

Newsbytes

The First Watch

No. 770

Since 2001

May 4, 2016

Newzbytes is a ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

www.ccapleton.org

“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

This week's connect-worthy dots: the church is crawling home to Rome on its hands and knees, and apparently the geopolitical scene will bend that way as well. Sounds like prophecy to me...MD

All Roads Lead to Rome: Why Italy May Soon Replace Germany as EU's Flagship

© Sputnik

While the German economic dinosaurs continue to push the European Union to the brink of crisis, “wily and agile” Italian leaders may soon outmaneuver them and become Europe's major driving force, UK-based economist Anatole Kaletsky wrote.

Italy may soon pick up the baton of European leadership, outmaneuvering Germany, the EU's longstanding flagship.

The German government is unwilling to consider broader European interests if threatens its own political and economic interests and this spells trouble to other EU leaders.

"Merkel's high-handed refusal even to consider broader European interests if these threaten her domestic popularity has become a recurring nightmare for other EU leaders," UK-based economist and Chief Economist and Co-Chairman of Gavekal Dragonomics Anatole Kaletsky wrote in his article for Project Syndicate, referring to Berlin's bullying of Greece, Merkel's inconsistent refugee policies as well as her "mismanagement of the Minsk agreement in Ukraine."

"In short, Merkel has done more to damage the EU than any living politician, while constantly proclaiming her passion for 'the European project'," the economist stressed.

Hypocrisy, Your Name is Angela Merkel

Europe, disillusioned with German leadership, is now seeking out new leader.

Alas, Britain, France and Spain do not suit since they have recently been bogged down in their own domestic issues.

Incredible as it may seem, Italy is an obvious candidate for this role, according to Kaletsky. "Italy is resuming its historic role as a source of Europe's best ideas and leadership in politics, and also, most surprisingly, in economics," he underscores, pointing to remarkable achievements of the European Central Bank's (ECB) President Mario Draghi, energetic Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and his team.

According to Kaletsky, Italy is leading a "quiet rebellion" against the pre-Keynesian economics of Berlin and the European Commission.

Indeed, after more than a decade of stagnation and repeated financial crises Italy's economy has emerged from recession. Under Renzi, the country has kicked off labor, pension, and administrative reforms that were merely unthinkable in the past.

"For the first time in at least three years, there are hopes the Italian economic cycle is changing for the better and that the improvement can be sustained," James Politi of the Financial Times wrote a year ago in his article "Italy: Back on its feet."

At the same time, the ECB's Italian president Draghi has transformed the financial institution into "the world's most creative and proactive central bank," Kaletsky remarked.

Draghi's program of quantitative easing has saved the euro by circumventing the Maastricht Treaty's rules against monetizing or mutualizing government debts, the economist narrates, adding that the ECB president is facing strong German opposition, most notably from Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble.

However, in his latest interview with Germany's leading newspaper, BILD, Draghi struck back at his critics.

"Our policy [of cheap money] is working, but we must be patient; investor confidence has not yet been fully restored. For two years, the economy in the euro area has been growing month by month, banks are lending and unemployment is steadily falling," Draghi underscored, stressing that "the ECB obeys the law, not the politicians."

Meanwhile Italy's banks, especially Unicredit, have caught a second wind due to efficient policies conducted by Italian Finance Minister Pier Carlo Padoan.

According to Kaletsky, "the renaissance of Italian self-confidence and leadership" can be observed not only in the country's domestic politics but also in its foreign policy strategy.

"Italy is leading an effort to repair relations with Russia after the Ukraine confrontation and to strengthen cooperation over Syria. This campaign appears to be bearing fruit with a gradual lifting of EU sanctions against Russia, starting this summer," the economist emphasized.

Italy's bid for leadership is a step in the right direction, he noted. "With luck, a new breed of wily and agile Italian leaders will out-manuever the blundering German dinosaurs, whose outdated rules and doctrines are leading the EU toward extinction," Kaletsky concluded.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20160428/1038779165/italy-eu-leader.html#ixzz479Gk7WAj>

Back to the Future: Microsoft to Store Data on DNA

In the latest search for a long term solution to preserve data, computer giant Microsoft is buying ten million strands of synthetic DNA from a Silicon Valley start-up Twist Bioscience to encode digital information.

"For a society that compulsively creates and stores huge amount of data, our short-lived digital storage techniques don't satisfy their purpose as archives neither in scope or lifespan," Twist Bioscience says on its latest blog detailing why new methods for storing data need to look back at the world's oldest – DNA.



Twist Bioscience based in San Francisco, California believes the "digital revolution would be invisible to history because its structures are virtual, and its infrastructure is disintegrating", which is a good enough reason for the engineering company to reach a deal with Microsoft and the University of Washington to encode swathes of information on synthetic genes.

"Our silicon-based DNA synthesis platform offers unmatched scale and product quality that vastly accelerates the ability to write DNA at a cost enabling data storage," Dr Emily Leproust, CEO of Twist Bioscience said following

the announcement of the partnership.



DNA data storage could last up to 2,000 years without deteriorating, according to research carried out by the American Chemical Society.

A single gram of DNA can store almost one trillion gigabytes of digital data.

However using synthetic DNA to store data is still in its embryonic stages and it is unlikely there will be a commercially viable product for a couple of years.

"The initial test phase with Twist demonstrated that we could encode and recover 100 percent of the digital data from synthetic DNA" Microsoft researcher Doug Carmean said.

According to EMC Corporation, the digital universe is doubling in size every two years and will multiply tenfold by 2020, from 4.4 trillion gigabytes to 44 trillion gigabytes.

Putting that into perspective, if a byte of data was a gallon of water, in just ten seconds there would be enough water to fill a house – by 2020 – it would take only two seconds to fill up.

It might well be the start but synthetic DNA data storage could one day become a solution to future proofing the world's virtual data.

Read more:

<http://sputniknews.com/science/20160428/1038791365/microsoft-data-dna-storage.html#ixzz479GLszJ6>

Deliverance

By Matt Ward Raptureready.com

"Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed" (Isaiah 65:20).

The global situation for Israel becomes more dire by the day.

Opponents are becoming increasingly emboldened and outrageous in their demands of the tiny Jewish state. Many within the West, including those within the Church, see her days as numbered; in the eyes of these people, Israel's end is a mere inevitability.

Yet this is not so. In a recent article titled, "God will not abandon Israel" [1], I discussed how the covenants established between God and mankind, through Abraham and then later confirmed with his children, ensured Israel's eternal future. I discussed how these covenants were not conditional covenants, dependent upon the actions of both parties for their eventual fulfillment, but how they were unconditional in their nature.

Israel has an eternal future and the fulfillment of any of the four main biblical covenants has nothing at all to do with the actions of Israel. The responsibility for the fulfillment of these covenants rest entirely upon the Lord, upon God Himself. To question the right of Israel to the land they currently occupy, or worse—to teach that Israel has been cast away by God because of past disobedience, is to question the integrity of God. It is a blasphemy, because in doing so one is testifying to his or her belief that God is a liar. This is absolutely contrary to the character of God,

"God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" (Numbers 23:19).

Paul affirms this core truth in the New Testament,

“...in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time...” (Titus 1:2)

Instead of seeing the rejection of Israel, her dispersal around the world in a global Diaspora that lasted nearly two thousand years, and then her subsequent re-gathering from the four corners of the earth, is an amazing fulfillment of Bible prophecy. A large number of people today, and in the Church, are willfully accepting a lie. Many have been deceived.

The modern western Church, fast growing into one of Israel's greatest critics, should in fact be her greatest ally and defender. Instead of the vitriol that is spewed from pulpits about Israel's lack of so-called “legitimacy,” we should be witness to Israel's robust defense, week after week, in sermon after sermon in the churches we attend.

This abandonment of Israel is one of the clearest signs of the times and a crystal clear indicator that the apostasy spoken of by Paul is already here. We are deeply enmeshed in this apostasy already. It will soon get much, much worse.

This apostasy, borne out of an almost complete biblical illiteracy, growing apathy from the body of Christ and blatant false teaching from pastors who should know better, is leading a multitude of “Christians” down a path of outright rebellion against God.

False teachers who seek only to collect for themselves followers to influence, are wolves in sheep's clothing, “...for whom the blackest darkness is reserved forever” (2 Peter 2:17).

It is ironic and utterly shameful that the position the church should be occupying today, defending Israel against a hostile world, will be the exact same position that the Antichrist himself will come to occupy. He will appear as the great defender of Israel against an overwhelmingly an anti-Semitic, hate filled world.

He will assume the position the Church should be standing in right now. It is the Church's abdication of this role that has created this necessary void and will allow the Antichrist himself to come in and fill this role after the Rapture has occurred.

In the signing of his seven-year peace treaty, on the face of it defending Israel and her legitimacy for a time, Antichrist will no doubt—even cast a reproachful glance across at the church that remains and exists in that time post-Rapture, for their incessant antagonisms toward Israel.

What a perverse juxtaposition that will be. It is a mark of just how deep the current apostasy is becoming. There is not much falling away that has to happen now, beyond this point.

Homosexuality is now of no consequence. Members who are LGBT within the church, instead of being seen as those who need our help, patience and prayers are being celebrated as freedom fighters. Transgender ministers stand in the pulpit and declare that, “...an angel of reason” showed them that the Bible was wrong and they in fact were right, and they are lauded as an example by the church. Some churches even have avowed atheists as their ministers. The blind leading the blind.

This falling away has inevitably led to anti-Semitism within our own ranks. The social gospel preachers teaching in conferences like Christ at the Checkpoint 2016 are all wrong. Dead wrong. Israel is not an apartheid nation and they most certainly have not been abandoned by God, as many subtly imply in their messages.

Three of the most important chapters in the entire Bible are found in Romans 9, 10 and 11. These three chapters are so important that without a clear understanding of them and their implications, any Christian's worldview is open to being manipulated and warped.

These are the three main chapters in which the apostle Paul, not a disciple but an apostle because he was taught personally by revelation from Jesus Christ, reveals Gods will for his holy inheritance, Israel.

Any professing Christian who has doubts about the validity of Israel in God's eyes should spend some time alone

with these chapters. In them Paul encourages the Jews in Rome that Israel still has a future, even if as a nation they had just at that time rejected Jesus Christ as Messiah. Paul maintained a great love for his own people,

“I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen” (Romans 9:1-3)

Throughout all of Romans Paul is entirely consistent. He is consistent about the key truth that God is not partial, that God judges all men equally,

“...there is no difference between Jew and Greek (gentile)...” (Romans 10:12)

The main theme in Romans is how the only hope for mankind is through the gospel of Jesus Christ,

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:

“The righteous will live by faith” (Romans 1:16-17).

In Chapter 9, Paul asserts that the Jews as a nation are the chosen people of God, (vv. 1-5), but that they fell when they failed to recognize their Messiah because they were seeking salvation through works found in the Law, not righteousness through faith alone,

“What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone” (Romans 9:30-32)

The Jews fell because they were seeking salvation through works, not the righteousness that comes through faith alone. Like many in the modern social justice gospel, then? Or am I wrong about this?

Chapter 10 of Romans continues this discussion by explaining and clarifying that salvation for Jews and Gentiles is exactly the same; it is a matter of faith in Jesus Christ, not works or the law, (Romans 10:4-17).

Chapter 11 rounds the argument off by explaining that God has not abandoned Israel but that ultimately the nation currently, “...set aside...” by God will then find the salvation they have so desperately sought,

“...in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob” (Romans 11:26).

All Israel will be saved, Paul could not be clearer.

During the soon approaching Tribulation period when the people of Israel have, “...been refined in the fire,” they will call out to God in desperation as all their other hope at that point will be gone,

“This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God’” (Zechariah 13:9)

They will cry out to their God for their salvation, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” God will hear their cries and rescue them.

It will be at this time that, “...they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only son...” (Zechariah 12:10), as they recognize that the person currently known derogatively in Israel as, “...that Man,” was and is their Messiah and King, sent by God and promised in Scripture from Abraham onward.

He is Jesus Christ, God's Anointed One, promised eons ago as the Deliverer of all in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3).

Israel will, at this point, turn en masse back to God and accept Jesus as her Messiah, Lord and King. They will accept Jesus on a personal and a corporate level. Jesus will then come with His Bride, "...with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones (Jude 1:14), and He will personally save Israel and deliver them from the hand of Antichrist and all the worlds armies gathered against her.

Ominously, the text also states that when Jesus comes at this time he will also be coming to,

"...execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him" (Jude 1:15).

A new and glorious era will then begin for Israel and the world! A new era where Israel becomes, as God initially planned and intended, the preeminent nation of this world.

It will be a time when, "...In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, 'Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you'" (Zechariah 8:23).

Israel will no longer be despised or despoiled, but honored and revered as the chosen Holy nation of God, the nation through whom salvation came to the very ends of the earth and whose King, Jesus, will rule those nations, "...with an iron sceptre and shatter the nations like pottery," (Revelation 2:27).

His rule will be from his capital Jerusalem, the City of the King, and it's new name will be, "The Throne of the LORD" (Jeremiah 3:17).

This will be the time spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when the streets of Jerusalem will teem with the young and the old, at ease and finally at peace, "Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of age. 'And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets" (Zechariah 8:5).

Deliverance and restoration will have finally come to Zion! Amen.

A concluding word of warning though, to those who believe Israel to be abandoned of God. As Paul so clearly pointed out,

"If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this:

You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either." (Romans 11:17-21)

Israel is so very precious to God. Believe that and be on the right side of history.

Endnotes [1] <https://www.raptureready.com/soap2/ward48.html>

Billionaire Soros warns China is near economic collapse

by Utopia: the Collapse

April 2016 – FINANCIAL MARKETS - According to Soros, March was a troubling month in China. The indicator is the growth of credit in the nation's economy. The forecast for Chinese credit growth was an impressive 1.4 trillion yuan, but instead, the actual growth turned out to be 2.34 trillion yuan (\$362 billion USD). The concern is that the Chinese government is prioritizing growth over debt, and allowing debt to spiral out of control. It's a short-term way

to keep people happy, but it leads to long-term consequences. In the United States, an eerily similar situation developed in 2007 and 2008, just prior to the Great Recession.

The debt that was accrued in the U.S. at that time was used to cover already bad and dying debts and enterprises. The same appears to be happening in China today. Soros has previously predicted that Asian markets would fare poorly, suggesting that decline is “unavoidable.” This is common sense for investors. China's real estate is also on a bubble with home prices rising over 60 percent in some locations. This also happened in the U.S. prior to the crash.

With wages suppressed around the world, and with the wealthiest hoarding cash, the world's people are increasingly relying on credit to sustain their lifestyles. Much of this credit is bad debt, it will not be repaid. Eventually, markets will agree that too many people owe too much money and credit markets will tighten. But because nearly all growth is now dependent on credit, such a tightening in credit will result in a virtually guaranteed recession. This is why the Federal Reserve Bank in the U.S. is reluctant to raise interest rates, doing so could derail the fragile economic growth in the United States. And the same could apply to China, which is allowing credit to grow too fast. If the Chinese economy suffers a collapse, it will undoubtedly impact American markets and could trigger a recession in the United States. –CO

NATO reportedly plans to send 4 battalions to eastern border with Russia

According to The Wall Street Journal Friday, U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work confirmed the overall size of the force – about 4,000 troops – and said the reinforcements were a response to the increased Russian activity around the nations of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Western officials told the paper that the U.S. will likely provide two of the battalions and Germany and Britain will likely supply the other two.

“The Russians have been doing a lot of snap exercises right up against the borders, with a lot of troops,” Work said. “From our perspective, we could argue this is extraordinarily provocative behavior.”

Russia has repeatedly defended its increased military activity, saying they are a response to NATO's buildup and aggressiveness toward Moscow.

NATO officials said they want to make sure the force is as multinational as possible and are asking smaller allied countries to make contributions to supporting forces. Officials said Germany's role is particularly important because their Russian deterrence cements Berlin's role as a major player in NATO.

The Journal notes that Germany's move is unlikely to go over well. But Chancellor Angela Merkel and her top officials have been pushing to make a bigger play on international security matters. German officials are eyeing to lead a Lithuania-based battalion, but haven't come to an official decision.

Work said the exact U.S. contribution to the battalions were still being discussed and could be drawn from separate brigades the U.S. has said it would rotate in and out of Europe.

Tension between the U.S. and Russia has only increased in the last month after Russian jets have repeatedly buzzed U.S. warplanes and a Navy destroyer in the Baltic Sea. Work said the Baltic buzz was too provocative of a maneuver and Secretary of State John Kerry said the Navy could've shot the plane down.

“I grew up in the Cold War in the military, and when I heard the Russians buzzed the Donald Cook I said, ‘What is new?’ But it was really new,” Work said. “This type of activity, this type of repeated simulated attack runs, at an extremely low level is unsafe and dangerous.”

Russia defended its actions, saying the U.S. was operating too close to its military bases in Kalingrad.

Work said that more work has to be done to avoid a potential accident or crisis. The battalions need to be seen as a real deterrent against Russian aggression, U.S. and NATO officials have said.

Syria conflict: UN presses Russia to help save truce

UN envoy Staffan de Mistura is to meet Russia's foreign minister to discuss efforts to salvage the crumbling cessation of hostilities in Syria.

<http://www.briefreport.co.uk/news/syria-conflict-un-presses-russia-to-help-save-truce-4096263.html>

Mr de Mistura wants Russia and the US, which back opposing sides in the war, to work together to restore the partial truce they negotiated in February.

Washington has criticised Moscow for failing to rein in Syrian government forces around the city of Aleppo.

But Moscow says air strikes there have only been targeting "terrorists".

More than 250 people have died in Aleppo in the past 10 days, most of them civilians, activists say. About two-thirds of those deaths have been in the rebel-held eastern side of city, including 50 in an air strike on a hospital that the US says was deliberate.

On Tuesday, at least three people were killed and 17 others wounded in a rebel rocket attack on a hospital in the government-controlled Muhafaza district, state media said. Most of the victims were reportedly women and children.

'No excuse'

Speaking in Geneva on the eve of his meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Mr de Mistura described the nine-week-old cessation of hostilities in Syria as a "miracle", but warned it was "becoming very fragile".

He said the situation in Aleppo needed to be addressed urgently.

"There is no excuse for not finding, again, and reinvigorating and reinstalling and re-implementing what has been the only strong message the Syrian people have heard from all of us - that it is possible to have [peace] talks when finally the cessation of hostilities is reducing the violence," he added. The BBC's Steve Rosenberg in Moscow says the UN envoy knows that Russia has a vital role to play because of its close ties to Damascus and the influence it has on President Bashar al-Assad.

Mr de Mistura was speaking after holding talks with US Secretary of State John Kerry, who warned that the Syrian conflict was "in many ways out of control". Mr Kerry acknowledged that rebel forces were also fighting on the ground in Aleppo, but he made clear who he thought was chiefly to blame.

"You cannot have legitimate political talks about peace when the parties at the table have both signed up to an agreement which calls for a full cessation of hostilities countrywide as well as a full delivery of humanitarian materials countrywide, and yet one party is blatantly violating that agreement," he told reporters.

Mr Kerry said Washington would press rebels operating in Aleppo to distance themselves from the jihadist group al-Nusra Front, an al-Qaeda affiliate which is excluded from the cessation of hostilities.

Russia and the Syrian government have said they are targeting on al-Nusra militants, whom they consider terrorists. However, the US and the opposition have accused the government of indiscriminate attacks on civilians.

Mr Kerry later spoke by telephone to Mr Lavrov. The pair "agreed on new measures to be taken", the Russian foreign ministry said, without providing details.

A Russian military official separately said talks were under way on extending to Aleppo the "regime of calm" that was declared by the Syrian military over the weekend around the capital, Damascus, and the coastal province of Latakia.