

NEWS BYTES

May 17, 2023

No. 1110

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

The following is an excellent summary of what is going on in Israel from Jim Fletcher, who spent the last week there. His takeaway is really the heart of the matter above all.

The God of Israel

Jim Fletcher

I've been in Israel all week and the big story is the rockets. But the really big story is that nobody is headed for the exits. I've listened to news from home and you'd think Tel Aviv was on fire. No. I did see people swimming, riding bikes, sitting on the beach talking. I drove all over the country by myself and never felt unsafe even for a second. It was just an extraordinary privilege to be here, like it always is. I don't want to give a false impression: people are checking for alerts, because not only have rockets from the terror group Islamic Jihad landed in Israel proper, people have been killed. But the IDF is so good at what it does, three terrorist commanders have been killed in precision strikes.

“The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.” (Deuteronomy 28:7)

I visited the Valley of Elah, where David faced-off against the Philistine from Gath. I stood in the dry stream bed where the future king picked up a smooth stone for his sling. Then David crushed Goliath's skull with one strike. This week, the Israel Defense Forces has employed its missile defense system, named David's Sling, in killing existential threats. And, like David, they run toward the threat.

Because of a broken spiritual condition called anti-Semitism, and reprobate minds, Israel faces myriad threats all the time. Even while vanquishing their enemies, they have a moral imperative that compels them to minimize civilian casualties. Terrorists hide in hospitals and schools and so Israel waits as long as necessary until the angels of death poke their heads up. Then a missile-from-nowhere comes through the window.

“And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cliff of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by.” (Exodus 33:21,22)

Israel today exists as an incongruity. Marked for death by idiots, the country keeps getting stronger. The innovation, resourcefulness, and sheer grit make it clear to me that God is alive and active. He is watching.

In God's Word, He has promised that Israel is eternal. In Amos 9:15, the Lord tells His people that once He brings them back into their own land again, for the final time, they will "never be uprooted again."

I was sitting in Jerusalem's Old City early in the week, in front of the historic Petra Hotel. At one time a jewel in the city, it hosted the likes of Mark Twain. It reminded me that even if diplomats and pundits today don't get Israel, the novelists always have. Twain wrote this about the Jews (and he wasn't religious!):

"If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one quarter of one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk.

"His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine and abstruse learning are also very out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world in all ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself and be excused for it. The Egyptians, the Babylonians and the Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greeks and Romans followed and made a vast noise, and they were gone; other people have sprung up and held their torch high for a time but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, and have vanished.

"The Jew saw them all, survived them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities, of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert but aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jews; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?"

I know what is the secret to his immortality.

Fellow novelist Walker Percy once asked a famous question: "Where are all the Hittites in New York City?" He referred, in this most clever way, to the fact that the Jews had survived millennia with their nationhood intact, their national community vibrant even in exile, while a whole list of ancient civilizations are gone for good. The Hittites were once a great regional power, but they are long gone. Percy said, "I see Jews in New York City, but not Hittites."

Anne Rice, while researching her book, "Christ the Lord Out of Egypt," said that she came back to religious faith because she could not explain away the existence of the Jews. The nebulous puff of star dust burns bright in our world today.

The main point of my trip this week was to soak in the evidence for Bible prophecy fulfilled. In the land where it happened, and happens, and will happen.

Bible prophecy is proof that God is real.

I'm not talking at all about the identity of the antichrist, or the mark of the beast, or that sort of thing. I'm not talking about fringe topics. I don't care about any of those things. I'm talking about prophecies already fulfilled, that cannot be explained away, but that demonstrate unquestioningly the power and majesty of the living God.

And of the 10,000 or so prophecies in the Bible, around 3,000 of them are yet future. Something is happening.

He promised again and again in Scripture that after a period of long exile away from their land, He would return the Jews again one day, at the time of His choosing. I saw with my own eyes this week, in a hundred ways, that time of His choosing.

I don't care if that sounds quaint and fundamentalist and goofy to anyone. Lunatics are running the world. But the Jew remains. Belief in the Bible, including its history, is probably the sanest thing a person can embrace.

I visited Mount Carmel, where Elijah had a spiritual duel of sorts with the pagan priests of Baal; read the story for yourself in 1 Kings 18. He said both of them would call on their god, and the one that answered by fire is the true God. Can you guess what happened? I sincerely believe that God is answering by fire in our time, through fulfilled prophecy. I know for a fact that the critics and the mockers of it have no defense. Sam Harris, the famous atheist, often likes to say that Bible believers have no evidence. Listen, Sam Harris has no evidence of our no evidence. And if he spent a week with me in Israel, he would I believe emerge a very different man.

Tomorrow, on the 14th, at 4 p.m., I will sit outside Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, where David Ben Gurion read the new State of Israel's founding document, written in Hebrew, in 1948. U.S. President Harry Truman was under tremendous pressure not to recognize the Jewish state; the West already did not want to offend the Arabs.

Eleven minutes after Ben Gurion spoke over international radio, Truman issued this statement:

This Government has been informed that a Jewish state has been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the provisional Government thereof. The United States recognizes the provision government as the de facto authority of the new State of Israel.

Harry S. Truman

Approved, May 14, 1948.

"Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children." (Isaiah 66:8)

I have seen spectacular things this week. So, I want to end this for now by telling you the most spectacular thing I saw.

I was waiting at the train platform at Ben Gurion Airport. I looked up and saw an exit sign in Hebrew, Arabic, and English.

Hebrew.

Did you know that for 2,000 years during the Jews' exile from their ancestral land that Hebrew was basically a dead language, like Latin? Dead as a doornail except for a few rabbis and scholars. But in a Lithuanian village in 1858, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda was born. By the time he was an adult, large numbers of Jews were fleeing Europe and other places due to violence, and settling in Palestine. The linguist also settled there and determined that he would restore Hebrew as a daily language. So that by the time of national restoration, promised by God, the Jews of the new state would not be speaking the

languages of the 150 nations they had returned from—they would speak the one language of their ancestors.

For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent. (Zephaniah 3:9)

The only reason I was sitting at a train station in Israel is because God promised that Israel would be reborn one day, against all odds. That's the only reason. So, the most mundane thing imaginable—an exit sign—becomes an image from another time and place. In our day. The Hebrew exit sign ALWAYS blows my mind. I'm serious. I often just stand and look at them wherever I find them.

The exit sign reminds me that God keeps His promises and He does exactly what He wants to do and when. No one opposes Him. He decides History.

And He has decided that the Jew is eternal. I thought about these things this week in the capital city of modern Israel.

I live in the time that the Jews have re-entered History. And so do you.

Nothing is difficult for Him.

Digital Identity Wallet

By Hal Lindsey

The European Union says its “digital identity wallet” will go into use next year. It's no accident that this forerunner to the mark of the beast will begin in Europe, the Antichrist's home turf. In an article sponsored by the global digital security firm Entrust, Wired Magazine called the digital identity wallet, “The most ambitious rollout yet of a comprehensive digital ID system, combining security, compliance, and privacy safeguards for the EU's 447 million citizens.”

Romana Jerković represents Croatia in the EU Parliament. A member of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, she said, “With the European Digital Identity Framework, we want the EU to become the first global region with a governance framework for trusted digital identities. The Digital Wallet will become a reliable, all-in-one identity gateway that puts citizens in full control of their own data and gives them the freedom to decide exactly what information to share, with whom, and when.”

Putting the citizen in charge of his or her own data sounds great. But this initiative is not about privacy. It's about government control. According to the EU Parliament, “The new digital identity framework would provide EU citizens with digital access to key public services across EU borders.”

In other words, the EU wants to create universal reliance on its new digital ID app. MEP Jerković, quoted above, went on to say, “From social, financial, medical, and professional data, to contacts and much more, it will make it possible to store personal credentials within a single digital ID. Digital identity is no longer just a nice-to-have feature.”

This will put Europeans' entire digital lives in the pocket of the central government. It gives the EU easy access to its citizens' data to use as the government sees fit. Financial records? Check. Social media? Check. Medical data? Check. Job-related data? Check. In a piecemeal fashion, these things are already available to law enforcement if it can show just cause for suspecting a crime. But this will

give a whole range of government agencies quick and easy access to everything about the individual. And it will all be wrapped up in one comprehensive package.

According to the EU Parliament, “Using the EU wallet will always be voluntary.” If that’s a relief, remember that in 1936, the United States government promised citizens that the then new Social Security number would not be used for identification. They promised it would only be used as a tool to track earnings histories for determining Social Security benefits. From 1946 to 1972, they printed that message on every card. “For Social Security purposes only. Not for identification.”

Today, even the Social Security Administration admits, “The SSN [Social Security Number] is the single most widely used record identifier for both government and the private sector.” Governments promise limitations, and then run roughshod over them when it becomes convenient to do so.

The EU says the legislation would “ensure that citizens who choose not to adopt it are not treated differently to those who do.” But in the very next paragraph, they say the wallet will allow users “to access goods and public and private services.” If you want access to those things, then you had better “volunteer.”

The EU wallet is not the mark of the beast. But it’s another big step in that direction.

All This Failure Is Deliberate

Societal chaos is what leftists have been scheming since the French Revolution.

May 12, 2023 by [Mark Lewis](#)

I recently had a reader ask, “Why is Joe Biden still President?” While I’m sure there was some facetiousness in his query, it’s actually worth pondering. The simple answer is, he was elected (ahem) for a four-year term and still has about a year and a half left. So, he is President because our Constitution allows him to be, and he hasn’t died yet. But let’s examine the question a little deeper.

Everything Biden has done has been a disaster. The economy is teetering. The border is non-existent. The banking system and the dollar are crumbling. Our enemies are taking advantage of the weakness they perceive in the White House. Crime is out of control in most of our once-great cities. Traditional morality and decency are in the toilet. Our children are being butchered and groomed for the hedonistic pleasure of a cadre of sexual deviants. Women athletes are losing hard-earned rights because of the “transgender” movement, something that almost no one had heard of five years ago. Government spending is without restraint and, as a result, inflation has soared, and America’s middle class is being squeezed into near oblivion. The education system continues to produce semi-literates who will do—what?—in the future.

No patriot wants to join the military anymore. The list of Joe Biden’s cataclysms is endless, but my space in this column isn’t, so I mention only a few of the most egregious catastrophes this man and his ideology have foisted upon the nation. Why is he still President indeed?

Biden is President, but he is far from in control. The Marxist, Leftist global movement, whatever groups are ultimately behind it, are using Biden and the Democratic Party as pawns in the supreme game of human domination. Biden does everything he is told to do. He is nothing but a puppet, a “useful idiot” as I explained recently—totally unable to think for himself. The Far Left, the Marxist Left, manipulates him and his ideological band. Biden doesn’t realize it, but some Democrats do.

But this is why Biden—health permitting—will win the Democratic nomination next year. Why would the Leftist oligarchy want anyone else, since he is doing exactly what they want him to? When he has expanded his usefulness, he will be tossed “into the dustbin of history.” They will have no further need for him, and probably won’t even give him a gold watch.

What is critical to understand is that all the failures of the Biden administration are choreographed. They are deliberate, exactly what Soros, the WEF, the Deep State, i.e., the Marxist Left covet. They WANT failure. We must understand that. Some of them are intelligent enough to know that Leftist policies never succeed because they contradict basic human nature, economic laws, history, science, God, and every other reality. This is the horror we are witnessing in America and around the world today—designed, intended collapse. Those who are engineering this are aware of it and, again, need the failure.

As societies crumble and dissipate into total chaos, someone, echoing Hitler, will have to step forth and restore order again. The Left certainly doesn’t intend for Donald Trump or Ron DeSantis to do it. The Marxist Left will be able to assume all power, and the people will gladly give it to them in order to restore some measure of peace and stability to their lives. The masses will obey whatever orders are given to them under the threat of terror, and out of fear of a resurrection of the madness that brought about the totalitarian state in the first place. Most Americans sense something is dreadfully wrong, but don’t know enough history to understand it. That is a supreme tragedy.

This societal chaos and ultimate takeover are what Leftists have been scheming, actually, since the French Revolution. It is the world Utopia, with them in charge, of course. The movement was provided greater emphasis and philosophic buttressing by Marx, and while it failed in the Soviet Union, it’s working in China. And it is about to conquer the United States, especially if Biden (or any Democrat) is given four more years in the White House.

What I’m basically describing is George Orwell’s novel, 1984. Orwell portrayed the end result; what we are witnessing today is the movement that will terminate in a 1984-type society. Again, it is deliberate, planned, and, so far, working almost to perfection. They will win unless our will is stronger than theirs. With Ronna McDaniel and Mitch McConnell in control of the (supposed) opposition party, one is not hopeful. The enemy and its goals must be comprehended in order to be defeated, and the Republican establishment in Washington is utterly clueless.

We bemoan the deterioration and destruction of our country. But do you think Barack Obama and George Soros are sorrowful about the current trends in America? Of course not. It is exactly what they desire and designed. Things are going according to blueprint. Oh, there are a few obstacles (traditional, conservative Americans), but they are mostly old geezers who will die off in the next decade or two. Then who will stand in the gap to defend traditional America? I tremble for our children and grandchildren. With the millions of illegals now in, and soon to enter, the country, there is a ready-made mass of humanity to organize into a revolution. There aren't enough "crops" for them all to "pick." What are they going to do?

They will soon discover that America, because of Leftist policies, isn't what they were promised it would be. Most of them can't speak the language well enough to perform skilled labor. They will live on the streets, or in shantytowns, Venezuelan-retreads; huddled together, miserable, waiting for a Lenin or Mao to lead them. They will be a revolution waiting to be organized, waiting to happen.

Ten years ago, we would never have believed this could happen in America. Too many still don't believe it. By the time they do, it will be too late.