it go. So if we bring in, you know, \$90 million this year, we will spend \$90 million," he explained.

Osteen has on numerous occasions denied that he preaches a "watered-down" version of the Gospel, stating in a February 2012 message that for many years religion has pushed down people, and people have been told that they can't measure up to God.

"My goal is to make God good and let them know, hey, I tell them all the time, God's smiling down on you right now. You're his child. He's got a great plan for your life. You can overcome mistakes, and to me, that draws people to God," the Texas megachurch pastor said at the time.

Read more at

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/joel-osteen-says-hes-not-cheating-people-by-not-preaching-about-hell-160267/#pbYMICVfUfxCtRHt.99>

How Powerful Is Israel's Military Compared To Rest Of World?

Israel's military is the 9th strongest in the world, according to the international defense site Global Firepower (GFP), which released its annual list on Friday.

In its rankings, GFP said, it only took conventional military capabilities into account when compiling its list, which includes a total of 126 countries.

It also factored in 50 other criteria, such as natural resources, geographical size and economic strength.

The United States topped the list, followed by Russia and China in second and third place, respectively.

While Israel was outranked by countries such as India (4th) and South Korea (8th), its conventional military strength exceeded that of other countries in the region, including Iran, Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

The Jewish state also ranked higher than some European countries, including Germany (14th) and Italy (16th).

Read more at

http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=219#bXp0EKsZk2AEctbv.99

Iris And Face Biometrics Could Be Coming to the iPhone

Posted on March 28, 2016

Apple may be planning its first serious departure from its usual iPhone design with a new device planned for 2017, according to a note obtained by AppleInsider from KGI analyst Ming-Chi Kuo.

2017 iPhone Could Mark Major Design Departure

The device's launch is far off, but Kuo is worth heeding, given his strong track record in previous predictions using what appears to be inside information; the most recent example being Apple's new iPhone SE. Kuo says that the 2017 iPhone device will feature a curved display that could cover both its front and its back, as well as AMOLED (active-matrix organic light-emitting diode) display technology, which will replace the iPhone's traditional TFT LCD (thin-film-transistor liquid-crystal display) setup.

The new device is also expected to feature a wireless charging capability and enhanced biometric scanning including facial recognition and iris scanning. While Apple was the pioneering agent of the mobile biometrics revolution with its iPhones' Touch ID fingerprint scanning system, these other modalities are rising in prominence, and Apple's embrace of them – if true – would probably be a prudent measure to keep up with the cutting edge trends of the premium smartphone market.

While the supply of traditionally scarce AMOLED materials remains a question mark, Kuo evidently

believes this new iPhone will launch at some point in 2017. In the meantime, the new iPhone expected to launch this autumn will likely be another iteration of essentially the same model that has served as the premium market's mainstay, with modestly improved specifications.

Obama's Final Solution for the Jewish State

Time is running out.

March 24, 2016 Daniel Greenfield 635

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Daniel Greenfield, a Shillman Journalism Fellow at the Freedom Center, is a New York writer focusing on radical Islam.

Obama's campaign against Israel has run into one major obstacle... Muslim terrorists.

Every Obama attempt to force Israel to make concessions to the Islamic terrorists who run the Palestinian Authority has been rejected by the terrorists. No matter how much Obama got Israel to offer, it was never enough.

Abbas, the leader of the PLO, Fatah and the Palestinian Authority, has turned down every Obama offer culminating with the latest offer brought now by Biden on a visit where Abbas' political movement had celebrated the murder of Taylor Force, an Iraq War veteran. Like the "moderate Taliban" and the Muslim Brotherhood, Obama's outreach to Muslim terrorists failed because of the terrorists.

In the last major effort at a peace process with the PLO, Obama attempted to bypass this problem by effectively having Kerry negotiate with Israel on behalf of the terrorists. Kerry pretended to "facilitate" negotiations between Netanyahu and Abbas, but in reality it was only Kerry and Netanyahu at the table. Kerry pressured Israel into making numerous concessions to the PLO while negotiating for the PLO.

As one Israeli official put it, "At one point we discovered that throughout the entire period, the Americans didn't actually talk to the Palestinians, only to us."

According a senior American official, the Obama-Kerry position was closer to the PLO side and so they didn't even bother negotiating these arrangements with the PLO.

Obama and Kerry had explicitly become proxy negotiators for an Islamic terrorist organization.

But the Obama plan to impose his own framework on Israel failed once Abbas was brought into the loop. The terror leader rejected the Kerry plan. Just as he rejected Biden's latest offer. Not even a two hour meeting with Obama in the Oval Office could change his mind.

Once again, Obama had been hung out to dry by the Islamic terrorists he had been trying to help. No matter how close his position is to the terrorists, it's never close enough.

Kerry nevertheless blamed Israel, not Abbas. The White House position is that it's Netanyahu's fault. In a recent Atlantic piece, Obama blamed Netanyahu for being too "fearful" to bring peace. While this makes for great propaganda justifying further hostility toward Israel and Netanyahu, the actual obstacle is Abbas. You can't negotiate with Islamic terrorists. All you can do is surrender to them.

Abbas has shown that he won't accept a peace plan. Negotiations have failed every time. And every failure undermines the Obama narrative that Israel is to blame. It's hard to keep that myth alive when Netanyahu agrees to negotiate and Abbas doesn't, when Israel makes concessions and the PLO won't.

And yet Obama is determined to achieve his goals for Israel and the Middle East before he leaves office. To do that, he has to bypass the negotiations process and impose his own solution without having to get consent for it from the PLO. That means that like the Iran deal, it won't be binding on terrorists. But it will be binding on the United States and on Israel. It will go through an international forum such as the United Nations to avoid the humiliation of Abbas rejecting yet another Obama offer.

The peace process with the PLO has amounted to decades of Israeli concessions in exchange for nothing. Even the most hypothetical concessions quickly became the default starting point in the next round of peace proposals. Every experimental measure, no matter how it failed, was soon set in stone.

The Obama framework would be a radical set of demands for Israeli concessions disguised as a peace plan. These are demands that Israel could not afford to agree to, but that the terrorists would still consider insufficient. There is no carrot here. Only a set of heavier and sharper sticks.

Israel is expected to agree to the demands in fake multilateral negotiations with the terrorists, that are really only negotiations between Obama and Netanyahu, or Obama will present his own wish list for Israeli concessions unilaterally to the UN. Either Israel kicks Obama's football one more time in the hopes of getting something out of it or it doesn't kick the football and loses even more as the US joins an anti-Israel pressure bloc at the United Nations to impose those same terms on the Jewish State.

Netanyahu has tried to run out the clock on Obama. Now that the clock is actually running out, the danger hour is here. Obama is ideologically opposed to Israel. He has nursed a personal grudge against Netanyahu. And he refuses to leave office without a trophy to justify his disastrous foreign policy.

Obama's support for Islamic terrorists has led to disaster everywhere else in the region. Israel is his last bet for making his program of supporting Islamic terrorists finally pay off in a political jackpot.

A final agreement in which both sides will agree to coexist is not on the table here. If there were even a possibility of that, Obama would not have cut Abbas out of the process the way that he did. Instead the peace process has been boiled down to its essential element of pressuring Israel into expanding the existing the PLO terror state while getting nothing in return except more terrorism.

The next step in a process that led to rockets falling on Tel Aviv and Jerusalem is supposed to move forward with the ethnic cleansing of hundreds of thousands of Jews from their homes and international troops deploying in Israel.

All these were already on the table at the last negotiations. And the terms will only get worse.

This is not a peace process since peace is not the expected or desired outcome. The only agenda here is the expansion of a terror state at the expense of Israel, at the expense of the lives, homes and property of the Jews living there, and at the expense of the future of the Jewish state. No one seriously believes that Obama's framework will bring peace. Instead it will increase terrorism while moving on to demands for more territory even deeper inside Israel, whether through territorial claims or the right of return.

Obama knows that he can't even achieve an agreement with the terrorists. He also knows that Israel will attempt to negotiate in good faith. So he's preparing to trash the last remnants of the negotiating protocols to simply impose a set of concessions on Israel as an international framework for peace.

The previous negotiations featured PLO demands for concessions as a pre-condition to talks. Obama will dispense with the talks entirely and skip right to the concessions. There may be a meaningless acknowledgement slipped in there that Israel is the "nation-state of the Jews", a point that the PLO won't acknowledge and that is a formality that achieves nothing of any strategic and territorial worth. But it will

be a mandate for the drastic expansion of a failed Islamic terror state that has abandoned even its ritual fake elections and that subsidizes its Islamic terrorism with American taxpayer money.

At the last negotiations, Obama's people openly served as proxy negotiators for the terrorists. Now they're going to skip straight to imposing the demands of the terrorists on the Jewish State.

To justify this radical course of action, this final break with the pretense that the Democrats are supportive of Israel, a hate campaign against Israel and Netanyahu has been whipped up in the media. The familiar narrative blames Israel for the lack of peace, even though it's Abbas who rejected Obama's own peace offers more than once. The demonization of the Jewish State is a necessary prerequisite to the final betrayal. Israel has to be depicted as utterly unwilling to make peace with the terrorists, forcing Obama to impose his own solution. Each White House attack on Israel was preceded by propaganda laying the groundwork for its actions by demonizing Israel and Netanyahu.

The more you hear this "Big Lie" in the media that Israel is to blame for everything, the closer Obama is coming to his final solution for the Jewish State