

# 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

## Landslides, Flooding Clobber California

By Jan Wesner Childs



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### At a Glance

- **Several roads were shut down.**
- **Evacuations were ordered in some areas.**
- **Hundreds of thousands of power outages were reported.**

Evacuations were ordered, roads were closed and hundreds of thousands of people were without electricity Sunday night as a powerful storm roared across parts of California and the Pacific Northwest.

The weather brought the threat of potentially deadly landslides and flooding.

The risk is particularly high in terrain left barren by wildfires, which is vulnerable to flooding and an especially dangerous and fast-moving type of landslide that scientists call "debris flows."

Watches and warnings for flooding and debris flow were issued ahead of the storm for areas including the Dixie and Alisal burn scar areas.

The weather is bringing relief amid a historic drought and tamping down the threat of fall wildfires. But it remains to be seen how the region's wet season will play out.

Here's a look at what happened throughout the day and evening Sunday.

## **400,000+ Power Outages in California, Oregon, Washington**

Nearly 400,000 power outages were reported across three states, according to poweroutage.us. More than 179,000 were in Washington, with many of them due to high winds in King County around Seattle.

About 175,000 homes and businesses were without electricity in California. Outages were especially prevalent in northern coastal counties including Sonoma, Marin and San Mateo. Others were concentrated in Butte and Nevada counties.

There were about 28,000 outages in Oregon, mainly in the northwest corner of the state.

## **Evacuations Due to Flooding in Sonoma County**

Residents in one Santa Rosa neighborhood were told to leave due to flooding. Firefighters went door to door in water rescue gear and an apartment complex was evacuated, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Resident Todd Everett, 61, told the newspaper a usually "sleepy neighborhood creek" turned into "a roaring river." Everett said he and his family moved to the area 3 years ago from Chicago.

"We escaped the blizzards of Chicago only to face the monstrous rains in the middle of the drought," he said.

## **Two Feet of Water Reported Over City Streets**

Police in San Rafael sent an alert to residents Sunday afternoon warning of extreme flooding in the city's downtown corridor.

"Many of the roadways are under 2 feet of water and are impassable or otherwise closed," the alert said. "The flooding is anticipated to worsen due to another high tide, in addition to the rain fall levels from the 'atmospheric river.'"

The city sits on the bay north of San Francisco.

## **Evacuations Ordered in Fresno County**

People in the Fresno County section of the Creek Fire burn scar area were also told to evacuate their homes.

The affected area included Big Creek Canyon from below Big Creek to the San Joaquin River, according to the county sheriff's department.

## **Multiple Landslides Reported**

Several landslides happened, including one that shut down Highway 70 near Tobin in Plumas County, where the Dixie Fire left behind large swaths of burn scars.

"Numerous mud, rock and debris flows have been reported," the National Weather Service in Reno tweeted. "This event is just getting underway! Stay alert and stay safe today!"

## **Last I heard, Israel is a sovereign nation, so...? MD**

# **12 European States Urge Israel to Stop Settlement Expansion**

The statement comes after a harsh U.S. rebuke on Israel's plan to construct housing units in West Bank settlements.

Reuters

Oct. 28, 2021

Germany, along with other 11 European countries, urged Israel on Thursday to reverse its decision to advance plans to construct around 3,000 settlement units in the West Bank.

In a joint statement by the foreign ministries of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden, the countries said they opposed settlement expansion across the occupied Palestinian Territories.

"We call on both parties to build on steps taken in recent months to improve cooperation and reduce tensions," the countries said.

The United Kingdom issued a statement by Minister for the Middle East and North Africa James Cleverly that called on Israel to reverse the approval and said settlements "are illegal under international law and present an obstacle to peace and stability."

Also Thursday, Russia's Foreign Ministry wrote on Twitter that it was "disappointed" with Israel's decision and that it "reaffirm[ed] Russia's principled position that Israel's settlement activity is illegal."

Israel moved forward on Wednesday with plans to build some 3,000 homes for Jewish settlers in the West Bank, defying the strongest criticism to date of such projects from the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden.

On Tuesday, the Biden administration strongly condemned Israel's plans to advance housing units in Israeli settlements in its firmest public rebuke of Israeli policy to date.

Senior U.S. officials told Naftali Bennett's office in discreet talks that their concerns mainly relate to the expected construction in the depths of Palestinian territory. The messages were conveyed, among other avenues, from the office of U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan.

"We are deeply concerned about the Israeli government's plan to advance thousands of settlement units, many of them deep in the West Bank. In addition, we're concerned about the publication of tenders on Sunday for 1,300 settlement units in a number of West Bank settlements," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said.

# Bible Bite: What Did You Expect the End Times to be Like?



By [Bible Bites](#)

October 23, 2021

“As I’ve walked among Christians recently, around the world and especially here in America, I’ve seen that they’re all concerned and, to a certain degree, angry and disappointed. And I’m like, what did you expect the end times to be like? I mean, if anything, everything we see that is happening all around the world should encourage us.

You know, it reminds me of the two disciples on that Sunday morning who went all the way down to Emmaus. Remember that? They were disciples. They were not from the Sanhedrin or Pharisees or Sadducees. I mean, they were disciples. They knew Jesus. They heard every word He had to say. They knew what He had said regarding what He had to go through. It didn’t come as a surprise. And yet as they walked all the way from Jerusalem after they had heard from the woman that came to the tomb that morning that the tomb is empty, they were walking and talking with one another and they were what? Sad!

They had just heard that He’s not there in the tomb, He’s alive. And they are sad. And this is more or less what I see around me right now. Everybody is so disappointed that their freedoms are being taken from them. Wow, show me in what book of the Bible it says that we will maintain our freedoms at the very end. Is it in the Book of Second Opinions? What book? Because the last time I heard about the end times, Jesus is the One who promised us tribulations, but still He said to be of good cheer.”

While there are many things that we are blessed with as born again Christians, we tend to forget some of them when the heat is on or the going gets tough. One of the most important things for us to remember right now is the difference between happiness and joy. Happiness is circumstance based. When things are going well or when a blessing comes our way, we are happy. When things are not going good and troubles come our way, we are not happy. Because the good and the bad are part of life on earth, if we live only to be happy, we will be living a roller coaster existence.

Joy, however, is more stable. It is not based on things being up or down, good or bad. It is a constant in the life of a believer.

**1 Peter 4:12-14 KJV** – *“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.”*

Peter says exceeding joy is possible in the midst of fiery trials, even when we are insulted for the name of Christ. Fiery trials and insults for following Christ are certainly on the increase in these last days, yet joy is still ours to have even though we are not happy with all that is going on around us.

**Psalm 51:10-12 KJV** – *“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”*

While joy is not determined by good and bad circumstances as happiness is, it can still be lost as we see in the words of King David. [Psalm 51](#) was written after David had been confronted by Nathan the prophet about his sin with Bathsheba. He had tried to hide it, and it robbed him of the joy of his salvation. The key for restoring it was a clean heart and a renewed steadfast spirit.

We cannot allow the perils of the last days to rob us of our joy. We can and should be unhappy about what is going on around us, but the joy of our salvation need not be impacted by it. The world has gone mad, but it is not our home. Good is called evil and evil is called good, yet we are headed to a city in which righteousness dwells. It is a city whose builder and maker is God. We are hated by all for His name's sake, yet because we bear His name and are bought by His blood, nothing can separate us from His love and no one can snatch us from His hand.

We cannot be like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, who were dejected because things went a direction they weren't expecting. The truth was they should have been expecting what robbed them of their joy.

***Luke 24:25-27, 30-32 KJV** – “Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself... And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”*

Notice what turned a long-faced and unhappy journey back home into a time of renewed excitement and joy? The Scriptures that told them they should have expected the events of the last three days. We too are in the same situation. The Scriptures have told us what things would be like in the last days and here we are.

David had a reason for the loss of joy in his life. He sinned against the Lord. We have many reasons to be unhappy, but we should not be joyless. The world has changed, but that doesn't include anything that really matters. The blood of Jesus has still covered our sins, and we're still separated from those sins as far as the east is from the west. When we are absent from the body we will still be present with the Lord, and whether we have plenty or little we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, just as Paul told the Philippians.

***2 Timothy 4:3-5 KJV** – “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”*

Doing the work of the evangelist, which is sharing Christ with others, is the best way to maintain joy in these perilous last days. After all, there are few things that create more joy than seeing someone come to faith in Christ and be born again and filled with the joy of their salvation!

Tell someone about Jesus today! It will bring joy to you and could be great for them.

Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus.

# Emboldened Iran Teetering On The Brink Of Nuclear Weapons As World Leaders Scramble

Harbingers daily

***Pressure is ramping as world powers attempt to stop the Islamic Republic of Iran from crossing the threshold of becoming a nuclear power.***

A nuclear weapon-wielding Iran poses a chief threat to the nation of Israel, a country Iranian regimes have not shied away from declaring their intention of wiping off the map.

The topic of Iran nearing its goal to develop such weapons was widely discussed at the United Nations general assembly.

Israel's Former Ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, [stated](#) that although it is important for world leaders to discuss the Coronavirus at the UN, there is "at least as significant, if not more of a menace that could undermine the delicate stability in the Middle East and globally, and that is the Iranian nuclear threat."

Dannon further urged that the JCPOA is not the solution to "terminate an already advanced nuclear program."

"The nuclear agreement to which Iran and the original agreement signatories, or the P5+1, may return will not terminate an already advanced nuclear program. It will only serve to bestow international legitimacy to an unrestrained extremist Iranian regime and its treacherous nuclear ambitions," the former ambassador warned.

"Throughout my diplomatic career I have learned that many countries talk about the importance of Israel's security while making decisions that actually weaken our security," Dannon wrote in an [opinion piece](#) published to the Jerusalem Post. "Israel must take our enemies' threats more seriously than our allies' promises. If this dangerous regime attains the nuclear capabilities to which it aspires it will undoubtedly disturb the delicate balance that exists in the region, and it will be not only Israel and the Middle East region that will suffer. In diplomacy, politeness is maintained but positions should not be surrendered. The State of Israel must reveal the truth clearly and unambiguously that it is impossible to sign an already fractured agreement and simultaneously talk about halting the Iranian nuclear program."

Danon stressed that the Israel's Prime Minister "must be bold and clear" when addressing the General Assembly.

In his speech, Bennett stated that "Iran's nuclear program has hit a watershed moment." "Over the past few years, Iran has made a major leap forward, in its nuclear R&D, in its production-capacity, and in its enrichment," he said. "Iran's nuclear weapon program is at a critical point. All red lines have been crossed. Inspections — ignored. All wishful-thinking — proven false. Iran is violating the IAEA's safeguard agreements — and it's getting away with it. They harass inspectors and sabotage their investigations — and they're getting away with it. They enrich Uranium to the level of 60 percent, which is one step short of weapons-grade material — and they're getting away with it. Evidence which clearly proves Iran's intentions for nuclear weapons in secret sites in Turqzabad, Teheran & Marivan — is ignored."

"Iran's nuclear program has hit a watershed moment," Bennet further warned. "And so has our tolerance. Words do not stop centrifuges from spinning. There are those in the world who seem to view Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons as an inevitable reality, or they've just become tired of hearing about it. Israel doesn't have that privilege. We will not tire. We will not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon."

Despite his insistence that Israel will "not allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon," political analyst Caroline Glick [urged](#) Bennett's address to the UN did not go nearly far enough.

“The great threat to Israel these days from Iran is reflected in the unwillingness of the US administration to do anything active to prevent Iran from crossing the last line towards independent nuclear capability. Instead of dealing with it in a real way, that is, militarily, the US administration is doing everything to resume the nuclear talks with the Iranians, which will lead to American and UN legitimacy for an Iranian nuclear arsenal,” Glick explained in an interview with Arutz Sheva. “Naftali did not say anything about it. He did not condemn, not even a little bit, the dangerous nuclear agreement. On the contrary, his defense minister said that Israel was fine with the American talks leading up to the nuclear agreement.”

Glick’s comments were in reference to defense Minister Benny Gantz earlier this month, stating in an interview with Foreign Policy that he would “accept” the “current US approach of putting the Iran nuclear program back in a box” through the JCPOA.

Gantz’s remarks and the soft stance by PM Bennet were met with condemnation from former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who called the move a “*dangerous mistake*.”

“In practice, the policy of no longer opposing a US return to a nuclear deal paves the way for Iran to become a rich nuclear power because all economic sanctions will be lifted and the Iranian plan will also receive a UN seal even though it was developed illegally,” Glick maintained.

“Lapid and Gantz said about a month and a half ago that within 70 days Iran will pass the point of no return, so what are they waiting for? Where is the defense of Israel? Where is the move to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons?” she asked. “In the previous government every Monday and Thursday there were moves on nuclear facilities in Iran, and in this government nothing happens because we do not want to surprise the Americans. It gives the United States a veto right over our activities.”

Biden in his address to UNGA stated that, “The United States remains committed to preventing Iran from gaining a nuclear weapon. We are working with the P5+1 to engage Iran diplomatically and seek a return to the JCPOA. We’re prepared to return to full compliance if Iran does the same.”

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, in a prerecorded message to the UN told the General Assembly, “Iran cannot be allowed to think any longer that time is on its side because the more dangerous its nuclear program becomes, the greater the risk of a major crisis. France will do everything it possibly can to encourage dialogue, but the only possible way forward remains an agreement, making it possible to establish that Iran is once again upholding its obligations. It is therefore essential that negotiations resume very quickly.”

Reports released earlier this month indicated the world’s largest state sponsor of terrorism will have enough uranium to create a nuclear bomb in less than one month, underscoring the urgency needed to stop Iran.

### **Iran Snubs Nuclear Inspectors**

On Tuesday, Iran rejected requests from the UN and EU to allow inspectors from the nuclear watchdog group IAEA to enter one of their nuclear sites. The facility was reported to be damaged in June by what Iran has called an act of sabotage by Israel in which cameras from the site were destroyed.

“Countries that did not condemn terrorist acts against Iran’s nuclear site are not qualified to comment on inspections there,” the Islamic Republic said in response.

“We are deeply troubled by Iran’s refusal to provide the IAEA with the needed access to service its monitoring equipment, as was agreed in the Sept. 12 Joint Statement between the IAEA and Iran,” the United States said in a statement.

## Norway Charges Professor with Violating Iran Sanctions

This development also comes as Norway has charged a German-Iranian professor with violating sanctions against Iran.

The professor was accused of inviting guest researchers from the Islamic Republic to the Norwegian technical university, providing them access to a laboratory.

The prosecutor urged that the visiting researchers had access to “knowledge that could be useful to Iran’s nuclear program.” Adding, “the potential danger” of what took place is very “serious.”

## Iran’s Intimidation Tactics Against Azerbaijan

Despite the mounting tensions, Iran has not slowed its bullying in the Middle East.

Most recently, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Iranian army conducted “military drills” along the border with Azerbaijan sparking condemnation by the countries President.

“Every country can carry out any military drill on its own territory. It’s their sovereign right. But why now, and why on our border?” he stated Monday.

In response to the criticism, Iran stated that it “will take all measures it judges necessary for its national security,” adding that “Iran will not tolerate the presence of the Zionist regime near our borders.”

The reference to a “zionist” presence may be in regards to Azerbaijan’s relationship with Israel. However, some are speculating the Iranians are fearing a strike from Israel coming in that direction.

## What Does The Bible Say?

Amir Tsarfati of Behold Israel stated via Telegram that “By the end of this year, the world will see either a nuclear Iran or a strike on Iran. No deal will stop them at this point. Buckle up your seatbelt in preparation for a very stormy end of 2021.”

“The Middle East is reaching a boiling point,” he added. Talk of significant military action taken by Israel against Iran has those familiar with Bible Prophecy watching very closely. In Isaiah 17, the Bible speaks of a future event in which Damascus, the capital of Syria, will be completely destroyed.

***Isaiah 17:1 KJV*** – “*The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap.*”

Israel has conducted multiple strikes on Iranian targets in Syria, as the Islamic Republic has moved weaponry to attack the Jewish state throughout the region including in Damascus. Although we are not told in Scripture how Damascus, one of the longest continually inhabited cities in the world, will become a “ruinous heap.” The increasing tensions between Israel and Iran in the region have many keeping a close eye on the city.

Damascus’s destruction could also be a catalyst to the *Ezekiel 38-39 war* in-which Russia, Iran, Turkey, and others come together from the north, with weaponry supplied by Russia, to attack the Jewish state.