

NEWSBYTES

August 17, 2022

No. 1079

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

Hezbollah Threatens Israel With War Over Disputed Gas Field

By Charles Kennedy

- **Lebanon’s armed Hezbollah group threatened Israel that drilling at the Karish gas field could result in war.**
- **Israel and Lebanon are in a years-long dispute over the demarcation of their territorial waters in the Mediterranean.**
- **Israel has already warned early on that any damage to the drilling rig in Karish will result in an immediate reaction.**

Lebanon’s armed Hezbollah group warned Israel on Sunday against drilling at an offshore gas field, renewing a threat that it could escalate the offshore border demarcation dispute to a war.

Hezbollah, backed by Iran, aired a video on its Al-Manar television channel, showing drone footage of Israeli barges at the gas field and their coordinates. The video ends with footage of a rocket with the words “within range” in Arabic and Hebrew. The text on the video message opens with “Playing with time is useless,” also in both languages.

Israel and Lebanon, which do not have diplomatic relations, are in a years-long dispute over the demarcation of their territorial waters in the Mediterranean.

The dispute escalated this summer after UK’s Energean, which has been awarded the right to drill at the offshore Karish field, arrived on the site with a rig, prompting an immediate reaction from Beirut. The Lebanese president and the caretaker prime minister of the country accused Israel of violating Lebanon’s sovereignty.

Karish is the focus of the rift. According to Israel, Karish lies in its territorial waters. According to Lebanon, it falls within a triangle of contested waters because the two cannot agree where exactly the border passes.

Israel has already warned early on that any damage to the drilling rig in Karish—like attacks on any gas drilling rigs in its waters—will be construed as an attack on the state, implying there would be an immediate reaction.

The latest video threat from Hezbollah came as Amos Hochstein, U.S. Special Presidential Coordinator for the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, traveled to Lebanon on Sunday.

Hochstein was set to “discuss sustainable solutions to Lebanon’s energy crisis, including the Biden Administration’s commitment to facilitating negotiations between Lebanon and Israel on the maritime boundary,” the U.S. Department of the State said. “Reaching a resolution is both necessary and possible, but can only be done through negotiations and diplomacy,” the State Department added.

Soros Manipulates Justice System; Crime Skyrockets

August 13, 2022 Geri Ungurean

I have always called George Soros the world’s Geopolitical Bogeyman, but WEF’s Klaus Schwab and Yuval Noah Harari come in a close second and third.

The difference between these men is that Soros perpetrates his evil deeds behind closed doors and through his NGOs, while Schwab and Harari shout their nefarious plans from the rooftops as if what they are doing is a great thing for humanity.

Here is one of my many articles about George Soros:

George Soros – STILL the Most Dangerous Man on the Planet

From theepochtimes.com

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani responded to left-wing billionaire George Soros’ opinion article in which he said he’ll continue to back progressive district attorneys amid a spike in crime nationwide.

“I have been involved in efforts to reform the criminal justice system for the more than 30 years I have been a philanthropist Yet our system is rife with injustices that make us all less safe,” Soros wrote for the Wall Street Journal on July 31.

The controversial billionaire added that “in recent years, reform-minded prosecutors and other law-enforcement officials around the country have been coalescing around an agenda that promises to be more effective and just.”

“This agenda includes prioritizing the resources of the criminal justice system to protect people against violent crime. It urges that we treat drug addiction as a disease, not a crime. And it seeks to end the criminalization of poverty and mental illness,” he argued.

But Giuliani, a former federal prosecutor who later built his reputation as a mayor who was tough on crime, said that Soros is a primary reason for the recent U.S.-wide spike in homicides and violent crimes. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report in May, for example, revealed that the homicide rate via firearms spiked in 2020 to levels not seen in 25 years, saying the rate shot up 35 percent to about 6.1 per 100,000 people.

“If there is one single person responsible for the record increases in murder and violence in America’s cities, it’s George Soros,” Giuliani wrote in a Monday Twitter post. “Major contributor to [Black Lives

Matter], Antifa, Democrat Party, Biden, Harris and 40 or so pro Criminal DAs. The blood is on his hands," he said.

Prosecutors and district attorneys who received Soros funding include Los Angeles County DA George Gascon, Philadelphia DA Larry Krasner, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, Chicago prosecutor Kim Foxx, and St. Louis circuit attorney Kim Gardner. Soros also provided funding to now-ousted San Francisco DA Chesa Boudin, although Soros has distanced himself from Boudin, according to the Washington Free Beacon.

Meanwhile, Gascon is himself the subject of a recall election in November. More than 715,000 signatures have been collected to recall him, which is far more than the 566,000 to trigger the initiative.

Prosecutors backed by Soros oversee jurisdictions in which 20 percent of Americans live, and more than 40 percent of U.S. homicides in 2021 occurred in those places, according to the pro-police Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund.

"Most of these prosecutors pursue radical justice policies upon assuming office, including eliminating bail, dismissing felony cases, and seeking lenient sentences while creating antagonistic relationships with their public safety partners, especially the police," the group wrote in June. Source

MARANATHA!!

Why Your 'Christian' Friends Have Become LGBTQ Allies

BY SAMUEL SAY/SLOW TO WRITE AUGUST 11, 2022

Some of your supposedly Christian friends have recently said they are members of the LGBTQ community. That's becoming increasingly common. However, an even bigger number of your supposedly Christian friends have become LGBTQ allies.

You already know that. But do you know why?

There are, of course, several reasons why many professing Christians are embracing LGBTQ ideology. Satan has devised many schemes to lead us into apostasy. With that in mind, although all people who support LGBTQ ideology do so for the same reason: sin--people can commit the same sin from different temptations.

As I've alluded to, one of the reasons why many professing Christians have become allies with LGBTQ people is because many of their friends and family have become members of the LGBTQ community.

Studies show that this is statistically the biggest reason why people become LGBTQ affirming. For instance, a 2013 study from Pew Research Center shows that 32% of Americans changed their minds on gay marriage because they "know someone who is homosexual."

When a loved one says their sexual sins are an intrinsic part of who they are, they're suggesting that if we do not love their homosexuality or transgenderism--then we do not love them. That is a powerful, manipulative argument that many parents, siblings, and friends do not have courage or integrity to resist.

Many of us love and fear our friends and family more than we love and fear God. We're more afraid of becoming enemies with our loved ones than becoming enemies with God. Therefore for every person who becomes a member of the LGBTQ community, many more of their friends and family will become LGBTQ allies.

In a sense, familiarity breeds acceptance. Our culture knows that.

In a leaked video about Florida's Parental Rights In Education bill, an executive producer at Disney said they had a "not-at-all-secret gay agenda." Since people are more likely to become LGBTQ allies when they know and love others who are members of the LGBTQ community--influential institutions in our culture like Hollywood, mainstream media, social media, and academia have created an agenda to produce favourable LGBTQ representation to make us more accepting of LGBTQ ideology.

Therefore the most popular movies, TV shows, and books today feature characters and storylines designed to normalize LGBTQ sexuality. Knowing this, my wife--Annie Sey--has created a service called Library 4 Littles to help parents protect their children from deceptive books that indoctrinate them.

Still, Hollywood is filled with LGBTQ sexuality. For instance, Disney's Lightyear featured a kiss between a lesbian couple. Marvel's latest film, "Thor: Love and Thunder" is described as "super gay" by its director. And some of the most popular shows for teenagers and young adults today like Euphoria, Sex Education, and Stranger Things have at least two major characters who are LGBTQ.

After all, if your favourite character on TV has a gay best friend, why wouldn't you accept your own friend who's LGBTQ? Hollywood knows that if we support LGBTQ sexuality in our films and TV shows, we're more likely to support LGBTQ sexuality in real life.

Related to this, another major--yet unacknowledged--reason why so many professing Christians have become LGBTQ allies is because of porn. Sexual sins create apathy and support for other sexual sins. Pornography is a sexual sin that normalizes and endorses other kinds of sexual sin like rape, incest, and LGBTQ sexuality.

Therefore many professing Christians have become LGBTQ allies because many professing Christians watch porn. We've normalized porn--we've normalized sexual sin, so we've normalized LGBTQ sexuality.

Another widely known reason why some of your supposedly Christian friends have become LGBTQ allies is because of unrelenting indoctrination in public schools. This, coupled with failure from parents and pastors to teach Biblical theology and apologetics on sexuality makes many professing Christians unprepared to resist compromise.

However, as I suggested earlier, temptation to compromise happens in many ways. Satan has many schemes to lead us into compromise on sexuality--one of them is critical race theory.

5 years ago, I said: "once we develop a worldly understanding of race, we become enticed by a worldly understanding of gender, sexuality, and ultimately, the gospel."

In my article on Why Woke Christians Support Abortion a couple of weeks ago, I said:

"The intersectional argument for equity is one of the reasons why woke "Christians" support abortion. Naturally, it's also one of the reasons why woke Christians are increasingly affirming LGBTQ ideology."

The reason why woke "Christians" support abortion and LGBTQ ideology is the same: critical race theory and intersectionality.

The founder of intersectionality, Kimberlé Crenshaw, said: [intersectionality is] basically a lens, a prism, for seeing the way in which various forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate each other. We tend to talk about race inequality as separate from inequality based on gender, class, sexuality or immigrant status.

Therefore, in his book *How To Be An Antiracist*, Ibram Kendi says "Homophobia cannot be separated from racism. They've intersected for ages...we cannot be antiracist if we are homophobic or transphobic."

This is why many of your supposedly Christian friends have become LGBTQ allies. Critical race theory compelled them to become "allies" with black people, then through intersectionality--they're now compelled to become LGBTQ allies.

As the Bible says, "A little leaven leavens the whole lump." (Galatians 5:7-9 Open in Logos Bible Software (if available))

If you reject a Biblical view of race, don't be surprised if you eventually reject a Biblical view of gender and sexuality.

As John Owen said, "Sin aims always at the utmost; every time it rises up to tempt or entice, might it have its own course, it would go out to the utmost sin in that kind...it is like the grave that is never satisfied."

A little sin always leads to a bigger sin, and a little compromise always creates temptation for more compromise. Therefore we should overcome little temptations so we can build up strength to overcome bigger temptations.

At the Very Gates

Published on: August 10, 2022 by Gary Ritter

How close are we to the 7-year Tribulation? Let me ask this: How can we not be right at its cusp? Three of the Gospels describe what will occur in the final days: the very end of this world as we know it and the run-up to the time when literally all hell breaks loose on this planet.

If something is repeated twice in Scripture, God has said that it's a sure thing. Joseph said that because Pharaoh's dream was doubled and shown to him in two different versions (Genesis 41:32), nothing would stop its coming to pass. Since we have Mark 13, Matthew 24, and Luke 17 & 21 all showing us what Jesus Himself said would occur in these latter times, perhaps we should take note. Yet, incredibly, the church as a whole is asleep to the declaration from Jesus, who – one would think – might pull some weight. But no. Life goes on. The same messages are preached from the pulpit that were given ten, five, and even three years ago – not that they're necessarily bad – however, in this day and age, they simply lull the congregations to sleep.

I know I'm not the only one shaking his head at this conundrum. Bible prophecy is very clear that end times will come and certain signs will accompany them. Scripture also declares that apostasy will rage and, obviously, because of the multiple admonitions to stay awake and alert – that many won't. The astounding thing is that surely there are many good and true Christ-followers not looking up and expecting the return of Jesus. The only conclusion I can come to is that Satan has deceived them. Is that not concerning? If – what's the percentage? – 90% of the church (or more?) isn't concerned about

coming judgment and what that implies, how about the rest of the world which has even less of a clue because they don't have the indwelling Holy Spirit? Can you imagine the shock that's about to hit this world?

In Mark 13, Jesus speaks to His disciples and answers their questions about the end of all things. He lets them know that the run-up to all that will happen is like the blooming of the fig tree. Leaves will first appear, and only then will fruit come because the season for it is near. Mark 13:28-31 provides this caution:

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

Initially, Jesus in this prophecy says that much disruption will occur in the world. The surrounding chaos will include political and military turmoil along with great physical disturbances. Are we not seeing this in spades today? Russia-Ukraine. China-Taiwan. North Korea-South Korea. Israel-everybody else. America-red/blue. How about the incredible contrast of drought and unprecedented flooding in our country and elsewhere? Engineered famine is already striking because of the purposeful efforts of those determined to cause suffering. Plague or pestilence in the form of COVID, the harmful “vaccines,” and now the next plandemic. This is likely in large measure arising from the COVID injections in the form of VAIDS (Vaccine Acquired Immune Deficiency) that causes shingles and Karposi's Sarcoma that doctors are told are Monkeypox blisters. Mark 13:5-8 says:

“And Jesus began to say to them, ‘See that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.’”

This is a worldwide phenomenon that Jesus warns of for everyone. However, then He gets more specific. I think it could be argued that those who will be brought to trials and their faith examined could apply to Christians standing firm against persecution. Suffering of this nature has been going on for many years by believers in the 10-40 Window. Why wouldn't it get worse and expand as the end nears – even coming to America? Jesus details this in Mark 13:9-13:

“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Spirit. And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

Like many prophecies, this one by Jesus skips around in time and pertains to different audiences. After warning the church, Jesus zeroes in on Israel. God's purpose for the 7-year Tribulation is two-fold:

He intends to bring about the redemption of Israel. Despite choosing not to believe her Messiah came 2,000 years ago, Israel will know God's mercy as His elect.

He will judge the unbelieving world for their rejection of Jesus Christ. No one has an excuse, yet God will give many the opportunity to trust in Christ and be saved before the end comes crashing down.

As to #1 – Israel – the Lord will put His Chosen People and Holy Land through much difficulty to wake them up to His nature and glory. He's telling them here in this passage that He's given fair warning. What an awful time it will be! Mark 13:14-23 outlines this:

“But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that it may not happen in winter. For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.

“And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. And then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.”

The end of the chapter brings Jesus back around to His church – those to whom He has given His Holy Word, i.e., those who should have read it and heeded what it says. This is a pre-Tribulation Rapture passage in Mark 13:32-37:

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

The key verse for us in describing the chronology and events of these final days is in Mark 13:29:

“So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.”

Prophecy is in the Bible for a good reason. God wants His people to know what is to come. Given God's Word, its clarity, and its fulfillment happening right before our very eyes, surely we as the church should understand the nearness of the hour. If Jesus tells us that when all these incidents occur and He is standing at the very gates ready to enter, shouldn't we cry out for His mercy and deliverance? Shouldn't we as His church be on our knees beseeching Him for the final salvation of our loved ones and others? Shouldn't we be weeping at the state of this world and lamenting about its depravity? Shouldn't we be saying with every ounce of our being, “Lord, this world is not my home; it's an alien place I no longer desire to inhabit. Snatch me up from here and take me to the Father's House!”?

I know some of us are responding like this. We understand the times because we've searched the Scriptures and found them true.

Where's the rest of the church? They're digging in and trying to turn back the clock.

Jesus is standing at the door, knocking. Will they let Him in?