

NEWS BYTES

June 15, 2022

No. 1070

Since 2001

A ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

“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

A Pivotal Time in Israel

By Hal Lindsey

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s fragile governing coalition may have just doomed itself. They were unable to renew a law that has been automatic ever since the Six Day War. The statute simply applies Israeli law to Israeli citizens in Judea and Samaria. It is an essential law, and failure to pass it creates a major problem. Many observers see it as the last straw that will bring down the present coalition.

Writing for Newsweek in April, Israeli columnist Caroline Glick said, “The glue that formed the basis of the Bennett-Lapid government, which is comprised of three small right-wing parties, two moderate-left parties, two radical-left parties and the Muslim Brotherhood-aligned Islamic party Ra'am, is a common hatred for Netanyahu.... Ousting Netanyahu required them to form a government with the Muslim Brotherhood and the radical Left.”

As the leader of Israel’s New Right Party, Prime Minister Bennett bills himself as a conservative. But as you can see from Caroline Glick’s comments, the coalition he put together in order to form a government is anything but conservative. Bennett only won seven seats in the last election. That’s 5 percent of the seats. But he was able to maneuver his way into the job of Prime Minister.

During the campaign, he promised not to form a government with the extreme left or with an Arab party aligned with the Muslim Brotherhood. After the election, he promptly did both of those things.

Despite Bennett’s conservative past, his government has repeatedly acceded to the agenda of the left-wing. That’s despite the fact that, as a nation, Israel remains largely conservative. At the time of the last election, former Prime Minister Netanyahu was being charged with major crimes. But the case against him is now falling apart.

Without that unique circumstance, there is no way people aligned with the Muslim Brotherhood and extreme leftists would be running Israel’s government. But for the moment, that seems to be what’s happening. This government has not stood up to the latest wave of Palestinian terrorism. But they have ceded more and more of Israel’s sovereignty to the Palestinians. And the Israeli people seem fed up.

In a bid to keep his power, Bennett recently invoked the Bible. According to Israel Today, “Bennett stated that if his government falls, Israel will return to a state of ‘tohu va’vohu,’ the two words from Genesis 1:2 that are typically translated as ‘without form and void.’”

It is a stunning thing for a political leader to say that he does for his nation what God did when He created the world. It does not bode well for him or his coalition.

Keep your eyes on Israel, folks. Amazing things are afoot.

Is Unbelief The Real Reason America’s Pulpits Are Silent Regarding Prophecy?



June 5, 2022

I’m weary of the excuses that I hear from pastors as to why they cannot talk about Jesus’ glorious return for His church. I’m tired of preachers going to great lengths to avoid saying the dreaded word, “Rapture.” You would think the church building roof would instantly cave in on the worshippers at even the mention of such a dreaded word.

Why are pastors today so afraid to talk about our future new bodies and Jesus’ return to take us to the place that He is preparing for us (John 14:1-3)? The good news they have to share is beyond spectacular and amazing, yet so many go to great lengths to avoid talking about our “blessed hope.”

Pastors say they fear causing division, but is that any reason to avoid teaching what Scripture tells us about the day in which we live? Is that any cause to withhold the truths about our glorious future from the ones who need it the most as they face perilous times? Pastors today have the most

spectacular news, an over-the-top wonderful and joyous hope to share with their people. *Why the silence?*

In essence, they sacrifice biblical truth on the altar of maintaining peace. Of course, the scoffers will make their opinions known. I have many painful memories and scars, both physical and emotional, from dealing with such scoffers as a young pastor. Why should these mockers of our biblical hope determine the message that one preaches? Should our message not rather come from the leading of the Holy Spirit? We do not possess “a spirit of fear but of power and love and a sound mind?” ([2 Timothy 1:7](#)).

Where’s the courage to stand up for what the Bible says? It seems almost nonexistent today!

Some preachers say they want to focus on the Great Commission and bringing others to Jesus, which are admirable objectives to be sure. But why should that interfere with giving the saints the glorious and joyous news that they so desperately need to hear at this time?

The apostles turned the world upside down with a message that emphasized an eager anticipation of Jesus’ imminent appearing. After Paul’s short stay in Thessalonica, the new believers in that city knew all about the coming Day of the Lord, Jesus’ imminent appearing, the future “man of lawlessness,” and the antichrist’s desecration of the temple in Jerusalem during the tribulation period. If Paul included these things in his proclamation of the Gospel while in Thessalonica, why do pastors refuse to talk about them with mature saints?

The apostles saw no conflict whatsoever between carrying out the Great Commission and preaching about Jesus’ imminent appearing and the Day of the Lord. Paul even talked about the still future antichrist during his proclamation of the Gospel in Thessalonica.

Some pastors insist they are not equipped to talk about prophecy. But is this not true about any topic or passage of Scripture? Do they not study many hours in preparing a sermon? An abundance of resources exists today that can prepare them to effectively speak on this topic.

Is unbelief the culprit behind the silence in America’s pulpits regarding prophecy? I know this is the case for those who deny the restoration of a kingdom for Israel during the millennium. But what about those pastors that claim to be premillennial?

Perhaps I am far too critical, but I think that if pastors truly believed what Scripture says about the end times, Jesus’ appearing, the glorious restoration of Israel, and our reign with Christ during the Millennium, how can they possibly remain silent about these glorious truths? Do they not understand all the treasures that Jesus has prepared for us beginning with the Rapture and our immortal bodies? Why should fear keep anyone from sharing such spectacular and joyous news even with unbelievers?

Perhaps it’s just me, but I truly do not understand the current reluctance to mention the Rapture in connection with our hope for the future.

Jesus is coming to give us immortal bodies and take us to the amazing place that He’s preparing for us. That’s far better news than hearing that one has won a three hundred-million-dollar lottery! Yet in most pulpits we hear not a peep about the Rapture, the most wonderful and encouraging and joyous news that pastors could possibly share with their congregation.

I am so weary of trying to understand this.

Such is the state of many churches that claim to be Bible-believing. Mention that you believe in the future restoration of a kingdom to Israel and the Rapture and pastors treat you like a pariah in their midst. They ignore and totally dismiss you. “How dare you connect current events with what the Bible says will happen in the future? You must be some sort of “doomsday” radical!

No, I simply believe what Scripture says about the Day of the Lord.

I praise God for the men in our day who have the courage to preach what the Bible says about the day in which we live. Unfortunately, they are far too few. Pastors such as Brandon Holthaus, David Jeremiah, Tom Hughes, Jack Hibbs, Billy Crone, and JD Farag have encouraged and blessed me beyond measure during the past several years. Any pastor would do well to learn from these men of God and follow their example, but so few have the wisdom to do so.

I sometimes wonder why I see these things when so many leaders of our churches do not. But then I realize that it’s not me at all, it’s just what the Bible says. I simply believe the words on the page with the ongoing help of the Holy Spirit inside me.

It’s not complicated; there’s nothing at all special about me or my insights into our biblical hope. The Lord does everything in spite of me.

Perhaps it’s not unbelief that keeps many pastors muzzled by fear, feelings of inadequacy, or errant reasonings that come from a faulty understanding of the Great Commission.

But in the back of my mind the question remains: Is it unbelief that keeps some pastors silent about the most amazing and glorious and joyous news they could possibly share with the saints? What else would cause them to sabotage the spectacular hope of the saints?

I can only wonder.

CONNECTING THE DOTS BETWEEN IRAN AND THE SAUDI-ISRAEL PEACE DEAL

written by David Mark

With all the talk and excitement surrounding the Abraham Accords, Saudi Arabia, the most important Sunni player in the region has yet to make peace with Israel.

Israel and Saudi Arabia have had unofficial contact for years, with most visitors being the head of the Mossad. This is because both Saudi Arabia and Israel face a common enemy – Iran. The strategy of those working on peace between the two countries always assumed that the Iranian issue would eventually pull them together, however cooperation on this mutual threat has been accomplished without an overall deal.

The warming ties between the countries are happening because Saudi Arabia has learned from watching Bahrain and the UAE that the “palestinian” issue is no issue at all. In fact, many in the Arab world, who for years detested the “palestinian” narrative are finally seeing their views take root in the mainstream of the Sunni Arab world.

Saudi Arabia knows it must make peace with Israel. After all, the world is a very different world than it was even 10 years ago. The question for the House of Saud is what can they get in return.

Under negotiation as a first step is the return of the Tiran and Sanafir islands in the Red Sea. Saudi Arabia handed them over to Egypt in 1950. Israel then took them after the 1967 war only to return them under the 1979 peace agreement with Egypt. In 2016 Egypt agreed to return them to Saudi Arabia, but needs Israel’s consent to do so.

The islands have become an important symbol of a first potential public agreement between the two countries. If the agreement goes forward it could open up doors to other agreements.

The real issue for the Saudis is public opinion in their country. They have spent a few generations conditioning the public to believe that the royal family is the bulwark against Western culture and the defender of “palestinian” rights. Peace or normalization with Israel undermines one of the foundations their rule is based on.

This is why in recent years the House of Saud has gone out of its way to drip positive editorials in government controlled newspapers. This has started to work. Saudis have started to have a positive view of Israel.

Does this mean peace or normalization is happening now? No, but the moves are positive and the Iranian threat may just be the trigger that pushes all of these other components together.

How Many Chief Financial Officers Expect Recession? Survey Results: 100%

Have you ever heard of a survey where 100 percent of the respondents agree? I can't ever recall seeing one like that, but as you will see below, 100 percent of the corporate CFOs that were just surveyed by CNBC believe that a recession is coming by the end of next year.

At this point, our economic troubles are growing so rapidly that you would have to be deaf, dumb and blind not to see what is happening. A meltdown of historic proportions has already begun, and there is economic gloom just about everywhere that you look.

But even though the U.S. economy is clearly moving in one direction, I still didn't expect to see this sort of a consensus among corporate financial executives...

According to the majority (68%) of CFOs responding to the survey, a recession will occur during the first half of 2023. No CFO forecast a recession any later than the second half of next year, and no CFO thinks the economy will avoid a recession.

The CNBC CFO Council Q2 survey is a sample of the current outlook among top financial officers. It was conducted among 22 chief financial officers at major organizations between May 12-June 6.

Of course they are right on target.

The months ahead are going to be very difficult.

And with each passing day we continue to get more evidence that the economic slowdown is accelerating. For example, it appears that a "transportation recession" has already begun...

A downturn, if not a full-on recession, is clear in the transportation world. While the rest of the economy debates whether things are that bad, it's been clear for months to logistics providers that the situation has worsened -- and the velocity of that change is still stunning.

The cost to move a container from Asia to a major port in North America or Europe has sunk by 23% since the beginning of this year, according to maritime research firm Drewry. Spot rates have plummeted even faster; marketplace Freightos said rates from China to the West Coast are down 38% month-over-month. FreightWaves forecast this week that ocean shipping volumes will "drop off a cliff" by this summer, based on slumping bookings out of China.

Meanwhile, the most absurd housing bubble in the history of our country is clearly starting to burst. Compared to a year ago, mortgage applications were down a whopping 21 percent last week...

This just keeps getting worse: Applications for mortgages to purchase a home dropped 7% for the week, and were down 21% from a year ago, the Mortgage Bankers Association reported today. An indicator of future home sales: Potential homebuyers try to get pre-approved for a mortgage, lock in a mortgage rate, and then start house-hunting.

Mortgage rates have soared this year, and home prices have soared for years to ridiculous levels, causing layers and layers of potential buyers to abandon the market, amid "worsening affordability challenges," as the MBA called it.

On top of everything else, jobless claims just shot up to their highest level in almost six months... The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits unexpectedly jumped last week, spiking to the highest level since mid-January in a sign the hot labor market could be starting to cool.

Figures released Thursday by the Labor Department show that applications for the week ended June 4 rose to 229,000 from an upwardly revised 202,000 a week earlier, missing the 210,000 forecast by Refinitiv analysts. It marked the biggest one-week increase since last July. The four-week average of new claims, which smooths volatility in the weekly figures, also increased slightly to 215,000 last week.

But even though all of these numbers clearly indicate that a "recession" is coming, a potential "recession" is not the number one economic concern for most Americans.

That is because the worst inflation crisis in modern American history is hitting all of us extremely hard.

According to a FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos poll that was just released, 52 percent of Americans believe that inflation is "the most important issue facing the country" right now...

At this point, the answer to what Americans are most worried about is pretty straightforward: inflation. In the first FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos poll, 52 percent of Americans said the most important issue facing the country was inflation. We asked Americans this question in a variety of ways, but regardless of how we asked it, the top answer was always the same: inflation.

Other surveys have come up with similar results. For example, just check out these numbers from the Pew Research Center...

Seven-in-ten Americans view inflation as a very big problem for the country, followed by the affordability of health care (55%) and violent crime (54%).

About half say gun violence and the federal budget deficit are very big problems (51% each), according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted April 25-May 1 among 5,074 U.S. adults.

Inflation is something that the American people can see on a daily basis.

On Thursday, the average price of a gallon of gasoline in the United States hit five dollars a gallon for the first time ever.

And as I pointed out the other day, experts are warning that it will soon cross the six dollar threshold.

The grocery store is another place where all of us can clearly see the rampant inflation that is happening. A single shopping cart of food can easily cost \$300 these days, and that is absolutely insane.

Unfortunately, this is just the beginning, and most Americans realize this. In fact, one survey just discovered that approximately two-thirds of us expect inflation to get even worse over the next year...

The Federal Reserve, the Biden administration, and Wall Street's economists are confident that inflation will be brought down over the coming year. The American public disagrees.

Two-thirds of Americans say they expect inflation to get worse over the next year, according to a poll conducted by The Washington Post and George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government.

Some of us have been warning for years that the decisions that our leaders were making would destroy the stability of our currency.

Now nightmarish inflation is officially here.

And some of us have been warning for years that our rapidly growing long-term economic problems would eventually result in a meltdown of epic proportions.

Now that meltdown has begun.

Our fate could have been very different if we would have chosen a much different path while we still had the chance.

But now it is too late, and the pain that is ahead is going to be greater than many Americans will be able to handle.