



# 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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## Uncertain Times?

By Hal Lindsey

The November 2020 issue of The Atlantic features an article titled, “The Election that Could Break America”... The President of the United States, the First Lady, many others in the Administration and on Capitol Hill have been diagnosed with Covid-19... The World Health Organization now estimates that 10% of the world’s population has had the virus... A new wave of the disease is hitting New York, Paris, London, Madrid, and elsewhere... An unprecedented fire season continues in the western United States... A shaken Washington establishment is preparing for all-out war over Supreme Court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett... Yet another potential hurricane seems to be taking aim at the Gulf Coast... And on and on.

They call these “uncertain times.” But are they really uncertain?

For those who understand Bible prophecy, the times became quite certain with the birth of modern Israel in 1948. These are the days of the budding fig tree, times of the end as a new beginning dawns. Societal upheavals, natural disasters, and the threat of new and more horrible kinds of war create fear and anguish across the world. But the Bible said these things would happen during the days not long before the return of Jesus.

The Bible’s accuracy should give us tremendous comfort. Through it, God demonstrates His authority and ultimate control. He did not create us, then leave us to fend for ourselves. He remains active and interested in our lives. He offers to make us a part of His family. And when you’re one of His, He has a Bible full of promises to give you comfort and hope in times of trouble.

In Matthew 6:26, Jesus reminded His followers of His Father’s care for the “the birds of the air.” “They do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?”

Then, in verse 27, Jesus asked this profound question. “Who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?”

Agonizing and worry produce more agonizing and worry. How much better to trust the God of your salvation, stand on the solid ground of His word, and allow His all-powerful arms to envelope you? Trust Him, love Him, and receive His love. You don’t save yourself by having the right feelings. Only Jesus

saves. But you get to choose whether or not you will walk in the peace that Jesus offers.

Will only good things happen in your life? No. The 23rd Psalm describes walking through the “valley of the shadow of death.” What an amazing picture! That same verse 4 goes on to say, “I will fear no evil; For You are with me.”

That is not naively ignoring the situation. That is acknowledging the true context of every situation. Evil exists. Bad things sometimes happen. But those things happen inside a greater and better framework. The big picture is this. The Almighty God loves you and promises to care for you, even when times seem uncertain.

It's not that you have no enemies, but that even in their presence, He prepares a feast for you. If you are His, then you can say with the Psalmist, “Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.”

## Israel to immediately bring over 2,000 Ethiopian Jews

By ELIAS MESERET

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told his Ethiopian counterpart that his country has the intention to “immediately” bring over some 2,000 Ethiopian Jews. The announcement came Friday after a phone call with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Netanyahu's office said the decision comes “out of his commitment to the continued aliyah of Jews to Israel.”

Some 13,000 Ethiopian Jews are in the capital, Addis Ababa, and in Gondar, most of them waiting to be taken to Israel, which they call home. Most live in dire conditions and have threatened to stage a hunger strike if they're not allowed to travel to their “homeland.” Many say they have family members who have settled in Israel.

“Some 250 people have left for Israel within the past year until COVID-19 came. Now the travel has stopped, but Israeli officials are conducting interviews online,” Nigusie Alemu Eyasu, program director for the Ethiopian Jews Community, told The Associated Press.

Activists say Israel's government in 2015 pledged to bring the remaining Ethiopian Jews to Israel. In 1991 while Ethiopia was in the midst of civil war, Israel carried out the dramatic Operation Solomon, airlifting out some 14,500 Ethiopian Jews in less than two days.

Ethiopian Jews are often referred to in Ethiopia as “Falashas,” a derogatory word which translates into “strangers” or “migrants.”

### **Crypto banks are going to swallow fiat banks in 3 years — or even less**

In three years, a younger generation of banking customers won't do business with a traditional fiat bank unless it offers access to crypto.

Within a few years, a younger generation of financial services customers are going to be able to walk into a bank and gain access to credit products, savings accounts and investments that can host both crypto and fiat assets. In fact, the inroads that will allow for all of this to happen are already breaking ground.

You probably already know that Kraken, a cryptocurrency exchange based out of San Francisco, is now the first-ever cryptocurrency business in the United States to become a bank. For now, being an officially chartered bank means that Kraken will be able to offer more banking and funding options to existing

customers. It also means Kraken Financial is going to be able to operate in multiple jurisdictions without having to deal with state-by-state compliance plans.

Kraken is currently working with Silvergate Bank to offer SWIFT and FedWire funding options to U.S. customers. More and more of these kinds of partnerships will become the status quo in the near future. That's why now is the time for traditional banks that are lagging behind to start paying attention.

Silvergate Bank is a step ahead of the rest at the moment. The company boasts 880 digital asset companies as clients. Those clients have deposited more than \$1.5 billion with the bank. That's still a small amount of money relative to the market capitalizations of most major banks or even most major cryptocurrencies for that matter. That said, keep in mind that major crypto exchanges Coinbase and Gemini are now customers of JPMorgan, even though CEO Jamie Dimon routinely denounced the value of Bitcoin (BTC) and cryptocurrencies just a few short years ago.

Consumers will soon define a "full service" bank as one that offers financial services in both crypto and fiat. The time to start acquiring the necessary tools of the crypto banking trade is right now. Banks need to start adapting or get left behind. Make no mistake about it.

But what tools do they actually need?

#### Blockchain forensics tools

A crime scene investigator can use a black light or fingerprint powder to uncover all kinds of evidence. The idea that Bitcoin or blockchains are completely private has been dispelled again and again. In fact, blockchain-based currencies are much more open to investigative methods than fiat currencies. It is certainly possible to uncover the origins of transactions. In order for banks to do that with cryptocurrency, they will need blockchain explorers and risk scoring tools that can go a step further than the current publicly provided services.

Those forensics tools already exist, and they allow investigators to follow digital paper trails across addresses, wallets, transactions, blockchains and other digital entities, using techniques like clustering and heuristics. Companies in this space are developing their own proprietary searching algorithms designed to detect the origins of concealed funds and unmask criminals.

Remember, traditional fiat is still the currency of choice for money laundering professionals. Cryptocurrency is in its nascent days and will emerge as a powerful force in reducing the money laundering risk around the world.

DeFi is not going to be the answer for the average consumer

Make no mistake about it, the decentralized finance sector of cryptocurrency holds virtually endless promise. Yield farming may be all the rage, but the DeFi sector is so much more than that.

DeFi projects can allow you to take technical and fundamental trading advice from other traders and only pay a fee if you make a profit. You can pour your capital into digital investment portfolios without having to pay mutual fund fees that can eat away at hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of your retirement portfolio. Investors can also hold derivatives of their desired cryptos without having to constantly switch between blockchains. These innovations are just the tip of the iceberg. As the market continues to mature, more and more DeFi projects will allow us to do things in the future that we are not even thinking about right now.

There is, however, one fundamental problem with all of this. The average banking customer isn't going to engage with decentralized finance protocols for decades. Yes, the most avid crypto enthusiast knows enough to dig up the contract address of an ERC-20 token, trade it on decentralized exchanges, and invest that token through lending platforms and liquidity pools.

However, the average person is likely still going to want to talk to a banker from time to time, even if they hold most of their wealth in the form of cryptocurrency. Furthermore, governments around the world are working on their own government-backed cryptocurrencies, which the average consumer will definitely want access to at their bank of choice.

Sooner rather than later

What will happen if banks don't join the party?

Any bank still approaching cryptocurrency with trepidation over the next 18 months is at risk of finding itself dead in the water at the hands of Kraken and other banks that jump on board and take the plunge.

Now is the time for traditional fiat banks to engage in empowering the individual with greater access to crypto. If they don't, they will be swept away by the rising tide of cryptocurrencies ripe to reinvent the world's financial system one way or another.

## “Woke” Oregon Professor Blames ‘White Christians’ for West Coast Wildfires

October 6, 2020

An Oregon State University professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies has alleged “white Christians” are to blame for West Coast wildfires because of their “denial of climate science.”

As revealed by the attentive folks at Campus Reform in an October 2 essay, Prof. Susan Shaw has insisted that “the West is burning while most white Christians turn away from the root causes of the devastation.”

Shaw writes that “the intensity and scope of these fires are a result of climate change” and its spread is due to the fact that “many Christians, especially white Christians, have embraced denial of climate science.”

“Just over half of white mainline Protestants agree that climate change is a crisis or major problem,” Shaw declares. “Only 44% of white evangelicals say the same. Nearly a quarter say it’s not a problem at all.”

The problem is not just religious but is also political, Shaw predictably asserts.

“The disturbing link between white evangelical support for Trump and disregard for climate change that disproportionately affects poor people of color around the world should probably not be all that surprising,” writes Shaw, who states that her “current research interests are in feminist studies in religion.”

“Not surprisingly, more than 70% of Democrats accept that human activity causes climate change, while only 22% of Republicans do,” Shaw laments. “Scholars suggest that politics more than religion may drive these beliefs, especially in such a partisan context as we presently have.”

Shaw fails to mention the role of forest management in the rampant spread of the fires. Last month, NPR observed that “California and Oregon in particular are far behind stated goals of treating millions of acres of forests and wild lands through restoration projects, selective thinning of trees and brush and prescribed burning.”

Chuck DeVore, the vice president of national initiatives at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, wrote last year in *Forbes* that “it’s not climate change that’s burning up the forests, killing people, and destroying hundreds of homes; it’s decades of environmental mismanagement that has created a tinderbox of unharvested timber, dead trees, and thick underbrush.”

Shaw, instead, sees the problem as rooted in apocalyptic evangelicalism.

“Many white Christians believe God won’t let climate change destroy the earth. Others see climate-related disasters as signs of the end times,” she declares.

Prof. Shaw does not explain how exactly the spread of West Coast wildfires would be curbed if evangelicals were to buy into climate alarmism.

When Campus Reform asked Shaw about the strong language she used, she responded: “I don’t think that language is necessarily racially divisive or charged. It’s descriptive, and it’s the language the research I cited uses to look at climate science beliefs across Christians.”

“The research shows that among Christians, Whites significantly more than Blacks or Latinos, deny, minimize, or ignore climate science,” Shaw said, adding “that race and social class, more than theological beliefs, contributes to White Christians’ denial of climate science.”

## The War Which Will Devour America

By Geri Ungurean October 6, 2020

If you have not noticed, America has been invaded by Marxists/Communists. What do you think BLM and ANTIFA are? Please remove your head from the sand and understand what is at stake here.

Our Constitutional Republic is at stake! The young so-called “Progressives,” and the old ones too, either do not really know history – or they are evil to the core of their being. But they may not know exactly what Marxism is.

At least we now know that the U.S. is absent in the end times as far as the Word of God.

Poll: Half of America is Prepping for ‘civil war’

This is the single most frightening poll result I’ve ever been associated with.

The polling said 61% believe the U.S. is nearing a second civil war. Forty-one percent “strongly agree” with that. And 52% are “so convinced that it is just around the corner, or after Election Day, that they are putting away food and other essentials.”

Three of five Americans believe the nation is on the verge of a civil war, and more than half already are preparing for it, according to a new poll.

“This is the single most frightening poll result I’ve ever been associated with,” the pollster, Rich Thau, told Paul Bedard in his “Washington Secrets” column for the Washington Examiner.

The poll by Engagious, Sports and Leisure Research Group and ROKK Solutions found 61% of Americans believe the U.S. is nearing a second civil war. Forty-one percent “strongly agree” with that. And 52% are “so convinced that it is just around the corner, or after Election Day, that they are putting away food and other essentials.”

Bedard reported his column has been following surveys “that have been sizing up the state of the nation and business since the coronavirus crisis hit.”

This one, he said, is the first to “raise majority concerns about a potential war.”

“Predictably, it’s the political extremes who are most ready for war, with 52% of very liberal, 52% of very conservative, 32% of somewhat liberal, 34% of moderate, and 35% of somewhat conservative respondents saying they believe the statement ‘I’m concerned that the U.S. could be on the verge of another civil war,’” Bedard wrote.

The coronavirus pandemic is a contributing factor, he said, because many believe it will spike again, and food and other essentials will become scarce. source

I don’t know about a Civil War coming. It is possible.

But one thing I AM sure of is that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is soon coming for His own. We will be out of this crazed and demon-filled world.

We will be with JESUS for eternity!

Keep your eyes on HIM!

## 'Jerusalem Is Ours': Behind Erdogan's Remarkable Claim

To Turkey's leader, what’s good for Hagia Sophia, Istanbul's church-turned-mosque, is apparently appropriate for Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre as well

Recep Tayyip Erdogan has news for Jerusalemites: “Jerusalem is ours. One of our cities,” the Turkish president declared last Thursday at the opening of the legislative session of the Turkish parliament in Ankara.

Erdogan didn't mean that Jerusalem is a Muslim city that belongs to all Muslims. As far as he’s concerned, Jerusalem belongs to Turkey

It is a city, Erdogan said, “that we left in tears during World War I and where vestiges of the Ottoman resistance can still be found. The physical appearance of the Old City, which is the heart of Jerusalem, was constructed by Suleiman the Great, along with the walls, the bazaars and many other buildings. Our forefathers displayed great respect toward it for hundreds of years.”

This revelation was not the result of some sudden inspiration. Turkish activists from Erdogan’s ruling Justice and Development Party and organizations affiliated with it have been active on the Temple Mount for years, in coordination with the Islamic Movement and the Muslim Waqf (religious trust), the Jordanian-controlled custodian of the Old City compound.

But this time things are not being said in the context of the religious connection between Turkey and Jerusalem. As someone who skips from one front to the next – from Libya to Syria and from Qatar to Azerbaijan – for Erdogan Jerusalem is the red flag he likes to wave in the faces of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the Emirates.

It’s not enough that Jordan is afraid that Saudi Arabia will deprive it of its status as the country responsible for holy places: Now Turkey is positing itself as a legitimate competitor for ownership and control over them. The vision of an Islamic caliphate under Erdogan’s leadership is his new baby, and what’s good for Hagia Sophia, the church that was turned into a mosque, is apparently appropriate for the Church of the Holy Sepulchre as well.

A speech about Jerusalem and about the historical connection between Turkey and the Palestinians could perhaps have been used in ordinary times as a means to divert attention from the upheaval Turkey is undergoing.

But Jerusalem is not the main issue of concern for its people today. More important is the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the future of Nagorno-Karabakh region, a predominantly Armenian enclave stuck in the heart of Azerbaijan and now a site of violent clashes that threaten to provide Turkey with an excuse for military intervention; the economic crisis and plummeting of the exchange rate of the Turkish lira, which Ankara is unable to stop; and the spread of COVID-19, which to date has taken the lives of over 8,300 people.

Figures presented by the opposition, so they claim, point to the fact that the number of those infected is almost twice that presented by the Health Ministry. For example, on September 10 they identified 29,377 as having the virus – when on that same day the ministry reported only 1,512. Erdogan can not fire the opposition, but the Turkish Medical Association, which continues to criticize the government's health policy consistently, can be disbanded. And that is just what the president's coalition partner, Devlet Bahçeli, leader of the Nationalist Party, is now trying to do.

In addition to getting rid of the medical association, Bahçeli has proposed a series of necessary "reforms," such as restoring the death penalty and revamping the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court. Erdogan has already hastened to declare his support of Bahçeli's proposals, especially the one regarding Constitutional Court. The battle against that Turkish court is very similar, incidentally, to that being waged in Israel between the government and the Supreme Court – and for the same reasons.

In September Turkey's Constitutional Court cancelled the clause in the Law on Demonstrations and Public Meetings which determines that "demonstrations or parades cannot be held on intercity highways." Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu attacked the Constitutional Court's president, Zuhtu Arslan, at the time, saying, "If you claim that we're a free country, then you don't need police protection. Let's see you ride to work on your bicycle, are you willing?"

In response, one of the senior justices, Engin Yildirim, posted a picture in which he is riding his bicycle, reminding the minister that "judges are independent and operate according to the law and the constitution. The legislative and executive authorities must implement the court rulings without delay."

Three months earlier the Constitutional Court had ruled that the prolonged detention (over three years) of the former head of the pro-Kurdish party HDP, Selahattin Demirtas, exceeded a reasonable period of time and that his rights were being undermined. The criminal court that discussed the case paid no attention to this ruling.

If the reform that Erdogan wants, which was approved already in 2017, is implemented, all the Supreme Court justices are expected to be replaced by new judges, many of whom will be appointed by the president.

Meanwhile, in order to complete its domination over rivals, the Turkish government last Thursday began to implement a new social media law, which requires every platform with over 1 million users (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) to respond within a few hours to every demand to remove content from the Information and Communications Technology Authority, and requires that internet providers store and preserve the surfing history of its users and to place it at the disposal of the authorities. Infractions of the law would mean heavy fines, curtailed advertising and a reduction in the bandwidth used by the media.

Turkey, which is in 154th place (out of 180 countries) in the World Press Freedom index, justifies the new regulations as being needed to safeguard the country's security, human dignity and right to privacy.