

Newsbytes

The First Watch

December 6, 2017

No. 851

Since 2001

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

Jerusalem Is About To Become A Cup Of Trembling As Trump Considers Historic Move

Is President Trump about to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel? If so, this would be one of the most historic events to happen in the Middle East in a very long time.

Needless to say, the government of Israel would be absolutely thrilled by such a move, while the Palestinians and Israel's neighbors would not be pleased at all.

In fact, some Palestinians have suggested that if the Trump administration actually moves the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem that it could spark widespread violence or even war.

But Donald Trump promised that he would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel during the campaign, and it looks like he intends to keep his word...

A senior U.S. administration official said on Thursday that President Donald Trump is considering recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel without moving the embassy to the Israeli capital, at least for the time being.

Trump wants the recognition of Jerusalem to be a gift to Israel on the occasion of its 70th Independence Day, and he may even announce this recognition by means of a statement to be made by Vice President Mike Pence, who will visit Israel in December.

Pence will be visiting Israel next month, and he is scheduled to deliver an address to the Knesset. If the Trump administration is going to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, it is believed that it may happen at that time.

Israel became a nation in 1948, and so 2018 will be Israel's 70th anniversary. There will be independence celebrations throughout the year, and recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital as we approach this highly significant time would be considered a great gift to the Jewish people.

For the moment, however, the Trump administration will not be moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. The White House recognizes that such a move could spark violence in the region, and so administration officials are treading carefully...

President Donald Trump and his senior aides are mulling a plan to eventually move the U.S. Embassy

in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a decision that could derail Trump's attempts to restart peace talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

A leading option under consideration: temporarily keeping the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv while also outlining a longer-term strategy to begin the process of moving the embassy to Jerusalem, according to two administration officials. The plan is meant to strike a middle ground on the politically treacherous issue.

We shall see how this plays out, but Vice-President Mike Pence sure sounds optimistic that moving the embassy will actually happen. Earlier this week, he posted the following message on Twitter...

While for the past 20 years, Congress and successive administrations have expressed a willingness to move our embassy, Trump is actively considering when and how to move the American Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Of course moving the embassy would have very serious ramifications, and without a doubt many those surrounding Trump are advising against such a move...

American intelligence circles may caution Trump against the move, warning of the security-related ramifications that could ensue and danger that it could pose to American embassies around the world.

Rumors of Trump's planned announcement were met with warnings from Jordan's King Abdullah II, who said during a visit to the US that "the transfer of the American embassy to Jerusalem at this stage will have repercussions in the Palestinian, Arab and Islamic scene."

I will be even more blunt. If the U.S. embassy is moved to Jerusalem, there will definitely be violence, and it could potentially move us closer to armed conflict in the Middle East.

But U.S. policy should never be dictated by threats of violence. Moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem is the right thing to do, and we cannot allow anyone to intimidate us. In 1995, Congress passed a law that requires the U.S. embassy to be moved to Jerusalem, but ever since then presidents have used "waivers" to delay the move.

The current "waiver" expires on December 1st, and Trump is expected to sign another one at that time.

But even if the U.S. embassy is not moved to Jerusalem any time soon, the truth is that the next major war in the Middle East seems to be getting closer with each passing day. Just check out some of the things that have happened over the past week...

-Saudi Arabia just intercepted another ballistic missile that was fired from Yemen. The civil war in Yemen is essentially a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and the Saudis hold the Iranians directly responsible whenever a missile is fired toward their territory.

-China has announced that they will be sending "elite troops" into Syria to fight alongside the Syrian army in the ongoing civil war that is raging there.

-Just a few days ago, the Pentagon acknowledged that there are approximately 2,000 U.S. troops currently in Syria working with forces that would like to overthrow the Syrian government.

The Middle East is a tinderbox that could literally erupt at any moment. Most Americans have absolutely no idea how close we are to a major regional war, and let us pray that one does not happen any time soon.

Rick Warren's Wife, Kay, Joins Band of Vision-Seeing Prophetesses in the SBC

Jeff Maples

First, it was Beth Moore with her ridiculous “God-given” vision of the professing Church, including Roman Catholics, being joined together by God in unholy unity. Now Kay Warren, wife of Saddleback megachurch pastor, Rick Warren claims she had a vision from God after the suicide of her mentally ill son in 2013. In a Facebook post, she writes:

“Not long after our son, Matthew, died, I had a vision in prayer. I don’t regularly see visions, so this was unusual. In my mind’s eye, I pictured the Worship Center at Saddleback full of people who are living with a mental illness – depression, anxiety, borderline personality disorder, an eating disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia – or any other mental illness that was making life challenging.”

Now, there is one thing to note here. Saddleback may be full of undiscerning professing Christians with a very lukewarm, if any, knowledge of Scriptural truth, at least as of now, it does not seem to be full of mentally ill people—at least to the extent that she makes it sound in her prognostication.

She continues,

“Everyone in the room was reaching out to God without having to pretend that life felt okay – some people were crying, others wrapped themselves around a large wooden cross, some were praying, some were offering hugs to others – but all felt safe to bring their pain and their sorrow to God. Then I saw laughter – the kind of laughter that comes when others walking a similar life-path talk about the shared, common ups as well as downs, the moments of absurdity and humor in living with a mental illness. In my vision, hope began to rise. Hope for no more isolation. Hope for better days ahead. Hope for relationships with others who truly “get” what it’s like to live with a mental illness. Hope for acceptance and a place to belong. Hope for today... for tomorrow. And the day after that.”

Of course, there is a lot of hoping going on in this so-called vision. A lot of hope, at least so far, that doesn’t rest on the atoning sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. In fact, it appears that the hope is being placed in Saddleback’s efforts to make their sanctuary more hospitable to those suffering these illnesses. Shouldn’t these so-called prophetic dreams and visions be pointing to Christ?

She continues still,

“As the years have gone by, this dream has remained alive in my heart. On May 19th, please join me for Hope Rising. If you are living with anxiety, depression, or any mental illness, I invite you to come experience community and fellowship through music, art, story, silence, laughter, prayer, listening, talking... and lots of hugs. You are not alone!”

Ohhhh! Now I get it. This is an emotional manipulation to sell tickets to her Hope Rising event. For \$29.00, you can purchase a ticket to come experience her prophetic vision and see it fulfilled in person through fellowship, music, art, story, silence, laughter, prayer, listening and talking ... oh, and lots of hugs.

But wait, I don’t think that having one of these visions, and then selling tickets to carry out your vision, actually qualifies as prophecy. Yet Southern Baptists are willfully accepting and tolerating this nonsense among the ranks—and it will not go unnoticed.

I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. I

gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. (Revelation 2:20 – 23)

In Defense of Bible Prophecy

By Daniel Payne November 30, 2017 Rapture Ready

There is much debate about Bible Prophecy within the broad realm of those who claim to be Christians. Everything from subtle nuances related to specific prophetic events, to whether there are any further prophecies that await any future fulfillment at all.

There are those who believe that events foretold in the Bible should be taken literally, and there are still others who believe that most prophetic events foretold in the Bible are figurative, symbolic, or allegorical in nature.

For instance, there are those who believe in a literal future 1,000-year kingdom known as the Millennium, or the Millennial Reign of Christ, and yet there are others who believe the 1,000 years are not 1,000 literal years, but instead they are “figurative,” representing the here and now.

Those who reject the Millennium as a literal 1,000-year period when Christ will return to earth to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords, are saying that the Bible doesn’t mean what it actually says. God’s Word clearly states that there will indeed be a period of 1,000 literal years when all things in heaven and on earth will be summed up in Christ:

“And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years” (Revelation 19:16, 20:4b).

“That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him” (Ephesians 1:10).

It is a mystery how anyone can rationally conclude that all things on earth are currently gathered together in Christ, when taking into account the absolutely depraved evil currently spreading around the globe like a poison gas.

It is not being outside a particular denomination or church that causes misinterpretation and blindness; it is being outside of the teaching of the Holy Spirit that leads to prophetic apathy:

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you” (John 14:26).

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Ephesians 1:13).

“These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him” (1 John 2:26-27).

John means that the true Christian does not need any teaching apart from what is found in the Word of

God. Faithful teachers will only teach what is found in the Word of God. In John's day, the Gnostics professed to have additional truth which gave rise to additional teachings. However, John says that there is no need for additional truth outside of the Word of God in our heads, and the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Be wary of anyone or any group that would rather quote the words of men in regard to biblical truths as opposed to reading the words of God Himself. Quoting the Bible should always take precedence over quoting the "blessed" (orthodox, catholic, etc.) church fathers or councils.

Theology based upon verses taken out of context is a misinterpretation and a misrepresentation of the Bible. For instance, to quote 1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood...." in order to teach that believers are currently reigning on earth with Christ right now, is to ignore the entire context of Peter's teaching.

Just a few verses later, Peter shows that he agrees with Paul when Paul taught that "our citizenship is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20).

"Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme..." (1 Peter 2:13).

As it is God's desire that children progress in their knowledge of the world they experience around them as they grow older, so it is also His desire that the generations of mankind should grow in their understanding of His plan for humanity, as the time of the end draws near.

"And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:26-27).

"As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Peter 2:2-3).

Unfortunately, due to human nature, we stunt our own growth in the knowledge of the Lord's plan for us through pride:

"And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal" (1 Corinthians 3:1-2).

"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:12-14).

God prophesied through Daniel that knowledge about God's plan for the generations will increase when the time for its final fulfillment is near:

"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase" (Daniel 12:4).

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31).

God clearly teaches that it is His will to unveil more knowledge of His plan for mankind according to His timing and authority:

“Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:6-8a).

“Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him” (Ephesians 1:9-10).

The Lord Jesus Himself said that there are still more prophets to come:

“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.’ Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist” (Matthew 17:11-13).

The Lord’s disciples asked Him about Elijah because Malachi had prophesied to Israel that Elijah must come prior to the Messiah’s advent:

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord” (Malachi 4:5).

The Lord agreed that Elijah indeed had to come first as a prophet announcing a change in God’s provision for salvation. When Jesus explained that Elijah had already come through the ministry of John the Baptist, “then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist” (Matthew 17:13).

John the Baptist was not Elijah but he had come “in the spirit and power of Elijah” (Luke 1:17). If Israel had accepted John the Baptist and his message, then he would have fulfilled the prophesied role of Elijah:

“For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come” (Matthew 11:13-14).

However, according to the foreknowledge of the Lord, the nation of Israel did not receive and recognize the significance of the ministry of John the Baptist. Instead, they rejected him as they would also reject the true King.

There is every reason to believe that before Christ’s Second Advent, a prophet will arise to prepare Israel for the coming King. Whether it will be Elijah personally or someone with a similar ministry is nearly impossible to say at this point.

In relation to Bible Prophecy, the Word of God has either been twisted to mean something entirely different than what it actually says, or the signs that have been revealed to those of us living in the last days are ignored as being not originally taught in the early church.

There are many indications that the return of Jesus may be very near:

The formation of Israel in 1948 as prophesied in Ezekiel 39:21-29 and Luke 21:29-31. For the first time in many centuries, the Jews have a national existence in their own homeland.

The rise of numerous other nations as prophesied in Luke 21:29. Jesus predicted that not only would the fig tree shoot forth, but that all the trees would as well. The demise of historical colonial governments has given rise to many new nations within the last century.

The ecumenical movement was prophesied in Revelation 17 and 18, as “Babylon the Great.” A vast religious, political, and commercial system made up of apostate religious bodies that profess to be Christian, is hastily moving toward creating a new world super-church.

The great apostasy and falling away from true fundamental biblical faith as prophesied in 1 Timothy 4 and 2 Thessalonians 2, is taking place around the world today.

The drastic decline of moral standards as prophesied in 2 Timothy 3:1-5. The truth of this total moral depravity and breakdown cannot go unnoticed in our modern age of 24-hour social media and news.

Widespread violence and civil disobedience as prophesied in 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8. This mystery of lawlessness is working overtime through the spirit of the antichrist.

The rise of anti-Christian spiritualism that takes the form of “Christianity” was prophesied in 2 Timothy 3:5-8 and 1 John 2:18. This false Christian spirit is manifested in many false cults which profess to be Christian but deny almost every fundamental doctrine of the true Christian faith. They deceive by intimidation.

The current will of nations to align themselves together into groups that either approximate or outright fit the lineup of nations as prophesied in Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, etc.

The rise in frequency of earthquakes, the threat of worldwide famine and disease, and the increasing racial tensions among nations as prophesied by the Lord in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21).

And finally, the outright apathetic denial of the impending intervention by the Lord into the affairs of mankind by way of the Rapture, the Tribulation judgment, and the literal 1,000-year Millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

“Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation’” (2 Peter 3:3-4).