

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

Bloodbath Expected as Russia, Iran, Syria, Turkey Unite for Showdown in Idlib

09-07-2018

The United Nations is warning of catastrophic consequences facing civilians trapped in Syria's Idlib province.

"The conflict in Syria has already caused unspeakable suffering to millions of people forced to live under siege or to leave their country," warned Olaf Skoog, the permanent representative of Sweden to the United Nations. "We are deeply concerned about the escalating military action by the Syrian regime and Russia in northwest Syria with potentially catastrophic humanitarian consequences for civilians."

Residents of Syria's Idlib province took to the streets Friday protesting against what many there believe is an impending assault in the region.

"Leave, Bashar!" hundreds of protesters chanted in Saraqeb, a town in eastern Idlib. "We will defend our revolution."

For weeks, Syrian forces, backed by Russian, Iranian and Turkish fighters, have encircled the province which is now the rebels' last stronghold position.

The UN envoy for Syria says there are at least 10,000 Al Qaeda-linked terrorists in Idlib, along with some 70,000 other fighters from various Islamic terror groups controlling roughly 60 percent of the province.

For weeks, Syria's military has been dropping leaflets urging rebel fighters in Idlib to give up their arms and surrender.

Iran's president says the battle will end once all extremists are "uprooted" from Idlib.

"The fight against terrorism in Idlib is an unavoidable part of the mission to bring back peace and stability to Syria," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani told reporters Friday.

A Russian official echoed similar sentiments.

"A total and definitive liquidation of the terrorists across all of Syria's territory is necessary," Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told AFP.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for one of the rebel groups operating inside Idlib told the Associated Press that

his fighters are ready for a showdown.

"We've reinforced our defensive points and lines, we've prepared strong fortifications to withstand airstrikes so that we don't lose our fighters," said Naji Moustafa, a spokesman for the National Front for Liberation.

"We will deal with their strength in a tactical manner to absorb their airstrikes and their ground attacks and their scorched earth strategy," Moustafa told the AP. "We've prepared our fighters qualitatively - we've trained them on the military tactics to deal with these scenarios."

Syria, with help from Russia and Iran, has waged a brutal campaign over the past two years to recapture territory once held by the rebels. Idlib is the final stand, and the fall of the city would effectively mean the end of Syria's brutal civil war.

Rouhani, along with the leaders of Turkey and Iran met in Tehran Friday to discuss how to limit civilian casualties.

"Any attack launched or to be launched on Idlib will result in a disaster, a massacre, and a very big humanitarian tragedy," said Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "We never want Idlib to turn into a bloodbath."

Turkey's role in Idlib is complicated. For several years, the Turkish regime in Ankara has backed Syrian rebels fighting Assad. Now, Turkey's president is calling for a ceasefire, fearing a major military offensive could prompt millions of additional Syrians to flood the Turkish border.

"We have to take joint steps to prevent the migration," Erdogan said. "Turkey is already sheltering 3.5 million refugees (from Syria). The population of Idlib is 3.5 million. Turkey doesn't have the strength or capability to host 3.5 million more," he added.

Nearly half of Idlib's residents are already displaced from other parts of Syria.

"The dangers are profound that any battle for Idlib could be, would be, a horrific and bloody battle," warned Staffan de Mistura, the UN envoy for Syria. "Civilians are its potential victims and they are ever-present dangers in the case of a full-scale assault of incidents or rapid escalations involving regional and international players."

America's ambassador to the UN is warning Russia, Iran, and Syria that the "consequences will be dire" for an assault on the province.

"The United States has been very clear, with Russia and with the broader international community: we consider an assault on Idlib to be a dangerous escalation of the conflict in Syria," Ambassador Nikki Haley told the UN Security Council on Friday. "If Assad, Russia, and Iran continue, the consequences will be dire."

Iran's president shot back, demanding that the United States withdraw its forces from Syria.

"We have to force the United States to leave," Rouhani said.

The US has 2,000 troops fighting ISIS and other Islamic terror groups inside Syria.

Arch of Palmyra – Entrance to Temple of Baal Coming to Washington, D.C.

September 26

ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 BY GERI UNGUREAN

It has been two years since I wrote two articles on the Arch of Palmyra digital replica coming to major cities worldwide. The news media does not seem to have an interest in this story, or perhaps they have been told to ignore it. As Christians, we know the demonic implications of this arch.

The arch is the entrance to the Temple of Baal.

And now it will be displayed in Washington, D.C.

It seemed that New Yorkers felt that this was a natural thing to do. There was no outrage or even a questioning of this event. In Christian circles we were alarmed that such an evil demonic Hindu goddess would be displayed for all of NYC to admire.

Baal

First, let's see who "Baal" is from the Bible.

From gotquestions.org

Question: "Who was Baal?"

Answer: Baal was the name of the supreme god worshiped in ancient Canaan and Phoenicia. The practice of Baal worship infiltrated Jewish religious life during the time of the Judges (Judges 3:7), became widespread in Israel during the reign of Ahab (1 Kings 16:31-33) and also affected Judah (2 Chronicles 28:1-2). The word baal means "lord"; the plural is baalim. In general, Baal was a fertility god who was believed to enable the earth to produce crops and people to produce children. Different regions worshiped Baal in different ways, and Baal proved to be a highly adaptable god. Various locales emphasized one or another of his attributes and developed special "denominations" of Baalism. Baal of Peor (Numbers 25:3) and Baal-Berith (Judges 8:33) are two examples of such localized deities.

According to Canaanite mythology, Baal was the son of El, the chief god, and Asherah, the goddess of the sea. Baal was considered the most powerful of all gods, eclipsing El, who was seen as rather weak and ineffective. In various battles Baal defeated Yamm, the god of the sea, and Mot, the god of death and the underworld. Baal's sisters/consorts were Ashtoreth, a fertility goddess associated with the stars, and Anath, a goddess of love and war. The Canaanites worshiped Baal as the sun god and as the storm god—he is usually depicted holding a lightning bolt—who defeated enemies and produced crops. They also worshiped him as a fertility god who provided children. Baal worship was rooted in sensuality and involved ritualistic prostitution in the temples. At times, appeasing Baal required human sacrifice, usually the firstborn of the one making the sacrifice (Jeremiah 19:5). The priests of Baal appealed to their god in rites of wild abandon which included loud, ecstatic cries and self-inflicted injury (1 Kings 18:28).

Before the Hebrews entered the Promised Land, the Lord God warned against worshiping Canaan's gods (Deuteronomy 6:14-15), but Israel turned to idolatry anyway. During the reign of Ahab and Jezebel, at the height of Baal worship in Israel, God directly confronted the paganism through His prophet Elijah. First, God showed that He, not Baal, controlled the rain by sending a drought lasting three-and-one-half years (1 Kings 17:1). Then Elijah called for a showdown on Mt. Carmel to prove once and for all who the true God was. All day long, 450 prophets of Baal called on their god to send fire from heaven—surely an easy task for a god associated with lightning bolts—but "there was no response, no one answered, no one paid

attention” (1 Kings 18:29). After Baal’s prophets gave up, Elijah prayed a simple prayer, and God answered immediately with fire from heaven. The evidence was overwhelming, and the people “fell prostrate and cried, ‘The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!’” (verse 39).

In Matthew 12:27, Jesus calls Satan “Beelzebub,” linking the devil to Baal-Zebub, a Philistine deity (2 Kings 1:2). The Baalim of the Old Testament were nothing more than demons masquerading as gods, and all idolatry is ultimately devil-worship (1 Corinthians 10:20). – source

ISIS destroyed the Temple of Baal in August of 2015. This structure was situated in Palmyra, Syria. The secular world seemed to mourn the loss of this so-called temple. Next month, unknown sources will be funding the building of a replica of the Temple of Baal in Times Square.

Just the fact that those funding this are staying in the shadows, shows clearly the sheer evil of this endeavor. Will New Yorkers complain? That is doubtful. It seems that evil is very much accepted by the general public.

From the New York Times:

“BEIRUT, Lebanon — After a day of conflicting reports about the extent of damage that Islamic State militants had inflicted on the Temple of Baal in the ancient city of Palmyra, Syria, a United Nations agency said late Monday that satellite images confirmed that the structure had been largely destroyed.

The primary temple building, nearly 2,000 years old, was flattened, according to the satellite images, taken Monday and released by the United Nations training and research agency Unitar, based in Geneva.

“We can confirm destruction of the main building of the Temple of Bel as well as a row of columns in its immediate vicinity,” the agency said in a statement sent to members of the news media, using a different transliteration for the temple.



The Temple of Baalshamin in the ancient ruins of Palmyra, Syria, on June 26, left, in a satellite image provided by the State Department, and on Aug. 27, right, in an image provided by Airbus Defense and Space, was also destroyed by the Islamic State. Credit Left, U.S. Department of State, Humanitarian Information Unit; right, Airbus Defense and Space, via Reuters

As local activists and antiquities experts scrambled Monday to assess what had happened, all agreed that an explosion at the site on Sunday had damaged the best-preserved structure of the temple, a stone building that included the altar. Some experts had clung to optimism by saying the extent of the harm to the ruins was unclear, while residents and activists said reports had indicated severe damage.

It will be uncanny and thrilling to see this arch from an ancient desert civilization set against the bright lights of New York. Unfortunately, facsimiles can achieve only so much. Denuded of people, stripped of the rich social contexts in which they were once embedded, antiquities appear just as evidence of the grandeur of the past, the accomplishments of another place in another time. But what did these assemblages of stone mean to the modern Iraqis and Syrians who lived with them?” -source (Emphasis mine)

It is clear as you read the excerpt from the NY Times, that it brought great mourning and sadness that this evil temple was destroyed. The war between good and evil is not blurred any longer. It is blatant and

there is no gray area. Can you see the excitement in the NY Time's piece when they speak about this structure coming to Times Square?

This is absolutely demonic.

There are also plans to build a replica of the temple in London. Now sources are saying that there are plans to place these demonic temples in over 1000 cities across the globe.

Satan and his demons are on the move. He knows that time is short. I believe that we will see evil as we have never seen it before in the coming months. I also believe that the true Church in America will realize that we are not immune from persecution – not verbal persecution – I am speaking of possible jailing and even worse. We must pray that God keep us grounded in Him, and help us to not be deceived.

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:12-15). source

Keep your eyes on the Lord, and know that He is always in control.

After Strike on Damascus Airport, Netanyahu Says Israel Enforcing “Red Lines”

by TheTower.org Staff | 09.17.18 1:56 pm

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said “our red lines are as sharp as ever” regarding the nation’s effort at preventing “our enemies from arming themselves with advanced weaponry,” just hours after an airstrike on the Damascus airport reportedly destroyed a shipment of arms from Iran, The Times of Israel reported Sunday.

The Wall Street Journal reported that the Saturday airstrike destroyed a warehouse and an arms shipment meant for Hezbollah that had arrived at Damascus International Airport, according to the London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

“Israel is constantly working to prevent our enemies from arming themselves with advanced weaponry,” Netanyahu said at the beginning of the weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday. “Our red lines are as sharp as ever and our determination to enforce them is stronger than ever.”

Though Netanyahu did not specifically mention Syria, he compared Israel’s current situation to the nation’s state of preparedness on the eve of the Yom Kippur war in 1973, when Israel fell victim to surprise attacks by Egypt and Syria. Israel, Netanyahu said, “must do everything to prevent war.”

Israel’s leadership has consistently said that it had “red lines” in Syria, including that it will not allow Hezbollah to obtain game-changing weapons, and that it will not allow Iran to establish permanent bases there.

Earlier this month, the IDF said that it had struck over 200 Iranian military sites in Syria over the past year and a half. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, 140 Iranian military personnel and members of allied militias had been killed by airstrikes attributed to Israel during the last five months. The majority of those killed, 113, were killed in airstrikes during the last two months alone.

Christian Blogger Under Police Watch After Receiving Death Threats for Pro-Life Tweet

Amanda Casanova | Religion Today Contributing Writer | Friday, September 14, 2018

Denise McAllister, Fox News guest and contributor to news site PJ Media, says she and her family have received death threats after she tweeted a pro-life statement.

McAllister says she has been receiving rape and murder threats after she tweeted that “the root of abortion hysteria is women's unhinged desire for irresponsible sex. Sex is their god. Abortion is their sacrament. It's abhorrent as women have flung themselves from the heights of being the world's civilized force to the muck and mire of dehumanizing depravity.”

She says people began to send her threats to her private inbox.

"They are threats outside of Twitter, stating they know where I live," McAllister told JP Media. "Threats of rape and strangling.”

"My children are very frightened," she added.

This week, she told her followers she would be taking a break from social media.

“Due to threats against my life, my family is asking that I stay off social media until the situation is resolved,” she said. “I don't want to, but I need to respect their wishes at this time. I hope to return soon. Keep up the good fight, my friends.”

McAllister also added that she is working with police and her home is under police surveillance.

"I am facing legit death & rape threats because I have dared to call out women who are hysterical about abortion and to challenge them to be responsible and not to elevate sex to the point that they're willing to kill human life to avoid their responsibilities," McAllister said. "How sick is that?"

McAllister isn't the first blogger to receive threats for her comments.

Earlier this year, Elizabeth Johnston, the Activist Mommy, received threats over her conservative videos, such as one threat that said: “I will find Activist Mommy and burn whoever runs it alive.”

She said Facebook claimed that the threats didn't violate their community standards.