

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

The World’s Largest Synchronized Women’s Meditation Event: “The Divine Feminine Rising”

Mary Danielson



There is an event going on today all over the world that at least deserves a mention. There is a lot of chatter in the culture about “rising up” and it’s going to continue. In the current atmosphere of mass victimhood, I would venture to say this type of trend exists to make sure that those who want to tell us what to think and what’s important get to have their say because they feel gravely threatened by the new administration that they so self-righteously refer to as “Nazis”, “haters”, and “racists”. Somehow, virtually overnight, a new president is causing their in-born human rights to disappear, never to be

seen again. The panic button has been pressed repeatedly. But contrary to popular belief, the new administration has not caused any of this mayhem, it has simply revealed it. A world gone mad is not the fault of a president who has only been in office 6 weeks, but there’s no convincing some folks of that. But never let a crisis go to waste, according to the powers that be.

From ABC’s “We Will Rise” mini-series to the “Divine Feminine Rising” mantra of this women’s meditation, from the “Arise with the Guys” conference with Peyton Manning to the “Arise Women’s Conference”, there is a societal/cultural/church move afoot to empower people to get their own way, and woe unto anyone who gets in their way. The world is in a knot...so is the visible social justice church, it’s all the same spirit of the age. If it were just silly marches and a lot of whining and poor sportsmanship, that would be one thing. But it’s not that simple. Allow me to stitch a couple things together.

The name of the game for some time has been transformation, in the church for at least a decade, and in our nation since around 2008 - and in this case, it’s the women who insist it’s their turn. The Women’s March that took place immediately on the heels of the inauguration was a base, revolting event that brought out the worst in uber-liberal, spoiled, filthy rich and intellectually challenged women who for the most part are completely detached from reality and what it means to actually be a woman. It would be easy to laugh it all off if it weren’t so offensive to us gals, and to men as well. I find it particularly mind-boggling that no one was willing to actually say what “rights” were lost in the previous week that provoked the march, or why a female Hamas member, a powerful globalist, and a female convicted murderer were somehow involved in helping women reclaim...something.

But where the left is concerned, it is way too much to ask to get reasonable answers to such questions. Nevertheless, the more agitated people become, the more they will clamor for “change” and “transformation”. Ahead warp factor 8.

So this mass women’s global meditation caught my eye this week. The trailer online for the event gives quite a bit of insight into this New Age feminist nonsense. It says:

*“We need you. We are the feminine rising. It is time to step up, to share our true power and wisdom, our compassion and sensitivity, nurturing, and emotional intelligence. To create a new world that honors the sacredness of all life. Future generations need us to move beyond blame, competition, judgment, envy and fear. It is time to remember who we are, beautiful, strong and loving. We are the women of the earth. Let us unify in global sisterhood. Join us for International Women’s Day as we ignite a wave of healing by gathering in sister circles all over the world, synchronizing in intention, meditation and prayer. Host or attend a circle in your area or tune in from home by joining our live meditation broadcast. Offering a prayer will be Mona Polacca, Hopi Havasupi elder of the International Council of the Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers. You or your circle can sponsor a woman in a war-torn region for an entire year of sisterhood and empowerment training. We are the feminine rising, **transforming ourselves**, transforming our world. Thousands of women will gather locally in circles around the world to connect, heal, nourish, and uplift together at 19:00/7:00 PM YOUR Local Time Zone, with a Heart Meditation and prayer by the facilitator or through our live audio broadcast.*

Let us all rise together with the power of the Divine Feminine!

(Apparently it’s not just about the above mission, but about becoming divine, which of course they never really explain in practice, but imply plenty concerning the real nature of “meditation”.)

This is truly spiritual transformation 2017 style. Now you’re thinking, “I’m not planning to involve myself in any such thing in the near future, so what does this have to do with me? To that I would answer, it goes far beyond having a new (read, “different”) president, and it should concern the church plenty, which is resembling the world more and more with each passing week. “RE think”, “RE imagine”, “REsurgence”, RE everything has been woven throughout nearly every program the church has imagined in the last 15 years. From contemplative prayer to “Christian” yoga and meditation, we’re all talking about the same spirit, folks, and it is far from harmless or just trendy. And since the church lacks discernment as a whole, the gap closes considerably on that dime alone.

Allow me to connect a couple dots as the whole world leans left of center, as if following an unseen script. These types of events in the church carry as big a warning label as the junk the world follows after.

For the last several years, we have received countless mailings in the church office promoting postmodern conferences, summits, and “transformational” festivals that also duplicate themselves around the country like bunnies, featuring trendy artists, hundreds of teachers no one has ever heard of, equally unknown and untested authors and hip musicians, solely to promote the idea that all things must change. I have often wondered who is paying the exorbitant entrance fees to see and be seen at these events. Some events have a political / social justice theme, such as the Willow Creek Summit each year in August; many others cater just to the youth and how to get them to think in a postmodern way while subtly pitching absolutes.

Now, I have yet to see in their promotions any mention of Jesus, or the work of the Holy Spirit or even one Scripture reference because after all, these are the real power sources in the believer’s life. Rather, these man-centered, numbers-driven events are clearly presenting something other than Spirit-led Christian growth - in fact, since they are presenting something other than *biblical truth*, its no wonder they need to heap up a lot of teachers to soothe all those itching ears out there, to re-program church leaders - and transform the church - into something quite unrecognizable to true bible believing Christians (formerly

known as “evangelicals”). I call it the Laodicean Church of the Perpetually Itching Ear.

So, allow me paint a broader picture: On the post-evangelical side of the aisle, we see a church increasingly defined by a progressive liberal social gospel, and a “red letters” cut-and-paste Jesus. We have been documenting that here since at least 2005 and it’s called “The Emergent Church” - and movers and shakers such as Brian McLaren, Jim Wallis, Doug Pagitt, Tony Jones, Richard Foster and countless more teach their followers to find God in art and music and mysticism, and to train our youth in “spiritual formation”. Have you heard that buzzword? Apparently they forgot 5 little letters: TRANS - formation. That’s more like it.

There is nothing innocuous about that phrase “spiritual formation”. It has nothing to do with being trained by the Word, disciplined in the faith, or submitting oneself to the head of the church, Jesus Christ. It has everything to do with mysticism, embracing Catholic traditions, and rejecting the narrow way described in the Scriptures. Now, I expect nothing of the world, and it will get darker and darker spiritually until the close of the age. But the church has her marching orders and they are not subject to change. And with all the popularity of yoga and meditation in the church, there are those who will see nothing wrong with participating in this mass women’s meditation, or any other social justice hullabaloo. Remember, “Laodicea” means “justice of the people”. How appropriate.

So, if the world and the church are continuing to blend and meld, then what do we make of 1John 5:19?
“We know that we are of God; and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.”

In light of this verse, one of the most sobering questions you can ask yourself is, if the church is imitating the world, and the world is under the sway of the wicked one...I will let you finish that disturbing train of thought for yourself.

The bible has much to say about transformation. Romans 12: 2 tells us “Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” This kind of transformation is only possible by the Holy Spirit and is the Greek word, “metamorpho”. This transformation happens TO us from an outside influence that can really only be God’s work if the end result is a sanctified, set apart life.

Alternately, 2Corinthians 11:14,15 speaks of another kind of transformation: “Do not marvel! For Satan himself **transforms himself** into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also **transform themselves** into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.” This satanic “transform” is the Greek word metaschematizo, where we get our word “schematics” from, referring to those who allow *themselves* to take on the persona of another, particularly the god of this age. However, *“We are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.”* Such timely verses are worth meditating on as we see the day approaching. The only thing I want to see “arise” is the church of Jesus Christ on that Day, as we shall all be eternally supernaturally changed, in the twinkling of an eye.

Maranatha!

Mary D.

Target Retailer Hits \$15 Billion Loss Since Pro-Transgender Announcement

Breitbart.com

The stock value of transgender-champion Target Corp. crashed by 13.5 percent this week after the company's sales again fell below investors' expectations.

Target's stock value is now down by 30 percent since it sparked a consumer boycott by embracing the transgender political agenda. That 30 percent drop has slashed investors' wealth by roughly \$15 billion.

On Tuesday, the stock fell to \$58.78, down from its April 19 high of \$83.98. In contrast, WalMart is up 3 percent since April, and Kohl's is down less than one percent.

Company officials indirectly acknowledged the consumer boycott. "Our fourth-quarter results reflect the impact of rapidly changing consumer behavior, which drove very strong digital growth but unexpected softness in our stores," Target CEO Brian Cornell said in a company statement. The company also admitted that it would likely continue to experience losses through the year.

Leaders at the American Family Association highlighted the company's worsening situation. "The American Family Association has called for a boycott of Target since last April after the chain publicized the fact that it would allow men to use the women's restrooms and fitting rooms in their stores," said a statement from Tim Wildmon, president of the AFA. He continued:

"This [policy] is unacceptable for families, and the dangerous and misguided policy continues to put women and children in harm's way. Men don't belong in the same bathroom as our wives and daughters."

Target shares are at the lowest level since 2014.

The company's earnings and stock prices have experienced a steady downward trajectory since its April 2016 decision to allow men and women to choose whatever bathroom or changing room they want to use at any given time in retail outlets across the nation. In the company's April 19, 2016, statement, the store said, "we welcome transgender team members and [customer] guests to use the restroom or fitting room facility that corresponds with their gender identity."

A month later, even in the face of a developing stock crash, Target CEO Cornell insisted that the #BoycottTarget movement mounted after the company's transgender bathroom decision had nothing to do with the fall in stock prices.

The company's stock price and earnings have never recovered since the 2016 announcement. In fact, the company's outlook has been so dismal that earlier this month the company abruptly shuttered a pair of high-profile projects that were expected to lead the company into its future of retailing.

I've been telling everyone to watch the rise of cryptocurrencies for a couple years now, if you don't know what these digital currencies are, there is a tract for that. Feel free to request one.

Here is the latest:

Bitcoin Is Better Than Gold

forbes.com Panos Mourdoukoutas

Bitcoin has left gold in the dust in recent months.

The Bitcoin Investment Trust Shares have almost tripled in value in the last twelve months, gaining more than 30 percent in the last three months alone. Meanwhile, SPDR Gold shares are down 3.78 percent in the last twelve months and up 4.49 percent in the last three months.

Apparently, Bitcoin is more popular than gold among investors.

Is it just hype or something fundamental about the digital currency. It's hard to say. What's not hard to say is that there's a growing mistrust of national currencies, following dubious government policies, which has pushed people into Bitcoin.

The last three months in the digital currency rally, for instance, has coincided with India and Venezuela's efforts to get rid of old currency notes.

Prime Minister Modi and President Maduro have very little in common -- except they have pursued policies late last year that replace large notes in circulation with new notes (India) or with coins (Venezuela).

For different reasons, of course. Prime Minister Modi has been trying to fight corruption, a widespread problem in India. And President Maduro has been trying to fend off capital flight from the ailing Venezuelan economy.

Then there are a couple of advantages that make Bitcoin better than gold, at least for the millennial generation, which understands the digital currency better than the baby-boomer generation.

Unlike gold, for instance, Bitcoin is a convenient medium of payments around the globe, though for a limited number of transactions.

Then, there's scarcity. Bitcoin supply is expected to be limited to 21 million. The supply of gold, on the other hand, is expected to increase anytime its price rises, as it provides an incentive for gold miners to mine for gold.

To be fair, gold has its own advantages, too. It can be used as an outright gift, to make jewelry, and in manufacturing of certain products.

That's why investors shouldn't rush to substitute the yellow metal for the digital currency in their portfolio.

Especially if they don't quite understand the nature of the digital currency.

With Natural Gas Shipments to Jordan, Israel Becomes Energy Exporter

by BICOM | 03.03.17 9:54 am

Israel has been exporting gas to Jordan since January, it was announced on Thursday.

Yossi Abu, CEO of Israeli company Delek Drilling, said that “since early this year we started to export, it’s not huge quantities, but it’s still an export to Jordan.” Delek and American company Noble Energy hold controlling stakes in Israel’s Leviathan and the smaller Tamar gas fields and have been largely responsible for their development so far. This is the first time ever that Israel has exported energy.

The AFP says that the gas exports to Jordan are part of a £400m (\$490 million) 2014 deal with two state-owned companies, Arab Potash and Jordan Bromine, to import 2 billion cubic meters (71 billion cubic feet) of gas from the Tamar field over 15 years.

Abu also said yesterday that a 300-mile long underwater pipeline could be completed by 2020, which would allow Israel to supply gas to Turkey. According to Reuters, Abu said: “This is the target.” He added that other potential export destinations include Egypt, Europe and Palestinian power plants in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

In September, the Leviathan gas field partners, which also include Nobel and Delek as well as Israeli company Ratio, agreed a £7.7bn (\$9.4 billion) deal over fifteen years to supply Jordan with around 45 trillion cubic meters (1.59 trillion cubic feet) of gas, making Israel Jordan’s primary gas supplier. The Leviathan field is expected to start operating at the end of 2019.

The Leviathan and Tamar natural gas fields, were discovered in 2010 and are thought to contain enough to supply the Israeli market for a century.

Development of Israel’s nascent energy industry was thrown into doubt in December 2014, when Israel’s antitrust regulator recommended ending Noble and Delek’s dominance in Israel’s natural gas development. This led to public protests and accusations that the Government was giving the energy companies too good a deal. A year later an agreement was reached between the government and the regulator as to how exactly the industry would be overseen and monitored, including profit sharing between the state and the energy companies.

Iran tests Russian purchased S-300 missile system, confirms it operational

Iran acquired system in summer of 2016, deploying the S-300 system to its underground nuclear facility Fordo; Iranian General warns system is “deadly to our enemies” and makes Iran’s skies “more secure”

Iran’s Air Defense successfully tested its Russian purchased S-300 system, announcing on Saturday that the system is operational and that it is “deadly for our enemies”.

Iran confirmed it successfully tested the long-range surface-to-air missile system on Saturday, Air Defense General Farzad Esmaili warning “The S-300 is a system that is deadly for our enemies and which makes our skies more secure.”

Iran purchased the S-300 missile defense system from Russia, the arms deal renegotiated before sanctions were removed from the Islamic Republic of Iran under the nuclear deal between world powers and the United States under the Obama Administration.

Iran and Russia had previously begun negotiating a deal for the system in 2007, the deal then frozen in 2010 due to sanctions by the United Nations Security Council

Russia began delivering the systems' parts in April of 2016, Iran receiving the missile system in entirety in July. It claimed it would be "fully operational by the end of 2016, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani stating during a showcase of the system in Tehran on its national "Army Day" that the "Iranian Army is the army of Islam, Islamic system and the whole Iranian nation. This army defends our establishment, homeland, laws, prestige, and national interests... If we can now proudly speak of our country's security in such an insecure and unstable region, it is all due to having a mighty army, powerful Revolutionary Guards..."

Just one month later, Iran deployed the S-300 missile defense system around its underground nuclear facility Fordo outside of Tehran Monday morning. There was video footage of the system at the underground nuclear site shown on Iranian state media, followed by a televised speech by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali. He claimed the system's deployment is for "defensive" purposes and criticized the United States' opposition to Iran's acquiring the weapon, stating, "Continued opposition and hype on the S-300 or the Fordo site are examples of the viciousness of the enemy. The S-300 air defense system is a defensive instrument, not offensive, but the Americans did their best for Iran not to get hold of it." Esmaili also stated at the time that the deployment was "Our main priority is to protect Iran's nuclear facilities under any circumstances."