

NEWS BYTES

August 31, 2022

No. 1080

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

Iran Prepares To Take Out Israel – Right After Nuclear Deal Is Signed

GATESTONE INSTITUTE AUGUST 24, 2022

As the Biden administration seems to be moving closer to reaching a new nuclear deal with Iran, the mullahs in Tehran are encouraging their Lebanese and Palestinian terrorist proxies to prepare for waging war on Israel.

The mullahs appear convinced that once the Biden administration capitulates completely to their demands for reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, they will be able to step up their already significant efforts to eliminate Israel and export their Islamic Revolution to Arab and Islamic countries. Iran already occupies four Arab countries: Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq.

The mullahs are not oblivious to the growing voices in the Arab world that complain about the weakness of the US and how the Biden administration's policy of appeasement towards Iran is undermining the Americans' credibility and jeopardizing the security and stability of Arab and Islamic countries.

Iran's mullahs appear to be so confident that the Biden administration has turned its back on its Arab allies in the Middle East that they are issuing direct threats not only against Israel, but also against any Arab country that dares to cooperate with the Israelis.

The latest threat came from the commander of the Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy, Commodore Alireza Tangsiri, who warned that cooperation with Israel "threatens security and stability in the Gulf region."

Tangsiri's warning was directed to America's Arab allies, especially the Gulf states, some of which have been conducting security cooperation with Israel.

The timing of his threat was anything but coincidental. It came amid reports that the Biden administration is moving forward towards striking a new deal with Tehran's mullahs.

The mullahs, in short, are sending a message to America's allies in the Arab world that if they believe they can trust the Biden administration to protect them against Iran's expansionist plans or safeguard their security and stability, they are sorely mistaken.

Addressing America's Arab allies, Tangsiri warned them not to allow US or any other foreign countries to use their countries as bases for military and security operations.

Any country that ignores the warning, Tangsiri said, "will pay the price for its unfriendly and provocative behavior." The IRGC, he cautioned, is ready "to carry out any mission to preserve the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its heroic people."

Meanwhile, the mullahs are busy trying to open a new battlefield against Israel, this time in the West Bank.

Iran already has its own proxies in the Gaza Strip: Hamas and Islamic Jihad. In Lebanon, the mullahs have the Hezbollah terrorist militia, which has created a state-within-a-state there and is also continuing to issue threats to attack Israel.

The three terrorist groups -- Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah -- for the past three decades have been launching terror attacks against Israel from Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

The mullahs appear to be so emboldened by the Biden administration's weakness that they are now openly talking about using the West Bank as a launching pad to attack Israel and kill Jews.

The commander of the IRGC, Major General Hossein Salami, revealed that Iran was working with Hamas and Islamic Jihad to extend their terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank. The goal: To wage a war of attrition against Israel. The two groups already have a strong military presence in the West Bank, especially in the cities of Jenin and Nablus, which are governed by the Palestinian Authority.

"Gaza is not the only field of resistance and struggle, but this struggle has also moved to the West Bank," Salami said, hinting that the mullahs were providing weapons to the Palestinians in the West Bank.

"Just as Gaza was armed [by Iran], the West Bank can be armed in the same way, and this process will happen. Obtaining weapons has become much easier than before. There is no safe place at any time for Israel and its citizens."

He boasted that a "large number of Zionists" have been killed in terrorist attacks by Palestinian terrorists in the past few months and stressed "the necessity of continuing the jihad [holy war]" against Israel.

The Palestinians, Salami added, "are now able to target any point in the Zionist entity, and this means that there is no safe place for the Zionists to protect them from Palestinian fire. The Palestinians have realized who their true friends are [Iran]."

He said that Hezbollah was also ready to join the fight against Israel:

"Hezbollah, which gained important experiences during the Syrian [civil] war, can lead a ground war and achieve victory... The Zionists know that the land is liberated by ground forces."

As part of the mullahs' plan to initiate another wave of terror against Israel, Salami said that he recently met in Tehran with Islamic Jihad Secretary-General Ziyad al-Nakhalah and discussed with him "the disintegration and erosion of the capabilities of the Zionists."

Under pressure from the Iranian regime, Hamas and Islamic Jihad representatives held a meeting in the Gaza Strip earlier this week to discuss ways of stepping up the "resistance" against Israel.

The meeting came amid reports of tensions between the two terrorist groups in the aftermath of Hamas's failure to join the recent three-day fighting between Israel and Islamic Jihad. Islamic Jihad and Iran are said to be disappointed with the Hamas terrorists for not coming to the rescue of their brothers in Islamic Jihad during the fighting with Israel.

Hamas did not join the fighting apparently for fear of being hit hard by Israel. Hamas seems to be worried that it could lose control of the Gaza Strip if it engages in another war with Israel, especially in light of the heavy casualties the group and many residents of the Gaza Strip sustained during previous rounds of attacks on Israel.

In an attempt to appease their masters in Tehran, Hamas and Islamic Jihad issued a joint statement after the meeting in which they pledged to step up the "armed struggle" against Israel "until the liberation [of all of Palestine, from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea]," a euphemism for the destruction of Israel.

The threats by the IRGC against Israel and America's Arab allies should be sufficient to stop the Biden administration from surrendering to the mullahs' demand to remove the group from the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

These threats, in addition, should serve as a reminder to the Biden administration of Iran's bloody schemes against Israel and Arab countries. Anyone who thinks that the mullahs will abandon their plans after the signing of a new nuclear deal is deceiving him or herself. The opposite is true: appeasement will only further fortify the mullahs and their proxies, and place into further peril the lives of both Arabs and Jews.

Secularists Twist Scripture To Scold Christians For Not Supporting Biden's Student Debt 'Forgiveness'



Christians who don't know what forgiveness is are like feminists who don't know what a woman is.

But the ramifications are significantly worse.

Earlier this week I explained why Christians shouldn't support Joe Biden's student loan forgiveness plan. But the most concerning thing about some Christians' support for Joe Biden's student loan forgiveness plan isn't their support for injustice, it's their redefinition of forgiveness.

There are probably some Christians who support Biden's plan who also acknowledge that it's inaccurate to describe it as "forgiveness". However social media is filled with people who claim that Biden's plan is in accordance with the Bible's teachings on forgiveness.

In fact, they claim since Christianity is based on forgiveness—it's unChristian to oppose student loan forgiveness.

For instance, one ex-evangelical said: *"Bold of Christians to be mad about student debt forgiveness while professing a faith that is literally based on forgiving debts."*

Another person said: *"If you're a Christian and you're big mad about the possibility of student loan debt being canceled. Let me remind you that the entirety of your faith is built on a debt that you can't pay that someone else stepped in and paid for you."*

Have you noticed that despite their opposition to Christian values, our culture consistently use Christian theology to deceive Christians into accepting ideas that are inconsistent with Christian ethics? Isn't that from Satan's playbook?

As the Bible says, "And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness." (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)

These reactions over Biden's student loan forgiveness plan is yet another example of Satan's servants masquerading as servants of righteousness. Nevertheless, whatever you think of Biden's plan, it's inaccurate and unbiblical to describe it as "forgiveness".

Biden's student loan forgiveness plan doesn't forgive debt—it simply redistributes and transfers the debt to unwilling citizens. That makes it unjust. It's unjust to force others to pay for a debt that isn't their own.

This is why Jesus prophesied about his substitutionary atonement for sinners by saying: *"For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."*

It's therefore troubling that some Christians are comparing Biden's student loan "forgiveness" plan with God's forgiveness of sin.

God didn't forgive our sins by forcing a person to pay for them. He forgave our debt of sin because Jesus willingly suffered on a cross to pay for them. The good news isn't simply that God charged Jesus to pay for our debt. No, the good news is that Jesus willingly paid for our debt.

Therefore Jesus didn't say you and I should transfer the cost of a person's offence against us to another. Instead, he's commanded us to willingly bear the offence.

In other words, Christians like me are not against student loan forgiveness. We're just against Biden's student loan forgiveness.

If the corrupt student loan lenders were to forgive debtors, Christians like me would rejoice. It wouldn't be unjust if lenders willingly canceled student debt. Because that would be real forgiveness. The lenders would be like the kind king in Jesus' parable about the unforgiving servant. (Matthew 18:21-35)

Biden's student loan "forgiveness", however, isn't real forgiveness. Biden isn't the lender. He doesn't have authority to forgive the debts. And the vast majority of American taxpayers are not the debtors, they shouldn't be forced to pay the debts.

Forgiveness is never through force.

God didn't forgive our sins by forcing other people to pay for them. He forgave our sins because Jesus willingly paid for them.

Don't let bad politics corrupt your understanding of the good news.

God didn't forgive our sins by forcing other people to pay for them. He forgave our sins because Jesus willingly paid for them.

Don't let bad politics corrupt your understanding of the good news.

Dealing with the Devil

Terry James

We who see things developing from truth found in God's prophetic Word can, I think, agree that secular (humanistic) efforts at dealing with the principalities and powers of Ephesians 6:12 aren't working.

Man trying to hold back the evil of this world has failed miserably at every level. Therefore, God's next catastrophic intervention into earth's history is imminent. Bible prophecy overlays the issues and events of this troubling day in an astonishing presentation that provides the forewarning.

Something stupendous is about to happen!

An unidentifiable, pent-up energy pervades the atmospherics of these ominous times. Every indicator that exposes the human condition points to a coming moment of truth—an impending transformation—that will alter the way things are forever.

Evil permeating the current generation of earth's inhabitants, one can sense, creates a demand that things be set aright—calls for a change that judges the bad and sets at liberty the good.

Man's Failure

Winston Churchill, one of history's greatest leaders and thinkers in the quest for world peace, framed humanism's core hope for mankind following World War II.

“A world organization has already been erected for the prime purpose of preventing war. UNO [United Nations Organization], the successor of the League of Nations, with the decisive addition of the United States and all that means, is already at work. We must make sure that its work is fruitful, that it is a reality and not a sham, that it is a force for action, and not merely a frothing of words, that it is a true temple of peace in which the shields of many nations can someday be hung up, and not merely a cockpit in a Tower of Babel. Before we cast away the solid assurances of national armaments for self-preservation, we must be certain that our temple is built, not upon shifting sands or quagmires, but upon the rock.” (Robert Rhodes James, *Winston S. Churchill: His Complete Speeches 1897–1963*, vol. VII [NY and London: Chelsea House, 1943–49] pp.7285–7293).

Churchill didn't realize the prescience of his final words of this excerpt. The British prime minister was wrong in the first part of his statement about how to assure peace on earth, but he was on the mark—even if unwittingly—in the last part. The only way a truly peaceful world will ever be built is not on human government, not upon military might, but “upon the rock.” True, lasting peace will, in fact, be built upon the stone of Daniel 2:34, 45—the stone cut without hands that will smash to pieces the anti-God, man-made governmental system of this fallen world. That rock is none other than Jesus the Christ. Christ, alone, is able to deal with the devil as is necessary to bring all to a conclusion appointed by God.

Jesus told His disciples this unalterable truth as recorded in Matthew 16:13-18.

The humanistic roadmap for achieving mankind's loftiest goals isn't working out. Human government, as a matter of fact, is taking the world on the fast track to destruction.

Babel-like Rebellion Rules

Mankind exhibits the hubris of Lucifer the fallen one. Pridefulness grows in geometric progression while humanity proceeds deeper into history. Pride and rebellion in this sin-immersed world are synonymous. The world of rebels has come full circle and stands again where the tower builders of Babel stood in the Genesis account of God's intervention into the evil affairs of man following the Flood. Heaven's judgment thus cannot be far in the future.

The Genesis record frames the problem God confronted.

“And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth” (Genesis 11:4-9).

Modern-day one-world order builders have been able to circumvent the language barriers the Lord set in place to prevent the ancient tower builders from constructing the Tower of Babel. Technology makes possible instant communication from any place on earth to most any other place around the globe, no matter the language.

The neo one-worlders are every bit as set on trying to usurp God's control over mankind as were Nimrod and his cronies of that ancient time.

The globalists elite today are observed at work within the United Nations, the nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and deceptive entities like the World Economic Forum (WEF). These and others engage in constant efforts to formulate a new world configuration. Their grasp for power is joined by the many social engineers and scientists who seek to foist the global-warming hoax upon the rest of humanity. Their climate-change conferences — which thus far have not reaped the economic windfalls they hoped for — and lockdowns through contrived, engineered pestilences have failed miserably. Their pseudoscience, which was proved to be based upon fraudulent and contrived climate data, exposed their hubristic grab for power.

Warped Worldview Pervades

This generation, represented by the globalist-elite drive for one world order, fits well the description of rebellious earth-dwellers given in the final book of God's recorded Word—Revelation. The neo-Babel builders exhibit hatred for those who want governance from the God of Heaven, not from humanistic reprobate thinking. Saints of the Tribulation era will appeal to the Lord against such "heathen," "kings of the earth," and "rulers" that "imagine a vain thing," as outlined in Psalms 2:1-4.

Those who will have been martyred for the cause of Christ will ask the Lord a heart-wrenching question in that future time of horror:

"And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" (Revelation 6:10).

These who "dwell on the earth" today mock God and embrace Antichrist concepts. The Antichrist spirit is alive and well and is growing stronger in its influence.

The generations that have grown with the fantastic scientific breakthroughs have a visceral pride that makes them pull from the traces that God has designed for the moral governance of humankind. Humanity, in cultures and civilizations, always seems to go through the same kind of cycle of deportment toward total rebellion and judgment.

At this moment, we who "watch" things going on are like Lot of his day. We are "vexed" while the wickedness, deception, and unalloyed evil grow amongst us.

God's Word, as always, tells us how to deal with the devil and the rebelliousness while we wait for and look for our blessed hope (Titus 2:13). Here is assurance from God's Holy Word. The devil and his minions that have plagued mankind — including perpetrating their evil against Christians who are now, like Lot, vexed from day to day with their wickedness — will be dealt with in judgment.

"Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb....The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous" (Psalms 37:1-2, 12-17).

All evil we see accumulating, with Antichrist's foreshadow now darkening the immediate geopolitical horizon, means the Lord is about to intervene with promised judgment and wrath. Jesus told of the exact times in which we now live in His "days of Noah, days of Lot" prophecies recorded in Luke 17:26-30.

It is the Rapture of all born-again believers that will begin the process of instituting that judgment and wrath.

Folks, that great event, when God will deal with the devil and his minions, both human and demonic, is on the very cusp of becoming a reality in our time.

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28).