

# 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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## Netanyahu: White House peace plan an ‘opportunity that cannot be missed’

*Ahead of trip to Washington to discuss much-awaited deal, PM praises Trump as ‘greatest friend that Israel has ever had’*

By Times of Israel staff 25 January 2020

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday that the Trump administration’s much-awaited peace plan was a “historic moment” and an opportunity that should not be missed.

“An opportunity such as this comes once in history and cannot be missed,” Netanyahu said in a short video released Saturday evening. “Today, we have in the White House the greatest friend that Israel has ever had; therefore, we have the greatest opportunity that we have ever had.”

“For three years, I have been talking to President [Donald] Trump and his team about our most vital security needs which must be included in any political settlement. I have found a listening ear in the White House for these needs,” he said.

The prime minister added he was headed to Washington “with a sense of great mission, of great responsibility and [amid] a great opportunity that will not repeat itself, to ensure Israel’s future.”

Netanyahu’s office said on Saturday that the prime minister will meet privately with Trump on Monday, in addition to the planned meeting on Tuesday. That announcement came moments after Blue and White leader Benny Gantz, Netanyahu’s political rival, said in a live TV speech that he had accepted a personal invitation from Trump to meet with him privately in Washington on Monday on the administration’s peace plan.

Gantz said he would sit down with Trump as the “leader of the largest party in Israel.” The Blue and White leader is Netanyahu’s main political rival. Elections last April and September ended in deadlock between the rival blocs they head; further elections are to be held on March 2.

Gantz had been invited to Washington alongside Netanyahu to discuss the plan and the two were set to meet with Trump together on Tuesday. The two Israeli leaders will leave separately for their trips and will hold separate schedules in Washington. Both will take off for the US capital on Sunday. Gantz will return, he said, ahead of a vote in the Knesset Tuesday that starts the process by which the parliament will discuss a request from Netanyahu for immunity from prosecution in the three graft cases against him.

On Saturday night, several dozen right-wing activists rallied outside the Prime Minister’s residence urging him to unilaterally annex parts of the West Bank before flying to Washington, and demanding that he reject

any plan that includes Palestinian statehood.

The Palestinian Authority has preemptively rejected the Trump plan and is reportedly threatening to cancel its security coordination with Israel in the West Bank if it moves ahead. The PA has had no substantive dealings with the US administration since Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December 2017.

The US is seeking to encourage allied Arab foreign ministers to attend Tuesday's White House meeting, thus far to no avail, Channel 12 said Saturday.

The peace plan is the most generous US proposal ever for Israel, likely providing for Israeli sovereignty over all West Bank settlements and sovereignty throughout Jerusalem, according to a report this week by Israel's Channel 12. According to that TV report, which was unsourced, the plan also offers potential eventual recognition of Palestinian statehood, provided the Palestinians demilitarize Gaza and accept Israel as a Jewish state — conditions the Palestinians would presumably reject.

Trump last week said that he would likely release the plan before his meeting with Netanyahu. The Tuesday meeting at the White House will coincide with the expected Knesset vote on establishing the committee that will weigh the Netanyahu's request to be protected from corruption charges in three criminal cases.

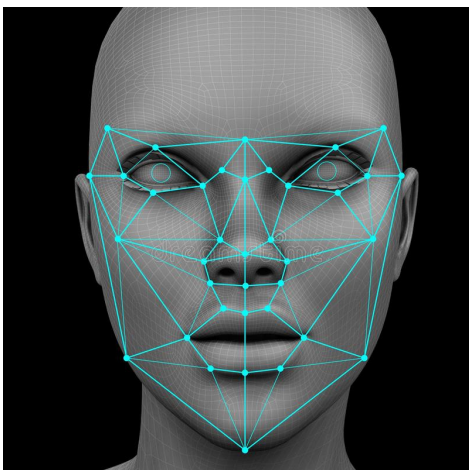
Netanyahu has sought to prevent the forming of the House Committee to weigh his immunity request prior to the March 2 election, as under the makeup of the current Knesset it is all but assured of rejecting it.

Netanyahu announced at the start of January that he would ask the Knesset for parliamentary immunity, as he faced a legal deadline to do so, following Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit's decision to charge him in three corruption cases. Mandelblit cannot officially indict Netanyahu until the Knesset votes on his request.

Netanyahu has been charged with fraud and breach of trust in three cases, and bribery in one of them. He denies any wrongdoing, and claims, without evidence, that the charges are part of an attempted "political coup" against him involving the opposition, media, police and state prosecution.

During his speech on Saturday, Gantz said that to lead any sort of peace process, Israel needs to be led "by a prime minister who has the public legitimacy to implement it."

Gantz predicted that he would win March 2's vote, and then lead the efforts for diplomatic progress.



## Clearview app lets strangers find your name, info with snap of a photo, report says

It may not be long before you'll have to forget about walking down the street anonymously, says a New York Times report.

Edward Moyer      January 18, 2020 12:26 PM PST

"Just a face in the crowd." That figure of speech may one day need a footnote to explain it.

What if a stranger could snap your picture on the sidewalk then use an app to quickly discover your name, address and other details? A startup

called Clearview AI has made that possible, and its app is currently being used by hundreds of law enforcement agencies in the US, including the FBI, says a Saturday report in The New York Times.

The app, says the Times, works by comparing a photo to a database of more than 3 billion pictures that Clearview says it's scraped off Facebook, Venmo, YouTube and other sites. It then serves up matches, along with links to the sites where those database photos originally appeared. A name might easily be unearthed, and from there other info could be dug up online.

The size of the Clearview database dwarfs others in use by law enforcement. The FBI's own database, which taps passport and driver's license photos, is one of the largest, with over 641 million images of US citizens.

The Clearview app isn't currently available to the public, but the Times says police officers and Clearview investors think it will be in the future.

Law enforcement officers say they've used the app to solve crimes from shoplifting to child sexual exploitation to murder. But privacy advocates warn that the app could return false matches to police and that it could also be used by stalkers and others. They've also warned that facial recognition technologies in general could be used to conduct mass surveillance.

Regulation of facial recognition technology is currently up in the air in the US. A few cities, including San Francisco, have banned its use, but there aren't yet any federal laws.

On Wednesday, the House Oversight Committee held its third hearing on facial recognition, as lawmakers look to address the tech's use in public spaces by both private companies and government agencies. "We're going to have to really grapple with what are the parameters of protecting privacy and controlling the use of this technology," Rep. Gerry Connolly, a Democrat from Virginia, said at the hearing.

In November, two senators introduced a bipartisan bill that would limit how agencies like the FBI and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement could use the tech. "Facial recognition technology can be a powerful tool for law enforcement officials," one of the senators, Mike Lee, a Republican from Utah, said in a statement at the time. "But its very power also makes it ripe for abuse."

Clearview AI didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The FBI didn't immediately have a comment.

***And this – The NYTimes requires a paid subscription to their articles but this will do for now:***

Go read this NYT expose on a creepy new facial recognition database used by US police  
By Jon Porter      Jan 20, 2020

Hundreds of law enforcement agencies across the US have started using a new facial recognition system from Clearview AI, a new investigation by The New York Times has revealed. The database is made up of billions of images scraped from millions of sites including Facebook, YouTube, and Venmo. The Times says that Clearview AI's work could "end privacy as we know it," and the piece is well worth a read in its entirety.

The use of facial recognition systems by police is already a growing concern, but the scale of Clearview AI's database, not to mention the methods it used to assemble it, is particularly troubling. The Clearview

system is built upon a database of over three billion images scraped from the internet, a process which may have violated websites' terms of service. Law enforcement agencies can upload photos of any persons of interest from their cases, and the system returns matching pictures from the internet, along with links to where these images are hosted, such as social media profiles.

The NYT says the company's work could "end privacy as we know it"

The NYT says the system has already helped police solve crimes including shoplifting, identify theft, credit card fraud, murder, and child sexual exploitation. In one instance, Indiana State Police were able to solve a case within 20 minutes by using the app.

The use of facial recognition algorithms by police carry risks. False positives can incriminate the wrong people, and privacy advocates fear their use could help to create a police surveillance state. Police departments have reportedly used doctored images that could lead to wrongful arrests, and a federal study has uncovered "empirical evidence" of bias in facial recognition systems.

Using the system involves uploading photos to Clearview AI's servers, and it's unclear how secure these are. Although Clearview AI says its customer-support employees will not look at the photos that are uploaded, it appeared to be aware that Kashmir Hill (the Times journalist investigating the piece) was having police search for her face as part of her reporting:

While the company was dodging me, it was also monitoring me. At my request, a number of police officers had run my photo through the Clearview app. They soon received phone calls from company representatives asking if they were talking to the media — a sign that Clearview has the ability and, in this case, the appetite to monitor whom law enforcement is searching for.

The Times reports that the system appears to have gone viral with police departments, with over 600 already signed up. Although there's been no independent verification of its accuracy, Hill says the system was able to identify photos of her even when she covered the lower half of her face, and that it managed to find photographs of her that she'd never seen before.

One expert quoted by The Times said that the amount of money involved with these systems means that they need to be banned before the abuse of them becomes more widespread. "We've relied on industry efforts to self-police and not embrace such a risky technology, but now those dams are breaking because there is so much money on the table," said a professor of law and computer science at Northeastern University, Woodrow Hartzog, "I don't see a future where we harness the benefits of face recognition technology without the crippling abuse of the surveillance that comes with it. The only way to stop it is to ban it."

## Satan's Wrath, God's Wrath :

Terry James January 23, 2020

Today's article came about as a most profound heavenly influence. Because it involves matters deeply personal in terms of family relationships, I must include details in an oblique way.

In beginning the search for a subject to address, I settled on the topic you see above: "Satan's Wrath, God's Wrath." My thought was to contrast the two kinds of anger and their methods of imposition upon humanity.

No sooner had I settled on how to begin, the heavenly influence I mentioned made it clear why I was prompted to choose the topic I had already chosen.

A message from a family member that was disturbing immediately sent me into the position of prayer to address the Father about the matter at hand. By the time my prayer was finished, the impression that I received was forthcoming. I knew instantly that the assault causing the problem was from our ever-present enemy; Satan and his minions were at work.

The old serpent is working his nefarious evil to circumvent God's protection over me, personally. Satan, for God's own reasons, can't directly get at me for the moment, so he is attacking those I love with all my heart.

I'm not one who claims to hear the literal voice of God or have constant, ecstatic experiences or heavenly interventions. As a matter of fact, I think I'm too much the other way. I've expressed on many occasions that the Good Friday 2011 clinical death I experienced after a widow-maker heart attack and the subsequent visit to the heavenly environs was something that went against my stodgy, Baptist sensibility. But, it is a flawed sensibility, I now know. The Lord does indeed intervene—sometimes in dramatic, even spectacular, ways. I'm still wary—I believe properly so—about claims of supernatural experiences, but God does intervene.

He did so in the genesis of this commentary, as I've said.

The thrust of this article was and is to point out the evil within Satan's wrath and the absolute purity and goodness of God's wrath.

As many who read these articles know, I believe we've been witnessing, through the political goings-on in America before and after the 2016 presidential elections, Satan's wrath. The old serpent's plans to build the platform for his so-called New World Order have been disrupted. The installing of a man in the office of president who believes in national borders and sticking to constitutional principles has taken Satan off his game plan.

The result is infectious rage. It has metastasized within the US and world populations to great extent, driving those who mostly oppose godly principles of personal and governmental conduct into a reprobate mindset. They call good evil, and evil good. Satan's wrath is thus manifest for all to observe.

It is directed at all who oppose his desire to completely do away with anything godly. This is why anti-Semitism is again underway and growing. It will reach levels that even will exceed Hitler's hatred for God's chosen people.

Satan's wrath is why hatred against Christians is progressing geometrically. The following news item illustrates; Shortly before President Trump signed phase one of the historic trade deal with China, a Chinese pastor described the fear and intimidation believers are enduring under the Communist government.

"The Chinese government has now placed severe restrictions and policies on the house churches, asking neighbors to spy on one another, pressuring school teachers and college professors to betray and sign a statement to denounce their own faith as well to do the same to students," Pastor Jean Zhu said. Zhu described the Chinese government's alarming actions as Christian persecution has continued to spread around the world...

Some 260 million Christians have been living in areas of high persecution — that's one in eight believers worldwide — an increase of 10 percent compared to last year, according to the watchdog group Open Doors USA's 2020 World Watch List.

"The drivers of persecution are still very significantly entrenched. Islamic extremism is spreading in

Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia,” David Curry, the president and CEO of Open Doors USA, told Fox News. “Then you add this rise of surveillance. Every year, Open Doors USA, a bipartisan grassroots organization, has released a list of the 50 most dangerous countries for Christians. North Korea topped the list for the 19th year in a row, but China became the focus this year because of its forced labor camps and oppression of Uighur Muslims that’s expected to spread and worsen. (Caleb Parke, “Christians see ‘alarming’ trend worldwide as China builds ‘blueprint of persecution’,” Fox News, January 18, 2020)

Satan’s rage is also seen in every direction in America one looks. Businesses are boycotted and have lawsuits filed against them because of “hate crimes”—for example, bakeries that refuse to prepare wedding cakes displaying that the marriage is same-sex suffer public obloquy. Restaurants are sued because their owners support biblical precepts when it comes to homosexuality or right-to-life issues contrary to abortion activists’ demands. The anti-Christian forces display, with increasing vigor, Satan’s hatred and wrath.

God’s Word warns of that rage and wrath:

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

“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” (2 Timothy 3:12–13).

Satan’s wrath sits heavily upon humanity because he wants to destroy God’s creation called mankind. His wrath is steeped totally in hatred. God’s wrath, by contrast, is the ultimate expression of His absolute love for mankind.

He so loved us that He poured out His wrath on His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He did so while Jesus hung on that old, rugged cross and took on all the past, present, and future sin of the world. God did this so that anyone who accepts Christ’s substitutionary, sin-death sacrifice as His grace gift for salvation will be saved—once and forever.

God—Jesus Christ, Himself—will one eternal day do away with sin and rebellion forever at the “Great White Throne,” where God’s mighty judgment and wrath will express His perfect love. There will be no more sin and death—forever. He has promised that ultimate expression of His love through His Holy Word.

John wrote the following:

“And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son” (Revelation 21:5-7).

## Something We Should Know

By Daymond Duck     January 19, 2020

Lists are helpful, and I have seen some good ones lately, so I decided to try to put a couple together.

God promised to return Israel to the Promised Land and bless her. Israel is:

Double- and triple-cropping and exporting food.

Desalinating water and supplying water to Jordan and Gaza.

Producing more natural gas than it needs, and exporting some.

One of the top ten economies in the world.

One of the strongest currencies in the world.

One of the strongest militaries in the world.

One of the most technologically innovative nations in the world.

Expected to generate hundreds of billions of dollars from exports in the future to finance growth in other areas.

Without requiring Israel to make concessions, Pres. Trump has:

Stopped calling Judea and Samaria “occupied territory” (April 2018).

Pulled the U.S. out of the Iranian nuclear deal (May 2018).

Officially moved the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem (May 2018).

Cut off hundreds of millions of dollars of funding to the PA (Aug. 2018).

Cancelled the PA’s independent diplomatic status in Washington and placed it under the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem (Oct. 2018).

Recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights (Mar. 2019).

Removed the word “Palestine” from the list of nations and areas on U.S. State Dept. Websites (Aug. 2019).

Announced that the U.S. will no longer tolerate PA support for terrorism (Aug. 2019).

Recognized Israel as a nation as well as a religion (Dec. 2019).

Assassinated Gen. Soleimani (Jan. 2020).

Pres. Trump may soon put a peace treaty on the table, and there have been reports that he has been asked to help Israel rebuild the Temple.

These lists are real, God is real, and the situation in Israel is shaping up exactly as the prophets foretold in the Bible.

Israel has food, water, energy, military strength, riches and an ally in the White House that is fulfilling Bible prophecy unlike any other.

When asked about the signs of His coming and the end of the age, Jesus replied, “Now learn a parable of the fig tree (Israel); When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matt. 24:32-35).

We cannot know the day or the hour of our Lord’s return, but He gave us indicators (signs or future events) to let us know when it is near.

Many experts in Bible prophecy believe all of those indicators are converging in this present generation. FYI: Prophecy Plus is not a fund-raising ministry, but we have received an e-mail from Australia saying many victims of the devastating wildfires are needing help in the way of prayer, food and money. According to the e-mail, the Red Cross in Australia is helping those it can.

Prophecy Plus Ministries, Inc.  
Daymond & Rachel Duck