

# Newsbytes

The First Watch

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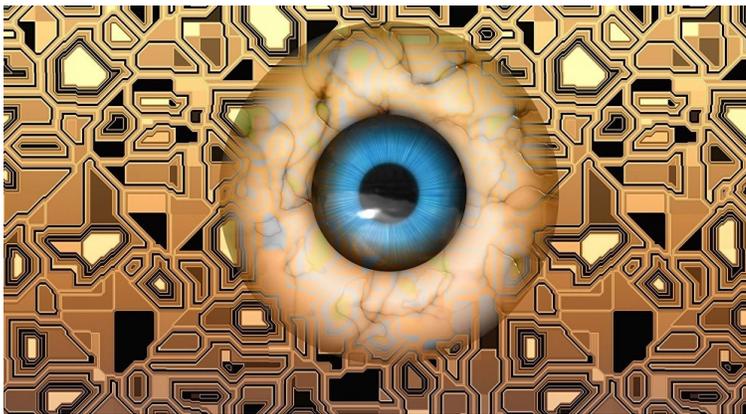
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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above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

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***Well this is very interesting. On paper at least, “worshipping the image” just took a leap forward:***



## Summoning the Demon, 'Tower of Babel': Debate Over A.I. God Heating Up

While some Silicon Valley technologists and maverick Christians embrace former Google and

Uber engineer Anthony Levandowski's idea to create a god based on artificial intelligence to make human society better, many scientific experts and politicians are scared by the prospect of worshipping a “god bot.”

Anton Skripunov (RIA Novosti) — Anthony Levandowski has set up a religious nonprofit organization called Way of the Future and devoted to the worship of artificial intelligence (AI).

“Our mission is to develop and promote the realization of a Godhead based on artificial intelligence and through understanding and worship of the Godhead contribute to the betterment of society,” the organization's founding documents say.

Worshipping A.I.

The new god is seen by US media as an almighty bot that will cater to all of its adherents' wishes. What will make it different from biblical God, however, is that it will be genuinely kind and will not punish mortals.

A. I. is God: Ex-Google Engineer Creating New Religion

Levandowski's idea was readily endorsed by members of the Christian Transhumanist Association, whose leader, Pastor Christopher Benek, sincerely believes “that artificial intelligence could partake in

the atoning sacrificial mission of Jesus Christ.”

The Transhumanist Christians, who established their religion in 2013, espouse the idea that people can and should use science and technology to make the world better.

They believe that this fully conforms to the Bible where Jesus says, “Be ye perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect,” so this is probably why they so happily jumped on Levandowski’s AI bandwagon.

Levandowski’s idea looks equally appealing to some of his Silicon Valley colleagues who believe that 25 years from now AI will catch up with human intelligence, and 50 years later will leave it behind.

“In the beginning all we had was just chat bots,” Facebook product manager Kemal El Moujahid wrote.

What they like most in Levandowski’s concept is that the new deity will be created by man. US media point to a notable religious drive now evident in Silicon Valley.

“We’re Summoning the Demon”

Not everyone in Silicon Valley is happy about the idea of a digital god though, above all Tesla CEO and Space X founder Elon Musk, who warns about the dangers of A.I.

He and many other inventors and scientific experts argue that a “Terminator scenario” where machines rise against humans and unleash war is a real possibility.

“With artificial intelligence we’re summoning the demon,” Musk warned three years ago.

Russia’s President Vladimir Putin then added to the debate by saying that even though artificial intellect holds the future for Russia and the whole world, it is also fraught with unpredictable threats.

“Whoever becomes the leader in this sphere will become the ruler of the world,” Putin said during an open lesson with students on September 1, the start of the school year in Russia.

However, the president said he would not like to see anyone “monopolize” the field.

Elon Musk responded to this by warning that a race toward "superiority" between countries over artificial intelligence could be the most likely cause of World War III.

Meanwhile, the Protestant clergy have doubts about artificial intelligence's ability to reach the heights of divinity, with Bishop Konstantin Bendas, the second in charge of Russia’s Evangelist Church, arguing that technological achievements are just an instrument of good or evil.

“Inventions do not bring people closer to God or take them away from Him. They do not make us better,” Bishop Bendas emphasized.

He compared the idea of creating a digital god to the biblical story about the Tower of Babel, which people ventured to erect to reach heaven, only to end up speaking different languages.

With the debate over Anthony Levandowski’s idea heating up, Silicon Valley could well repeat the fate of the biblical tower that was never built.

# Hate, Home Grown

October 04, 2017

Wendy Wippel

I am assuming that pretty much all of you reading this spent last evening doing the exact same thing I did. That being, watching the news, weeping for the scores of dead country music fans, and wondering what the heck would have motivated this multimillionaire—apparently an American success story—to do what he did. We may never know. But Scripture can shed some light on it.

Jesus himself told us that at some future point (in the context of the tribulation) that, “you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many”. (Matt 24:9-11)

Here’s the clincher: it goes on...“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

People do get offended. Then they hate each other. And then it gets ugly.

We have plenty of examples of people – mostly political figures—being assassinated because some random, unknown offended individual out there that believed that their opinions and/or convictions were an offense to what said offended person considered proper morality.

Abe Lincoln being a good example. (There’s a reason we have the Secret Service).

And this wacko, who went by the name Stephen Paddock, may be in that category.

Maybe Trump ticked him off simply by being alive and in the White House. Maybe he hates country music. Maybe he’s just rotten to the core. Hopefully his motives will be soon revealed.

But there’s a more basic issue here. And a more basic hatred.

Let’s start with defining lawlessness.

Most of us have had a speeding ticket or two. Is that lawlessness? Not necessarily. In my case(s), I wasn’t paying attention, and I later paid my fine(s).

I didn’t rail against speed limits in general. I recognize a need for the law. But we who are under the law all fall short of perfect obedience to the law. All of us.

And that-- in my case and yours, --is my civilized, born again persona.

Not my earthly, unredeemed persona. Who still rears its ugly head in my life, occasionally, today.

Anyone who’s ever had a two-year old knows what the uncivilized, unredeemed persona can look like. The average two-year old is a model of lawlessness—a refusal to be governed by any law.

(Jerry Seinfeld, after having children, observed that having a two-year old was like having a blender, without a lid).

Which is a pretty good picture of being completely ungoverned, right?

And a great lead in to the main point.

What, according to our Lord, is the first (and most important) commandment?

“Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving[d] that He had answered them well, asked Him, “Which is the first commandment of all?” 29 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’[e] This is the first commandment.[f] 31 And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’[g] There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:28-31)

Our first duty, as God’s foremost creation, is to love the law-giver. Which, according to Isaiah 33:22, “The Lord is our lawgiver”, is Jehovah God.

There’s the rub. WE all have a fleshly nature that resists submitting our will to anybody but ourselves.

And any real love-- love that transcends our earthly natures-- comes straight from the God who we are told is love.

Lawlessness, is—in- and of its self-- a form of self-absorption. When someone is going twice the speed limit on the freeway he is obviously completely free of concern for other motorists. “Love does not seek its own”. But those who do not love? Unfortunately, a completely different story.

Here’s what the Scriptures say about that bunch: “We know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, 9 knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers” (I Timothy 1:8-10)

But (before we get a big head) here’s what the Scriptures say about you and I. We were redeemed by Jesus (Titus 2:14) “who gave himself for us so that he may redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for himself his own special people, zealous for good works”.

We only escape from lawlessness by the blood of Christ. No kudos deserved.

Here’s the deal. Love comes from God. And God alone. From I John 4:7:

"Beloved let us love one another. For love is from God, and everyone that loves is born of God and knows God. But the one that does not love does not know God for God is love. Beloved Let us love one another."

The word used for “love”: here is the Greek word "agape" which means a completely selfless, only comes from knowing God’s love yourself, kind of love.

And that first line? Beloved let us love one another? In the Greek its essentially translated as: “Those who have known God’s love, love”.

That’s a verb. Meaning it’s a command.

Later, in Verse 16, John adds this: the one who abides in love, abides in God. And God abides in him. And we know the love that God has for us. God is love.

I don't know Paddock's story. I don't know if he was unloved or abused as a child, I don't know what made him take things out on thousands of strangers that never met or even heard of him.

I don't know.

But I do know as a child of God, we have a direct pipeline to the seat of grace and a fountain of love.

And maybe nobody ever told him about the love that God had for him.

Love never fails. (I Corinthians 13:8) God said that.

And if we aren't showing God's love to the world everything we are doing is basically worthless. God said that too in Corinthians 13 as well.

God is love. Let's make that known.

## Another Jordanian Knife in Israel's Back

By Dr. Mordechai Kedar October 4, 2017

[breakingisraelnews.com](http://breakingisraelnews.com)

Israelis are at a loss to explain why the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) has turned Israel into its main target. Why is it so blatantly skewed against Israel? The answer, or at least part of it, was provided on September 28, 2017.

Haaretz's top headline that day read: "The UN warns companies doing business in the settlements that their names will be put on a blacklist. Some of them announced that they are to leave Israel." Underneath the headline, it wrote: "The human rights representative began sending warnings to close to 150 companies. Israeli official: foreign companies do not differentiate between companies within Israel and those in the West Bank and simply cease their operations in Israel."

Barak Ravid wrote: "The UN Human Rights Commissioner, who heads the HRC, Jordanian prince Zaid bin Raed (should be Raad, m.k.) al Hussein began sending warning letters two weeks ago..."

Get it? The UN Human Rights Commissioner, the head of the UN Human Rights Council which has decided to make Israel its chief whipping boy, is a Jordanian and a second cousin of father of the current monarch, the late King Hussein, a central figure in the Hashemite family brought in by Great Britain to rule the country at its formation.. Zaid Ben Raad is very close to the present ruler, King Abdullah II has served as Jordan's UN delegate for seven years and was Jordanian ambassador to the US for three. He was an active member of various international organizations and in 2014 was chosen to be UN Commissioner for Human Rights. He is the person behind the unbridled HRC attacks on Israel.

Anyone who understands the significance of serving as a delegate to the UN and US ambassador realizes immediately that the person serving in those positions has to be very, very close to the monarch and is certainly his confidant, someone who is in constant touch with the king. The word "close" does not come anywhere near to describing the significance of that relationship and of the prince's appointment as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The king pushed for that appointment for his cousin. Why? What for? To advance the rights of Jordanian women? To supervise the king's treatment of Jordan's Palestinian Arab majority? To check on what happens to the international aid sent for the Syrian refugees in Jordan as it makes its tortuous

way to those tent-dwelling unfortunates?

Of course not. The king pushed for his relative's appointment for one reason alone – to malign Israel and to destroy its name and reputation by means of damning reports issued by this relative, all intended to force Israel to establish another Palestinian Arab terror state in Judea and Samaria whose capital is in eastern Jerusalem. This way, the king and his extended family, including Mr. Zaid ben Raad himself, will be able to continue to rule over the millions of Palestinians living in the artificial country named "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" instead of granting the Palestinians a state in northwest Jordan where, as it happens, they constitute the majority of residents.

True, the HRC did not begin its attacks on Israel in 2014, with Ziad ben Raad's appointment. The HRC has a long and negative record on Israel spanning the many years of its existence prior to 2014, but it is the reason King Abdullah wanted his kinsman at the head of the Council. A Council which is anti-Israel, to begin with, would make his goal easier to attain and make it easy to pass resolutions such as the one supporting the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

Zaid ben Raad is proving his loyalty to the family and living up to the expectations of his cousin. He has sent out warning letters to companies operating in Israel. Abdullah II, the Hashemite ruler, is sticking a knife into Israel's back, while Israeli politicians still go on and on about how "peace with Jordan is a strategic asset," failing to realize that the king is embracing them with one hand and planting a sword in their backs with the other.

Israel, if it continues to laud peace with Jordan, will end up with a long-term payment of kassam rockets raining on Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Dimona, Afula and everything in between, including Ben Gurion Airport, coming from a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria- in exchange for the temporary quiet we now have along the Jordanian border. It will be a repeat of Gaza's rocket attacks.

If this is how a friend behaves, I cannot imagine how an enemy does. It is time to wake up and think of another plan for relations with the Hashemite kingdom. It seems to me that some of our politicians are inexperienced when it comes to understanding the Middle East's complexities and that others have fallen asleep at the wheel so that they do not notice the warning roadside signs – perhaps because they are in Arabic.

## Islamic Sunset on Germany

by Guy Millière      October 5, 2017      <https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org>

Because Germany had committed genocide, it was impregnated with self-hatred and a rejection of its own identity. Germany turned to European construction and tried to define itself as European, in order not to call itself German.

A gradual replacement of the non-Muslim population with a Muslim population is taking place. Forty percent of children under five and born in Germany today have foreign roots.

The demographer Michael Paulwitz wrote a year ago that unless the current trends are reversed, Germans will become a minority in their own country, possibly in fifteen to twenty years.

Germany's federal elections were supposed to lead to the triumph of Angela Merkel. Their results were rather different from what was anticipated. Merkel's "victory" looks like a disaster: the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDU-CSU) won 33% of the vote -- 9% less than four years ago, its worst result since 1949. The Social Democratic Party (SPD), which governed the country with Merkel during the

last four years, lost more than 5%, and fell from 25.7 % to 20% of the vote -- the worst result in its history. Alternative for Germany (AfD), a conservative nationalist party born in 2013, obtained 12.6%, and will enter in the Bundestag for the first time. Die Linke, the Marxist left, received 9%. As neither the SPD nor Die Linke will participate in the next government, and as AfD is radically opposed to the policies pursued by Merkel, she has only two possible partners: the libertarian Free Democratic Party and The Greens: both of whose positions on most subjects seem incompatible.

Angela Merkel will remain Chancellor, but by default, and mostly because there was no other real choice: six months ago, two-thirds of the German population wanted her to be replaced. Only 8% wanted her to remain in her post. Martin Schultz, former President of the European Parliament, who was the SPD candidate, did not offer anything different and led a lackluster campaign.

If Merkel succeeds in forming a coalition, it will be a precarious and unstable assemblage that will keep Germany on the verge of paralysis and make the country the sick man of 21st century Europe.

Germany actually already is a sick country, and Angela Merkel is part of the sickness.

In 1945, Germany was in ruins. It rebuilt itself and gradually became Europe's leading economic power. While regaining strength, it did not assert itself politically and remained discreet, humble, repentant, silently shameful. Because of its role in the war, it was reluctant to recreate an army when NATO powers asked it to rebuild one; instead, it adopted a general position of appeasement that led to "Ostpolitik", a policy of rapprochement with the communist East and the Soviet Union.

Because nationalism had led to National Socialism, Germany rejected any form of nationalism. Because Germany had committed genocide, it was impregnated with self-hatred and a rejection of its own identity.

Germany turned to European construction and tried to define itself as European in order not to call itself German. This process lasted until the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of the country. Reunification was widely perceived in Germany as the fruit of humility and discretion. Angela Merkel, who had seemed to embody a successfully reunified Germany, inherited this process when she became Chancellor in 2005.

Malfunctions had already begun to surface. The German economy remained prosperous, but poverty was increasing (in 2005, 17% of Germans were officially poor and earned half of the national average income) and the number of working poor was growing.

The birth rate was extremely low. It had started to decline in 1967, and rapidly fell to 1.5 children per woman. The population, in general, was aging. Germany began to bring in Turkish migrants to compensate for the lack of manpower. By 2000, the number of migrants had reached 3.5 million.

Importing Muslim migrants also brought a slow Islamization of the country. In the main cities, mosques were built. Koranic schools were opened. Islam was integrated into public school curricula.

Merkel constantly sought consensus and worked with the Social Democrats for eight of the twelve years she spent as the head of the government.

Germans seemed to accept this arrangement until she decided to open the borders of Germany to a huge wave of refugees and migrants from the Middle East in August 2015. More than 1.5 million unvetted people entered the country; most were young men entitled to family reunification.

Claims that refugees would assimilate without major problems started colliding with reality. Rapes

multiplied. Violence escalated.

In 2016, almost half the crimes in Berlin were committed by recent migrants to the country. Jihadist networks took shape. Terrorist acts started to take place. Muslim anti-Semitism led to attacks on synagogues. The costs of welfare rose sharply.

Merkel expressed no regret. She did not even have second thoughts after the elections: she said that if she had to open the borders of the country again, she would do it. She tried to impose her decisions on immigration on the reluctant European countries of Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland. She is still trying.

Shame is still present in the minds of millions of Germans, but fading away. A few years ago, a survey showed almost 70% of Germans were angered at still being held responsible today for crimes against Jews. Roughly 25% of people surveyed agreed with the statement: "Many Jews try to use Germany's Third Reich past to their advantage". Recent polls show that between one-third and one-half of Germans view Israel as the political equivalent of Nazi Germany. The German government now regularly pretends to give lessons on morality to Israel, but never criticizes terrorist leaders such as Mahmoud Abbas.

Germany remains in a position of appeasing, securing and strengthening economic ties with rogue regimes such as Iran. The German army is so ill-equipped that during exercises instead of weapons, it uses broomsticks. Polls show that the German population now think that the main danger to world peace does not come from Iran or North Korea, but from the United States. Germany is today the most anti-American country in the Western world. Stern, Germany's most popular news weekly magazine, recently put on its cover an image of Donald Trump performing a Nazi salute while draped in the American flag.

Economic efficiency is low. The German economy is essentially an industrial economy and not adapted to the digital age. Investment in GDP has declined; innovative activity is weak; productivity stagnates. Since 2008, annual productivity growth has been only 0.5%. The planned closure of German nuclear power plants in the name of "protecting the climate" raises wholesale electricity prices, while German households and businesses bear the financial burden of paying among the highest electricity costs in the developed world. Unskilled immigrants from the Muslim world cannot replace skilled Germans who retire or pass away. The number of poor people continues to increase. The capacity for receiving immigrants has reached its limits.

Diseases that were nearly eradicated, such as tuberculosis, made a comeback. Vaccines did not exist as Europeans had stopped making them.

The median age in Germany is now 46.8. A gradual replacement of the non-Muslim population with a Muslim population is taking place. Forty percent of children under five, born in Germany, have foreign roots. Since 2005, the population of new arrivals has increased by 24%, while the native population has decreased by 5%.

Demographers say that unless the current trends are reversed, Germans will become a minority in their own country, possibly in fifteen to twenty years.

Nothing at the moment indicates that the trends will reverse.