

# 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

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## Sanhedrin Calls On Jerusalem's Next Mayor To Prepare For Rebuilding The Temple

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

Jerusalem will have a new mayor this coming week and more than any other election this year will decide the religious nature of Israel's capital. The nascent Sanhedrin has addressed a letter to the two candidates emphasizing the role of the Third Temple in municipal current policy.

The Jerusalem mayoral election held last week ran five candidates, but the results were so close that an additional runoff vote next week is needed to choose between the top two. Moshe Lion with 33 percent of the vote and Ofer Berkovitch with 29 percent will run off against each other - with neither achieving the 40 percent of the electorate required to win office.

The politics of the eternal Jewish capital are most fiercely fought on the battlefield of religion. In addition to his political connections, Lion, religiously observant, was endorsed by leading ultra-Orthodox rabbis, an important asset in a city in which the Haredi represent approximately 35% of the overall Jewish vote.

Berkovitch, on the other hand, was the only one of the candidates that led a secular lifestyle. He has campaigned for businesses to open on the Sabbath. Not only is that policy distasteful to the city's religious residents, but Berkovitch perceives Haredi politicians as having a negative impact.

"The other candidates are liable to capitulate to the Haredi extortion, and may not understand the strategic steps the city needs to take in order to flourish and get on the right track," Berkovitch told Times of Israel. "They weren't partners in the successes of recent years: the vibrant cultural [scene], economic development, the urban revolution... I don't think they know what is needed, I don't think they know the city well enough, I don't think they understand what to do here."

The religious Jewish aspect of being the mayor Jerusalem was amplified to an even greater degree in an open letter that the Sanhedrin sent to the two candidates.

"With God's merciful approval, one of you will be chosen as head of the city, may it be built and made ready for its ultimate purpose," the Sanhedrin wrote. "We call on the candidates as well as the voters to make choices based on truth and on the main aspect of Jerusalem, which is the building of the Temple."

The Sanhedrin wrote a similar letter to U.S. President Donald Trump after he won the election, calling on him to take a role in building the Third Temple just as Persian King Cyrus helped the Jews build the Second Temple after the Babylonian exile in the sixth century BCE.

"Avoiding this essential issue endangers the existence of the city and its identity as the capital of Israel, thereby endangering Israel itself," the Sanhedrin wrote to the mayoral candidates. "Every Jew and all of humanity are commanded to ascend to the Temple Mount."

"We expect you, as candidates, to relate to this role the city has as home of the Temple. This subject is not simply a matter of religious belief but must also be expressed in political, fiscal, and educational terms."

The Sanhedrin emphasized the importance of Jerusalem in the world. In the letter, they noted that the capital of Israel is frequently the focus of domestic politics and, in the case of Trump, has become an essential part of his platform. In the letter, the Sanhedrin praised Trump for moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

"Jerusalem in its entirety is sanctified as Holy and is the spiritual center of the world, the throne of God. We urge you to make public your plans relating to this aspect of the city. There are several ways this can be accomplished, such as festivals of holiness to replace those of impurity."

The Sanhedrin has already begun working toward this end, holding full-dress reenactments of the Temple service before the Biblical feasts. Another glorious example of this was the World Creation Concert held the week before Rosh Hashana, which several representatives from South American countries attended.

The Sanhedrin emphasized that the city will change when the Temple is built, requiring massive improvements to its infrastructure.

"Jerusalem must prepared to host the millions of pilgrims who will attend the feasts when the Third Temple is built," the letter said. "We also call on the government to prepare a center for an international body to replace the United Nations and the Hague, one that will be rooted in the Bible."

## As the Earth Burns

By Hal Lindsey

The Bible gives us clear signs regarding the end of this age. With those signs being fulfilled on every side, the days of business as usual have gone away.

These are not ordinary times. Lethal strains of Islam, a primary destabilizing force in the world, have now taken over large portions of once-Christian Europe. Tensions in the Middle East cannot be contained there. They threaten to explode into a third world war. Meanwhile, Europe seems intent on empowering Iran — the most dangerous nation on earth.

When nuclear war looms, we can no longer afford to be obsessed with the private lives of Great Britain's royal family. As people starve in Yemen, most Christians don't even realize it's happening. But many can tell you exactly what the Kardashians are up to.

Wealthy countries around the world are raising a generation with an unprecedented number of emotionally stunted individuals. Many of them can't look one another in the eye, don't have the patience to read books, and live their lives within the confines of a video screen small enough to fit in a pocket.

I'm not saying we should make the world's problems the constant focus of our attention. But I am saying that we need to be aware, and realize that we can't go on with business as usual. More than ever, we need to draw close to the Lord. We need to change our focus from worldly trivialities to things eternal.

Nehemiah 8:10 says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength" — not football, or the latest must-see TV show.

I'm not condemning football or other forms of entertainment, but we can't be obsessed with them. Those things will not give you strength in troubled times.

Philippians 4:8 says, "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things."

What can we dwell on that is always "true... honorable... right... pure... lovely... of good repute..." along with excellent and praiseworthy? Perhaps the question is not "what," but "Who." Only Jesus. Keep Him at the center of your thoughts. Isaiah 26:3 says, "You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You."

In times like these, we need to draw close to Him. The world cries out for the answer that we have in Jesus. We will not give them that Answer by mirroring their actions and attitudes. The time is short. Let's focus our thoughts on Him, talk about Him, and let Him keep our minds in perfect peace.

How do you keep your mind on Christ? Ask Him to help. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

## The next economic crisis could cause a global conflict. Here's why

World Economic Forum



Final numbers for the Dow Jones industrial average are displayed after the close of trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in Manhattan in New York, U.S., October 11, 2018.

The response to the 2008 economic crisis has relied far too much on monetary stimulus, in the form of quantitative easing and near-zero (or even negative) interest rates, and

included far too little structural reform. This means that the next crisis could come soon – and pave the way for a large-scale military conflict.

The next economic crisis is closer than you think. But what you should really worry about is what comes after: in the current social, political, and technological landscape, a prolonged economic crisis, combined with rising income inequality, could well escalate into a major global military conflict.

The 2008-09 global financial crisis almost bankrupted governments and caused systemic collapse. Policymakers managed to pull the global economy back from the brink, using massive monetary stimulus, including quantitative easing and near-zero (or even negative) interest rates.

But monetary stimulus is like an adrenaline shot to jump-start an arrested heart; it can revive the patient, but it does nothing to cure the disease. Treating a sick economy requires structural reforms, which can cover everything from financial and labor markets to tax systems, fertility patterns, and education policies.

Policymakers have utterly failed to pursue such reforms, despite promising to do so. Instead, they have

remained preoccupied with politics. From Italy to Germany, forming and sustaining governments now seems to take more time than actual governing. And Greece, for example, has relied on money from international creditors to keep its head (barely) above water, rather than genuinely reforming its pension system or improving its business environment.

The lack of structural reform has meant that the unprecedented excess liquidity that central banks injected into their economies was not allocated to its most efficient uses. Instead, it raised global asset prices to levels even higher than those prevailing before 2008.

In the United States, housing prices are now 8% higher than they were at the peak of the property bubble in 2006, according to the property website Zillow. The price-to-earnings (CAPE) ratio, which measures whether stock-market prices are within a reasonable range, is now higher than it was both in 2008 and at the start of the Great Depression in 1929.

As monetary tightening reveals the vulnerabilities in the real economy, the collapse of asset-price bubbles will trigger another economic crisis – one that could be even more severe than the last, because we have built up a tolerance to our strongest macroeconomic medications. A decade of regular adrenaline shots, in the form of ultra-low interest rates and unconventional monetary policies, has severely depleted their power to stabilize and stimulate the economy.

If history is any guide, the consequences of this mistake could extend far beyond the economy. According to Harvard's Benjamin Friedman, prolonged periods of economic distress have been characterized also by public antipathy toward minority groups or foreign countries – attitudes that can help to fuel unrest, terrorism, or even war.

For example, during the Great Depression, US President Herbert Hoover signed the 1930 Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, intended to protect American workers and farmers from foreign competition. In the subsequent five years, global trade shrank by two-thirds. Within a decade, World War II had begun.

To be sure, WWII, like World War I, was caused by a multitude of factors; there is no standard path to war. But there is reason to believe that high levels of inequality can play a significant role in stoking conflict.

According to research by the economist Thomas Piketty, a spike in income inequality is often followed by a great crisis. Income inequality then declines for a while, before rising again, until a new peak – and a new disaster. Though causality has yet to be proven, given the limited number of data points, this correlation should not be taken lightly, especially with wealth and income inequality at historically high levels.

This is all the more worrying in view of the numerous other factors stoking social unrest and diplomatic tension, including technological disruption, a record-breaking migration crisis, anxiety over globalization, political polarization, and rising nationalism. All are symptoms of failed policies that could turn out to be trigger points for a future crisis.

Voters have good reason to be frustrated, but the emotionally appealing populists to whom they are increasingly giving their support are offering ill-advised solutions that will only make matters worse. For example, despite the world's unprecedented interconnectedness, multilateralism is increasingly being eschewed, as countries – most notably, Donald Trump's US – pursue unilateral, isolationist policies. Meanwhile, proxy wars are raging in Syria and Yemen.

Against this background, we must take seriously the possibility that the next economic crisis could lead to a large-scale military confrontation. By the logic of the political scientist Samuel Huntington, considering such a scenario could help us avoid it, because it would force us to take action. In this case, the key will be for policymakers to pursue the structural reforms that they have long promised, while replacing

finger-pointing and antagonism with a sensible and respectful global dialogue. The alternative may well be global conflagration.

## Busy, Busy, Busy :: By Grant Phillips

November 15, 2018

We live in a period of time when everything is going at top speed. The hustle and bustle in the cities is magnified a hundred times, if not a thousand times to the quiet of the country side. Yet, even in our small, quaint, one stoplight towns, busyness can be readily seen as the folks go about their daily activities.

This 21st century has each person's mind racing at top speed to get this done, and then go to the next thing to get that done. The body is in one location, but the mind is at home, on the job, at the school, and wherever else the siren call is heard. We rest our bodies at night, but before sleep takes over, the mind remains supercharged ... thinking, thinking, thinking.

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." (Daniel 12:4)

Yep, that verse is very descriptive of mankind in today's world. As God told Daniel, knowledge is exponentially increasing so rapidly what is learned today is old news tomorrow.

Ours is the Information Age; Internet, television and mobile phones available 24 hours a day. From what I have read, a person today consumes six newspapers of information daily. Twenty-four years ago that number was 2 ½ pages a day.

Each of us has the equivalent of 600,000 books stored in computers, microchips and credit card strips.

From the journal of Science, 295 exabytes of data are floating around today. That would be 29,500,000,000,000,000,000. Apparently that is 315 times more than there are grains of sand on the earth. (I find that a bit hard to believe, but so say the bean counters.) Despite all these super big numbers, that is still less than 1% of the information stored in the DNA of one person.

Anyway, when the Lord gave Daniel this prophecy, He was referring to that time prior to His second coming. After the Church is removed to Heaven, the last week of Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27) will begin. Only a blind fool would refuse to see the fulfilment of this prophecy in our day.

Sounds to me like Daniel 12:4 is definitely upon us. How close we must be to our Lord's return!

God tells us, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalms 46:10)

Regardless of our circumstances at home and on the job, most of us just won't slow down and smell the roses (a most simplistic way of saying, "Be still"). God does want us to slow down, be still and think about Him. Don't be in such a hurry. The world won't end just because you finally decide to "Be still" and listen to God. "Oh but this won't wait. I must take care of this now!" I doubt that. God knows that, or He would not have told us, "Whoa! Slow down and take a break. I am God, and you will never make it without Me."

We adults often mimic children in this matter. Children quickly come to the point of thinking they can do things without their parents' help, even though the parents know better. We adults lean toward that same independence, but what we really need is not independence, but dependence upon our Savior God.

Just as a two year old can only handle simple feats scaled down for a two year old, we cannot deal with matters that only God can control. We are not God. He is, and that is exactly what he wants us to remember. He will be exalted, not us. We have so many things in our lives backwards. The wise person will be still and see God as the one in charge of our life. He/she will exalt God by simply being still and allowing God to work in his/her life.

God wants each of us as Christians to have some quiet time. Look around at all He has created. See His power that is all around us. Tune out the hectic madness of the world and listen to Him.

Have we ever taken the time to look at a flower, I mean to REALLY look at it, or observe a busy ant? Do we really see what is around us and recognize that God created it? Children do this. They may not realize that God is the Creator, but they notice much more than we do. Take the time to actually see what is around you.

“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.” (Proverbs 6:6-8)

Yes, the 21st century is a time of fast-paced living. We just can't seem to slow down. Days rush into weeks, as the weeks overwhelm the months that are before them. Next thing we know, years run quickly behind us. All the while our knowledge is increasing, but are we really any smarter? With all this knowledge, where is wisdom? God says we are drawing to the close of our days. He is coming. Are we ready?

If any wisdom remains, maybe we should take the time, in a quiet place, to pray with our Bible in hand and hear His message; “Be still, and know that I am God.”

Grant Phillips