

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

OH the irony...Days of Noah...wait for it:

LGBT activists mock Christian ministry's decision to reclaim rainbow

By Todd Starnes Published July 19, 2017 Fox News



The Ark Encounter theme park will have new permanent rainbow lights, Answers in Genesis founder Ken Ham wrote. (AP Photo/John Minchillo, File)

The man behind the world-famous Ark Encounter has decided to reclaim "God's rainbow" - announcing the massive ark exhibit will be permanently bathed in rainbow lights.

"We now have new permanent rainbow lights at the Ark Encounter so all can see that it is God's rainbow and He determines its meaning in Genesis 6," Answers in Genesis founder Ken Ham announced on Facebook.

"The rainbow is a reminder God will never again judge the wickedness of man with a global Flood—next time the world will be judged by fire," he said.

The 500-foot-long ark is the centerpiece of the biblical theme park based in Williamstown, Kentucky. Hundreds of thousands of visitors have toured the replica of Noah's Ark.

"The Ark is lit permanently at night with a rainbow to remind the world that God owns it and He decreed it's a sign of His covenant with man after the Flood—Christians need to take back the rainbow as we do at the Ark Encounter," Ham said.

Prepare Your Children Now for Life in Post-Christian America

BY PAULA BOLYARD

Post-Christian America is nearly upon us, so what are you doing to prepare your kids to live in an overtly anti-Christian culture? I don't mean an America where Christians are thrown into internment camps and tortured for our faith—though Jesus warned us to be prepared for persecution, so I'm certainly not ruling anything out. I'm talking about an America where Christians are a marginalized minority. Where we can't

Speak the truth openly and freely and where we may have to choose between our faith and our jobs.

Raising children in this new kind of America is going to have to be different than the way most of us were raised. We grew up believing there wasn't anything we couldn't do. The sky was the limit, we were told! You can be anything you want to be when you grow up! But in case you haven't noticed (and I'm sorry to break this to you if you haven't), all that's changed in the last few years. Oh, most of the changes have been subtle, to be sure, though some have been screaming-in-your face changes like the insistence that we all deny science and recognize an ever growing number of genders. But to date, only a few people have lost their jobs or their businesses as a result of conflicts between their faith and the strict new American moral code, so it's easy to feel like "it can't happen to me" — or to my kids.

But Rod Dreher, a columnist at *The American Conservative*, warns in *The Benedict Option* (an excellent book that has been unfairly maligned) that American Christians now have targets on their backs.

The temptation to sell out the faith for the sake of self-protection is by no means an abstract threat. We may not (yet) be at the point where Christians are forbidden to buy and sell in general without state approval, but we are on the brink of entire areas of commercial and professional life being off-limits to believers whose consciences will not allow them to burn incense to the gods of our age.

While Christians may not be persecuted for their faith per se, they are already being targeted when they stand for what their faith entails, especially in matters of sexuality. As the LGBT agenda advances, broad interpretations of antidiscrimination laws are going to push traditional Christians increasingly out of the marketplace, and the corporate world will become hostile toward Christian bigots, considering them a danger to the working environment.

A biblical view of sexuality (among other things) is increasingly viewed by the culture the same way racism is viewed. It is considered regressive, something to be shunned and exorcised from all corners of society. Dreher goes on to describe individuals in a variety of professions who say they are facing increased pressure in the workplace to declare themselves "allies" of their LGBTQ co-workers.

"It will be impossible in most places to get licenses to work without affirming sexual diversity," Dreher writes. He cites as an example the American Bar Association's decision in 2016 to add an "anti-harassment" rule to its Model Code of Conduct that could make the Christian view of homosexuality subject to sanctions.

Trump, Christianity, and the Gen-X-Boomer Divide

Nearly a decade ago I was writing about homeschoolers who were being denied jobs in daycare centers because they didn't have government-approved diplomas. I suggested at the time that the government could—and probably would—use certifications or licensure at some point to impose all kinds of Orwellian regulations on Americans. I imagined they could be used to coerce correct thought or elicit compliance with government-approved politically correct views or behavior. What we saw then, before the progressives really got their (likely irreversible) hooks into our culture, was just the tip of the iceberg. We're just now beginning to fully grasp how insidious this particular type of government coercion can be.

Dreher predicts that "public school teachers, college professors, doctors, and lawyers will all face tremendous pressure to capitulate to this ideology as a condition of employment," he explains. "So will psychologists, social workers, and all in the helping professions; and of course, florists, photographers, bakers, and all businesses that are subject to public accommodation laws."

Are you beginning to understand the scope of the problem, Mom and Dad? So, getting back to my original

question: What are you doing to prepare your children for this onslaught?

Obviously, the first step is to make sure you are teaching your faith to your children diligently, as the scripture commands. This is not a job to pawn off on the Sunday School teacher or your pastor, though they can be wonderful partners in a child's spiritual formation. Your children's spiritual development is on you. Find a good church that teaches the Bible without apology and take your kids there every time the doors are open (obviously, go with them).

Second, you need to seriously consider your educational choices. I'll save that discussion for another day except to recommend Sarah Hoyt's excellent recent articles on education here, here, and here as a primer. Understand that if your children are spending most of their productive hours being educated in politically correct government schools surrounded by children who don't share your faith—kids who are looking at porn on their smartphones all day long—don't be surprised if they choose to follow the crowd onto the wide path that leads to destruction.

Next — and here's where people are going to scream at me — I said things are changing and that we're going to have to adjust the way we are raising our kids if we want to remain faithful to our beliefs in post-Christian America. If certain professions and business opportunities are going to be closed to biblically faithful professing Christians—and all indicators point in that direction—how should we then live (as the late Francis Schaeffer would say)? Should Christian parents advise their kids to avoid going into professions that require licensing or that are likely to demand compliance with progressive values? Perhaps it's time to consider that radical step.

As crazy and counterintuitive as it seems, we are at the point where we must begin having such conversations and entertaining questions that seemed unthinkable a few years ago. Is it worth sinking hundreds of thousands of dollars into a medical degree only to discover upon graduation that you're unemployable because you refuse to call a 6-year-old boy a girl? Is it worth starting up a wedding photography business when you know you're going to be forced to photograph weddings that violate your conscience? Is it worth going for a degree in counseling only to realize (too late) that you're not eligible for certification because you won't vow to uphold a list of progressive diktats? Is it worth pursuing an academic career when you know you'll almost certainly be denied tenure? We can't afford not to consider these potential outcomes because they're becoming increasingly likely.

In this brave new America, Christian parents who discuss career planning with their kids are not only going to have to ask "what jobs are you well suited for" and "what would you enjoy doing?" but also "can you do this job without compromising your beliefs?" Rather than pursue what could be dead-end careers, Dreher suggests considering other options such as entrepreneurship and rediscovering the trades. "Better to be a plumber with a clean conscience than a corporate lawyer with a compromised one," he writes. He also says that Christians should be prepared to "be poorer and more marginalized."

"A young Christian who dreams of being a lawyer or doctor might have to abandon that hope and enter a career in which she makes far less money than a lawyer or doctor would. An aspiring Christian academic might have to be happy with the smaller salary and lower prestige of teaching at a classical Christian high school. A Christian family might be forced to sell or close a business rather than submit to state dictates," he concludes.

To be sure, this flies in the face of nearly everything we've been taught to believe about our rights as Americans. But even though we technically have the right to exercise our religion freely, the new social contract dictates that biblical Christianity cannot be practiced unless it's diluted and toned down so as not to offend the non-believing culture. This is the world—the America—we live in now. There aren't enough allies in government (on either side) who care enough about our religious liberty to protect us from the

God-deniers who want to squash our kids like bugs. Which means we'd better get busy preparing them for what lies ahead.

American Christians have been blessed to live in relative peace and freedom for nearly all of America's 240 years, but we've been something of an anomaly in Christendom. Even though it's likely the truce with the culture is about to end, we can still look forward to the future with confidence because nothing that happens is beyond the reach of God's sovereignty. If trials and persecution come to American Christians, He's promised to give us the strength to endure.

Understanding Pokemon Go

Since last Summer's Pokemon blitz seemed to be in the rear view mirror, we didn't think it would come back to our doorstep in 2017. Since we did encounter them en masse last Wednesday evening here at church, I thought it good to re-run Eric Barger's piece on that. Eric has done extensive research into such things. I hope you can use this. Eric will be with us in Sept at our Prophecy Conference. Join us! Time is short. – Mare

By Eric Barger

This article appeared in our Email Update, July 15, 2016.

I am still traveling for the next several days but wanted to take the opportunity to address the Pokémon Go craze that is literally sweeping the world and offer a resource for those who may need one.

In short, to play the game users download the Pokémon Go app to their iPhone or Android phones. Then they begin hunting down 150 different Pokémon creatures capturing them in virtual reality. Pokémon Go is unlike any other game or fad we have seen because the game is based on a player's whereabouts and users need to actually go to particular locations to capture the virtual Pokémon. Various Pokémon appear on their screens as they hunt in places like offices, schools, hospitals, businesses, parks, backyards, freeways - everywhere and anywhere. Many users have been meeting together at key locations such as well-known landmarks in their quest to electronically gather Pokeballs.

The balls are then hurled (virtually, of course) at the game's Pokémon characters to capture them. Players often visit sites such as churches, which digitally become "gyms," where battles are fought. (Huh? What are Christians doing playing a game that has its basis in the occult - and doing so in Church? More on the spiritual implications in moment.)

Just how big is it? Since the recent release of Pokémon Go, over \$7.5 billion has been added to Nintendo's stock market value. To give you an idea of the relative popularity, the Los Angeles Times reported that downloads of Pokémon Go (over 7 million so far) are running ahead of Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram in the Google Play store and will pass Twitter soon. (<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-pokemon-go-20160711-snap-story.html>)

Most players are not aware that before they even embark into the virtual world of Pokémon Go that in the user agreement allowing them to download the app they are for-fitting their privacy and possibly even the control of their phones to play the game. More worrisome to some is the fact that the company who developed the game was owned by Google! Click here for details on this disturbing factor.

Besides the notion of placing all of your private data at risk, participating in Pokémon Go has proved physically perilous for some. A pair of men fell off a cliff on July 14 while playing near a beach in the San

Diego area. One of the men fell 90 feet, the other 50. One was found unconscious and both were taken to a hospital with unspecified trauma injuries. As I write there is no word on their particular conditions.

A New York man escaped with just minor injuries when he crashed his car into a tree while playing the game. His car wasn't as fortunate.

Armed robbers in Missouri used the app to lure victims to isolated locations, police said. Others have been injured chasing the imaginary characters without paying attention to their real-life surroundings.

Stores and malls are reporting a marked increase of foot traffic and a unique security issue because of the game. Kids and adults on a quest to capture the virtual Pokémon creatures are so intense that they sometimes stumble down stairs, knock down other patrons, and even end up behind store counters or in offices marked "employees only." If Pokémon Go had arrived on the scene just a few months ago then reports of men being found in women's rest rooms would probably be surfacing but now that's a sad accepted practice in a culture resembling ancient Sodom!

Police in Darwin, Australia, said they have discovered people trying to find Pokémon characters at their police building, and have since posted signs that the station house is off limits to Pokémon Go fanatics.

Police did offer the following advice to Pokémon Go players:

- Don't play the game while driving a car or bicycle.
- Don't trespass on private property just to "catch" a Pokemon.
- Avoid staring down at your phone and be aware of hazards like roadways, drop-offs and waterways.
- Be cautious of who you share your location with.
- Don't travel alone.

(<http://www.foxla.com/news/share-this/173813464-story>)

Besides the possibility of the development of various problems for some players such as emotional issues (because of an individual's prowess in playing) or eye problems (due to the strain of watching a screen for long periods, especially at night), Pokémon Go may present perverts and pedophiles with unusual opportunities to prey upon victims.

However, most players have no biblical understanding of just what they may be embracing. That's expected in the secular world. But many Christians seem to have a problem with just jumping in the pool before checking to see if there are sharks present!

Pokémon Go was developed by Niantic Inc. and is funded by Nintendo. However, the original Pokémon franchise was developed by Wizards of the Coast, who gave the world the occult games, DUNGEONS & DRAGONS and MAGIC THE GATHERING. Pokémon comes from a long line of anti-Christian, occult, and evolutionary development. For example, did you know that the very word Pokémon means "pocket monster" - i.e. "demon?"

To help readers understand more about Pokémon I want to offer free access to a chapter from my book Entertaining Spirits Unaware: The End-Time Occult Invasion, titled "The Weird World of Pokémon." It is one of multiple sections in the book where I dealt with Pokémon, the popular Yu-Gi-Oh game/cards/TV

show, and the Anime & Manga genre in general.

Read or download the chapter "The Weird World of Pokémon"

Two quick points as I close.

I realize that many reject warning like this and accuse us of just being "against everything." Still, I gotta say it: Christians playing Pokémon Go need to consider the occult roots of Pokémon. Defending it is akin to putting lipstick on a pig. I've heard "it's only a game" or "it's just fantasy" more times than you can imagine yet where does the Bible give us license to ignore God's warnings and strong condemnation of the occult just because something may be fantasy - or virtual? (Read Ephesians 5:1-7)

Second, let's add up the sheer amount of time we're spending on stuff like Pokémon Go. The word "idolatry" comes to mind and instead of focusing on our mission in the last days we are going to great lengths literally running around attempting to capture a virtual demon. How Satan must be pleased.

Repeating Patterns: The Temple Mount Riots

Prophecy News Watch

Despite the removal of metal detectors at the Temple Mount, Palestinian riots in Jerusalem continue. Perhaps the situation will gradually calm down.

More important, however, is evaluating the reactions of several key actors in the saga -- and recognizing recurrent patterns concerning these events.

In the past, the Palestinian Authority could control riots. The typical case in point was the Second Intifada, which began in 2000. This was presented as a spontaneous outburst of Palestinian anger after the visit of Ariel Sharon to the Temple Mount.

In 2001, however, the Palestinian minister of communications, Imad Faloudji, admitted that the intifada had been planned long before by the Palestinian Authority. All that was needed was an adequate opportunity to start it.

Since then, the stature of the Palestinian Authority and Mahmoud Abbas in the West has only increased. In 2016, a large number of members of the European Parliament gave him a standing ovation after a speech there.

This, despite the fact that Abbas made an extreme, antisemitic accusation against Israel about a rabbi who had called upon the Jewish state to poison the water of the Palestinians.

Two days later, Abbas had to admit that his libel was false. The Palestinians had invented a fictitious rabbi.

Among the Palestinians themselves, Abbas is seen as very weak. His Fatah movement supports the riots -- partly because it fears losing influence if it does not. On the other hand, if the riots continue, then Abbas may lose control of them.

During Israeli military campaigns against Hamas, the terrorist group often hides weapons in mosques, universities and schools -- including those affiliated with UNRWA.

Furthermore, in 2009, part of Hamas' leadership hid in a Gaza hospital because they knew that Israel would not target it. Hamas also uses civilians as human shields.

Another returning pattern is the behavior of many foreign governments, which excuse and condone Palestinian terror, incitement and violence -- and the behavior of the foreign media, which often distorts the facts of actual events.

For example, Honest Reporting Canada -- a group that monitors Canadian news outlets -- has established a detailed list of many such distortions about the Israeli situation in the Canadian media in the past two weeks alone.

All of the above confirms the opinion of many Israelis that a future peace agreement is useless. The Palestinian leadership may indeed one day sign such an agreement, which might lead to quiet for some time. But then there will be another occasion used by Palestinians for riots, violence and murder.

The past few days have created a perfect model for such a pattern: Commit a crime against Israel related to Al-Aqsa. If Israel reacts with enhanced security measures, announce that Al-Aqsa is in danger.

This can easily incite rioting. Israel, however, cannot undo its concessions made for "peace." These concessions are likely to include the removal of isolated West Bank settlements and an exchange of land in return for the larger settlements.

That's why the events of the last few days have strengthened Israeli feelings that such a peace agreement is not a serious or credible option.