

# 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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## Google proclaims ‘quantum supremacy’ with new supercomputing breakthrough 23 Oct, 2019



File photo © REUTERS / Charles Platiau

Google has claimed the mantle of ‘quantum supremacy’ after its 53-bit quantum computer named Sycamore took just 200 seconds to perform a calculation that would have taken the world's top supercomputer 10,000 years to crack.

The tech giant made the initial claim back in September, which was fiercely disputed by competitors, but now the company has shown its

hand by publishing its research in the journal Nature and on its own blog on Wednesday.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai praised the company's AI division and likened Sycamore's “big breakthrough” to the Wright Brothers' first flight.

“The first plane flew only for 12 seconds, and so there is no practical application of that,” he said. “But it showed the possibility that a plane could fly.”

However, Sycamore's test has no practical applications as yet; it marks only the first step toward a potentially revolutionary technology.

Quantum computers are expected to be particularly good at some of the most time-consuming chores, like crunching vast amounts of numbers and other data, for applications like investment banking to pharmaceutical development, artificial intelligence, materials science and random number generation. However, the everyday browsing, online shopping and gaming will likely still fall to our consumer electronics like laptops, smartphones and tablets. Quantum computers require an environment just above absolute zero to operate, so they're not exactly easy to operate and maintain outside of the global tech giants.

Classical computers as most people know them, operate using data in the form of bits, ones and zeros. Quantum computers on the other hand, use qubits, which can store a combination of different states of

both one and zero in a mind-bending phenomenon known as superposition.

These qubits can then be grouped together in what is known as quantum entanglement, a process which allows quantum computers to explore a vast number of possible solutions to a problem simultaneously. As engineers increase the number of qubits in a quantum computer, its processing power grows exponentially. Google's engineers "expect that their computational power will continue to grow at a double-exponential rate."

At present, Google's Sycamore boasts 54 qubits, though only 53 were functional during the test, matching IBM's most powerful quantum computer. As expected, IBM challenged their rival's new findings, arguing in their own paper that "an ideal simulation of the same task can be performed on a classical system in 2.5 days and with far greater fidelity."

Companies such as Google, Intel, Microsoft, and IBM are all vying for quantum supremacy and it appears, for now at least, that Google has pulled ahead of the competition.

## Russian Troops Enter Syria; Turkish Troops in Lebanon

newsnow.co.uk Oct 23, 2019

PANAGYURISHTE— Your brief report on October 23 in last twelve hours from BulgarianMilitary.com: Israel said bracing for direct cruise missile or drone attack by Iran

Israel is readying for a direct cruise missile or drone strike by Tehran in response to recent attacks on Iranian regional proxies which have been attributed to the Jewish state, Army Radio reported Tuesday evening.

Unlike ballistic missiles, which usually fly through a high arc on the way to the target, cruise missiles and drones fly at low altitude, making them harder to detect.

The report cited anonymous "Israeli sources," who said the IDF was already on high alert for the possibility and that the security cabinet will convene for an "unplanned" meeting next Tuesday against a backdrop of tensions with the Islamic Republic.

This would be the second time this month that the high-level security cabinet has convened. On October 6, its members gathered amid cryptic warnings by Israeli leaders of a growing security threat from Iran. That meeting lasted for nearly six hours.

During the meeting, ministers discussed a proposal, being pushed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, for a NIS 1 billion (\$290 million) project to boost Israel's air defenses that would place particular focus on defending the country against cruise missile attacks.

Turkey, Russia agree on 'historic' Syria deal

Ankara and Moscow on Tuesday agreed on a "historic" Syria deal, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced after meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, reports Anadolu Agency.

According to the deal, starting at 12 noon (0900GMT) on October 23, Russian military police and Syrian border guards will enter the Syrian side of the Turkish-Syrian border, outside the area of Operation Peace Spring to facilitate the removal of YPG/PKK elements and their weapons 30 kilometers (19 miles) off Turkey's border in northern Syria, which should be finalized in 150 hours.

The deal came after Erdogan paid a one-day working visit to Russia's coastal city of Sochi to meet with Putin to discuss Syria and Turkey's Operation Peace Spring in northern Syria, which was launched on

October 9, to eliminate terrorists from northern Syria in order to secure Turkey's borders, aid in the safe return of Syrian refugees and ensure Syria's territorial integrity.

"All YPG elements and their weapons will be removed from Manbij and Tal Rifat [northern Syrian district]," according to the deal.

Turkey and Russia will launch joint efforts to facilitate the return of refugees in a "safe and voluntary" manner.

"A joint monitoring and verification mechanism will be established to oversee and coordinate the implementation of this memorandum," it added.

Turkey extends troops deployment in Lebanon

The parliament on Tuesday ratified a motion to extend the deployment of Turkish troops in Lebanon for another year as part of the UN's interim force, reports Anadolu Agency.

The reform package was passed with a show of hands by lawmakers from the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party, main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), opposition Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and Good (IYI) Party.

The term of Turkish soldiers in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, also known as UNIFIL, has been extended until October 31, 2020.

The motion floated by the Presidency has been extended 12 times so far since it was first approved by the parliament in September 2006.

The UNIFIL was established in 1978 when Israel withdrew from Lebanon. The peacekeeping force is intended to provide security and help the Lebanese government in rebuilding its authority.

Around 10,600 troops from 40 countries are part of the UNIFIL mission.

## When the Dust Settles in Syria

By Fiamma Nirenstein/JNS.org October 22

To speak about Kurds has suddenly become a cry in favor of human rights and self-determination by the Western press, and rightly so: The assault they are suffering is lethal and may become genocidal.

More frightening is that it is being perpetrated by the Turks, who are already stained by the Armenian genocide and led by a leader who considers himself an almighty sultan. And it's really odd that Europe is only now discovering who he really is.

How can this be? Didn't Europe know that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan during these last 16 years in power has been possessed by a vicious fundamentalist Islamic and imperialist dream, repeatedly displayed unprecedented arrogance (he has closed newspapers and thrown more than 150,000 dissidents in prison), and expressed extreme ideas that have systematically dismantled the precious Kemalist heritage that once made Turkey the hope of a bridge between the Islamic world and the West?

Didn't Europe see that he inundated the world with slogans and antisemitic standpoints corroborated by his friendship with Hamas? That he supported former Egypt President Mohammad Morsi as leader of the Muslim Brotherhood -- a man he praised being himself the greatest Muslim Brotherhood politician

in office?

Is it coincidence that Erdoğan allowed the passage from his country of thousands of Islamic fundamentalists in possession of whatever passport to boost ISIS, which many claim he supported through trade and furnished with weapons?

His hatred of the Kurds, identifying them all with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), is one of the signs of the dangerous character of the man who hasn't hesitated -- and won't hesitate again now -- to threaten Europe with opening Turkey's borders and flooding Europe with millions of refugees.

The Kurds are a divided population, disillusioned and sometimes even struggling with each other, often split by multiple geographical and political divisions (Abdullah Ocalan was certainly a leader, but also a Communist and a terrorist). Still, they are also a persecuted, courageous, and special population with respect to their yearning to aim for equality between the sexes and to practice it as much as they can.

Moreover, the Kurds are in favor of democracy and a positive relationship with the West and also Israel, whose citizens in these days -- in opposition with US President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of Syria and abandon its Kurdish allies -- are demonstrating in their favor on the streets. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also lent words of support to the Kurds.

What is happening is that the media now assigns Erdoğan an omnipotence that he doesn't have and a long-term outlook he lacks, demonstrated by the fact that within his own country, he no longer enjoys half of the support he once did in the past. Erdoğan has embarked on a path full of unexpected, dangerous events. How will the Turks now see his use of the army and Arab extremist militias against a civilian population far from Ankara?

And how will its population, which is already in financial difficulty, react to additional American sanctions that already affect the defense and energy sectors, as well as the rise in tariffs, including European ones that will now be determined? And it will be Turkey's fault if the bloodthirsty zombies of ISIS are again unleashed by the thousands because of the confusion caused by this war.

In chorus, the international media argue that Trump's withdrawal marks a total radical strategic change in the structure of power and American influence in the region, and that those who will gain are first and foremost Russia, Iran and Syrian President Bashar Assad. But we must remember that the Alawite power, since its beginning, has always leaned on Russia to dominate the country.

In fact, this duo is nothing new. And that the Turks and Assad have a relationship of continuous clash-rapprochement is equally well-known: for now, instead, the fact that Assad has established a relationship with the Kurds means that the Russians tend towards the status quo without Turkish domination.

As for Iran, the non-fortuitous coincidence of the beginning of Turkish hostilities with a powerful exercise along the same border by the Iranian army tells us that Tehran shows up to signal that it doesn't like the excess of a Sunni presence in northeast Syria, and this contrasts not just a little with the photo diffused everywhere during the summit between Erdoğan, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, which took place this past September in Ankara.

At this moment, the trio no longer works together, and Russia will be the "tightrope walker" between the Sunni and Shi'ite powers that seemed momentarily calmed.

The United States has -- and not just with Trump, as demonstrated by former President Barack Obama's approach vis-à-vis Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the famous failure to enforce the "red line" against

Assad -- left the Middle East numerous times under several American presidents.

But then it, as Politico notes, returned for better or worse: Jimmy Carter with the battles at the Iranian embassy; Ronald Reagan with the explosion of the barracks and the massacre of soldiers at the hands of the Hezbollah in Beirut; and George W. Bush after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks with the invasion of Afghanistan and later Iraq.

Now the field correspondents write that a mass of Arab militias armed by the Turks commit atrocities on the Kurdish population with the cry of "Allahu Akbar," against kafirs (infidels). This outbreak of Islamic fundamentalism can have great repercussions that certainly won't leave anyone indifferent, including Trump. We will see.

And for Israel, which certainly cannot afford to move armed troops considering all the problems it currently faces on its borders, we can still bet on the fact that its standing on the side of the Kurds will mean something.

It's not the fact that America no longer wants to stay on that border that has changed things, but the war cry of Islamic fundamentalism that resounds again and again the Middle East. Perhaps Erdoğan, with Sunni and regal pride, lacks a complete vision of what he has unleashed.

Iran certainly doesn't like this Sunni invasion and neither do the Alawis. Russia is in the middle. America is far away, but vigilant. And Europe, as usual, is absent.

## When Confusion Reigns

By Hal Lindsey

1 Corinthians 14:33 gives a profound and insightful statement. "God is not a God of confusion but of peace."

Yet in much of the world right now, confusion reigns. I mean deep, basic levels of confusion. Perhaps the most obvious would be the millions who are confused about their sexual identity. The science of gender no longer holds. It's not a question of XX or XY chromosomes, or any of the other obvious scientific differences between male and female. It's all about feelings, and those feelings have been purposely confused by educators, entertainers, advertisers, and others.

At school, young people are propagandized to believe Islam is a religion of love and Christianity a religion of hate. Schools now openly teach kids to judge others according to race. Virtue has become something you signal to others; not righteousness or moral excellence. Children are subjected to "drag queen story hour" in local libraries, and it's even celebrated in national television commercials.

Good is called evil and evil good. Followers of Jesus are increasingly seen as dangerous to children. A major presidential candidate recently called for churches to either come into alignment with his moral beliefs or lose their tax-exempt status. Franklin Graham said that as a result of such pressure, "There will be a lot of Christians who unfortunately will bow down and give in, and many have already."

And is all this working? It's no secret that young people who see themselves as homosexual are at greater risk of suicide. The experts used to say that it was because society made them feel guilty. But they can't say that anymore. Society affirms homosexuality at every turn. Acceptance is at an all-time high.

But with all that acceptance, suicide has only gone up.

Acceptance and affirmation have not helped at all. Why not? Because the guilt is not external. It comes with the sin itself — not just homosexual sin, but all sin. Society pushes heterosexual children to have the sexual morals of rabbits, but society's affirmation of sin does not stop the guilt. That's because the guilt didn't start with society. It started with the sin.

As people abandon the biblical definition of right and wrong, are they feeling more free? Are they doing better psychologically? No. They're doing worse. America and most other First World countries are experiencing a mental health crisis. The statistics are stunning. One in five children now suffers from a mental health disorder. And that's just the ones who have been identified.

CNN recently reported, "The rate of ER visits involving psychoses, bipolar disorder, depression or anxiety jumped more than 50 percent from 2006 to 2013, according to the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Roughly 1 in 8 emergency department visits now stem from mental illness or substance use disorders, the data show."

Across the nation, more and more hospitals are instituting Psychiatric Emergency Rooms. Why? Because we are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Romans chapter one sounds the warning to societies that intentionally turn away from God. Verse 28 sums it up. "As they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind."

Depravity of mind goes far beyond mental illness. And I'm not condemning people for being sick. The condemnation goes to the society itself. Romans 1:21-22 says, "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools."