

NEWZBYTES

December 13, 2023

No.1137

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

Here we are coming up on our 23rd year of Newzbytes.

To say that we have covered a lot in over 1100 newsletters is a wild understatement. Never would ever have imagined some of the headlines we have looked at collectively: War in Israel, the digital revolution (post Y2K!), apostasy in the church, globalism on steroids, America circling the drain – it’s been crazy.

And since humans can’t even see 1 minute into the future, I look back in awe. God is Faithful and True and every word of prophecy will come to pass, even though it seems like the wheels of prophecy grind ever so slowly.

But, as the Tozer quote at the top of the masthead says,
“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.”

Which means that nothing changes about my mission, goal, and desire: to be watching and waiting for the fulfillment of all things – and begin eternity with our Lord and Saviour.

And – to help you the reader be watching and waiting as well.
If that is a mission statement, that’s mine.

When I first started the Newzies, Joseph Farah had just released a fantastic set of articles called “Myths of the Middle East”. In these, he breaks to pieces the myths surrounding Israel and “Palestine” and who really has the title to the land. We at Calvary Chapel thought it was so well done, it became one of the first articles I ever put in the Newzies.

And the response was amazing. I will wager that some of you depending upon the church you attend, have never heard any of this even today.

So, for this anniversary of the Newzies, here is the original article. Still a great read.

Truth is Truth!!

-- Mare D

Myths of the Middle East

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by Joseph Farah

I've been quiet since Israel erupted in fighting spurred by disputes over the Temple Mount.

Until now, I haven't even bothered to say, "See, I told you so." But I can't resist any longer. I feel compelled to remind you of the column I wrote just a couple weeks before the latest uprising. Yeah, folks, I predicted it. That's OK. Hold your applause.

After all, I wish I had been wrong. More than 80 people have been killed since the current fighting in and around Jerusalem began. And for what?

If you believe what you read in most news sources, Palestinians want a homeland and Muslims want control over sites they consider holy. Simple, right?

Well, as an Arab-American journalist who has spent some time in the Middle East dodging more than my share of rocks and mortar shells, I've got to tell you that these are just phony excuses for the rioting, trouble-making and land-grabbing.

Isn't it interesting that prior to the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, there was no serious movement for a Palestinian homeland?

"Well, Farah," you might say, "that was before the Israelis seized the West Bank and Old Jerusalem."

That's true. In the Six-Day War, Israel captured Judea, Samaria and East Jerusalem. **But they didn't capture these territories from Yasser Arafat. They captured them from Jordan's King Hussein.** I can't help but wonder why all these Palestinians suddenly discovered their national identity after Israel won the war.

The truth is that Palestine is no more real than Never-Never Land. The first time the name was used was in 70 A.D. when the Romans committed genocide against the Jews, smashed the Temple and declared the land of Israel would be no more. From then on, the Romans promised, it would be known as Palestine. The name was derived from the Philistines, a Goliathian people conquered by the Jews centuries earlier. It was a way for the Romans to add insult to injury. They also tried to change the name of Jerusalem to Aelia Capitolina, but that had even less staying power.

Palestine has never existed -- before or since -- as an autonomous entity. It was ruled alternately by Rome, by Islamic and Christian crusaders, by the Ottoman Empire and, briefly, by the British after World War I. The British agreed to restore at least part of the land to the Jewish people as their homeland.

There is no language known as Palestinian.

There is no distinct Palestinian culture.

There has never been a land known as Palestine governed by Palestinians.

Palestinians are Arabs, indistinguishable from Jordanians (another recent invention), Syrians, Lebanese, Iraqis, etc. Keep in mind that the Arabs control 99.9 percent of the Middle East lands. Israel represents one-tenth of 1 percent of the landmass.

But that's too much for the Arabs. They want it all. And that is ultimately what the fighting in Israel is about today. Greed. Pride. Envy. Covetousness. No matter how many land concessions the Israelis make, it will never be enough.

What about Islam's holy sites? There are none in Jerusalem.

Shocked? You should be. I don't expect you will ever hear this brutal truth from anyone else in the international media. It's just not politically correct.

I know what you're going to say: "Farah, the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem represent Islam's third most holy sites."

Not true. In fact, the Koran says nothing about Jerusalem. It mentions Mecca hundreds of times. It mentions Medina countless times. It never mentions Jerusalem. With good reason. There is no historical evidence to suggest Mohammed ever visited Jerusalem.

So how did Jerusalem become the third holiest site of Islam?

Muslims today cite a vague passage in the Koran, the seventeenth Sura, entitled "The Night Journey." It relates that in a dream or a vision Mohammed was carried by night "from the sacred temple to the temple that is most remote, whose precinct we have blessed, that we might show him our signs. ..." In the seventh century, some Muslims identified the two temples mentioned in this verse as being in Mecca and Jerusalem. And that's as close as Islam's connection with Jerusalem gets -- myth, fantasy, wishful thinking. Meanwhile, Jews can trace their roots in Jerusalem back to the days of Abraham.

The latest round of violence in Israel erupted when Likud Party leader Ariel Sharon tried to visit the Temple Mount, the foundation of the Temple built by Solomon. It is the holiest site for Jews. Sharon and his entourage were met with stones and threats. I know what it's like. I've been there. Can you imagine what it is like for Jews to be threatened, stoned and physically kept out of the holiest site in Judaism?

So what's the solution to the Middle East mayhem? Well, frankly, I don't think there is a man-made solution to the violence. But, if there is one, it needs to begin with truth. Pretending will only lead to more chaos. Treating a 5,000-year-old birthright backed by overwhelming historical and archaeological evidence equally with illegitimate claims, wishes and wants gives diplomacy and peacekeeping a bad name.

A Fight to the End

Daymond Duck

December 9

On Nov. 28, 2023, an Israeli Arab Affairs Correspondent reported that Hamas had offered to release all its remaining hostages for an end to the war.

On Nov. 28, 2023, it was reported that Israeli Prime Min. Netanyahu said:

- “There is no way we are not going back to fight to the end. This is my policy, the entire Cabinet stands behind it, the entire government stands behind it, the soldiers stand behind it, the people stand behind it—this is exactly what we will do.”
- “From the beginning of the war, I set three goals: the elimination of Hamas, the return of all our hostages, and to ensure that Gaza will never again be a threat to Israel. These three goals remain.”
- “Over the last few days, I’ve heard a question: When this phase of returning our hostages is exhausted, will Israel return to fighting? My answer is an unequivocal yes.”

Hamas has said they will not stop trying to destroy Israel.

They will try again, and again, and again until they succeed.

This leaves Israel with no choice but to destroy Hamas before Hamas destroys Israel.

Several Muslim leaders have said they will not allow Israel to destroy Hamas, so this raises many questions:

- What will Iran, Turkey, Syria, Russia, Hezbollah, and others do?
- How will God respond if several nations enter the war to prevent Israel from destroying Hamas?
- Does anyone have a plan that will establish peace and safety in the Middle East?

(More: On Nov. 28, 2023, the son of Hamas co-founder Sheikh Hassan Yousef posted a video on X urging Israel to give Hamas a deadline of one to six months for the release of all hostages, and to kill the Hamas leaders, including his father, if they do not meet it. He also said Hamas wants Israel to release murderers in exchange for the hostages, and those murderers will continue to kill people if they can. He also wants Israel to treat Qatar as an enemy state if they do not stop financing Hamas.)

(More: On Nov. 29, 2023, Israel’s Ambassador to the UN told UN Security Council Members, Arab nations, and others that met with the UN Security Council, “This (the Hamas attack on Israel) is not a political conflict or about partitioning land. It is solely about the destruction of Israel and the murder of Jews.” He added, “Anyone who supports a ceasefire basically supports Hamas’ continued reign of terror in Gaza.”)

(More: On Nov. 30, 2023, Israeli Prime Min. Netanyahu told U.S. Sec. of State Blinken, “I have sworn to destroy Hamas. Nothing will stop us.”)

(More: On Dec. 1, 2023, Hamas broke the ceasefire, and the war resumed. The possibility of others getting involved and other prophecies being fulfilled has just increased.)

Here are some recent reports of events that seem to relate to Bible prophecy:

One, concerning corruption in the UN: on Nov. 29, 2023, it was reported that two released hostages said:

- One hostage said I was locked in an attic for 50 days by a United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) employee with barely enough food and no help with my medical needs.
- The other hostage said I was held by a Gazan doctor (Hamas controlled the UN healthcare system in Gaza).

(More: On Dec. 2, 2023, Israeli troops entered a private home in Gaza City that had a room full of boxes bearing the UNRWA logo. Underneath the UN-labeled boxes were dozens of rockets, mortars, and other explosives. This does not prove that the UN supported terrorists, but there is other evidence that does.)

(My opinion: It would be a grave mistake for Israel and/or world leaders to allow the UN to establish a new government in Gaza.)

Two, concerning peace in the Middle East and who governs Gaza after the Israel-Hamas war is over: on Nov. 27, 2023, the EU foreign affairs chief met with the heads of several Arab nations to discuss the issue.

They agreed (without seeking Israel's opinion) that the two-state solution should be adopted, and the Palestinian Authority should rule over the Palestinian part with the assistance of the international community.

There are different opinions of what the two-state solution means, but it often means the Palestinian Authority should get the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and a capital in East Jerusalem.

The current head of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, denies that the Holocaust ever happened, and he refuses to condemn Hamas for burning Jews alive, beheading babies, raping women and girls, seizing child hostages, etc.

Why would anyone wonder why God is on Israel's side?

Three, concerning the decline of America, pestilences, and a population decrease: on Nov. 27, 2023, a U.S. Navy Health Administrator and recruiter posted a video on X that says, "The U.S. military has experienced a major increase in heart-related issues with helicopter and fixed-wing pilots" since the beginning of 2022, and he added that the major increase is vax-related (due to Covid-19 vaccinations).

(More: On Nov. 30, 2023, the state of Texas sued Pfizer for intentionally misrepresenting the facts (deliberately lying) and trying to censor the truth about the effectiveness of its Covid-19 vaccine. Pfizer contends that its vaccine is safe and effective and the Texas suit has no merit.)

Four, concerning the decline of America and a borderless world government: on Nov. 30, 2023, it was reported that more than 9,400 illegal aliens had arrived at the U.S. border with Mexico in the last 24 hours.

More than 5,800 were released right away.

According to the report, an estimated 10 million illegal immigrants have entered the U.S. since Biden became president.

Many get food, housing, a check, free healthcare, free education if needed, etc.

(More: On Nov. 30, 2023, it was reported that a Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) found that the U.S. Border Patrol is coordinating many of these crossings with the Mexican government.)

(More: On Nov. 30, 2023, it was reported that New York Mayor Adams is cutting his fire department budget and his police budget—in spite of rampant crime—to provide funds for illegal immigrants.)

(More: On Dec. 4, 2023, German Cardinal Muller said, “Mass migration is not about helping people but about destroying national identity.”)

Five, concerning corruption in Washington, in the FBI, and a stolen 2020 election: on Nov 29, 2023, Congressman Clay Higgins confirmed something some of the J6 political prisoners have been saying.

Higgins said, “The FBI was not only involved in the actions on January 6 from within, they had, **I suspect, over 200 agents embedded within the crowd, including agents or, as they would call, human assets inside the Capitol dressed as Trump supporters before the doors were opened.**”

Six, concerning a departure from the faith and the coming false religious system: starting in the fall of 2024, St. Mary’s College (an all-girls college in Notre Dame, Ind.) will allow men who identify as women to enroll in classes.

I wonder what they will do about the dorm rooms, bathrooms, and showers, and what the religious leaders, who do not know the difference between a man and a woman, earn.

Seven, on Nov. 29, 2023, at the age of 100, Henry Kissinger (a key leader of the global depopulation agenda; the man who chose Klaus Schwab to head the World Economic Forum) died.

It does not matter how powerful anyone is; the day will come when they must bow, confess, and account to God (Rom. 14:11-12).

Eight, on Nov. 30, 2023, the Russian Supreme Court ruled that the international LGBT social movement is extremist.

This should stop the group from working in Russia, but if they do not stop pushing the gay agenda, they could wind up in legal trouble.

Nine, last year, Pres. Biden sold 180 million barrels of oil from America’s strategic petroleum reserves.

On Dec. 1, 2023, he announced plans to buy 2.7 million barrels of oil to replace some of what he sold.

Oil dropped to \$20 a barrel when Trump was Pres., and he wanted to buy 77 million barrels of oil and put it in the reserve, but Congress blocked him.

Biden is expected to pay about \$79 a barrel for the oil he intends to buy.

Ten, concerning world government: the UN COP28 Conference (Conference of the Parties; 28th meeting) is taking place right now (Nov. 30, 2023 to Dec. 12, 2023).

As I understand it, the speeches are mostly deceptive junk science and scare tactics to “save the planet” (Mother Earth) from horrible natural disasters that are caused by burning coal, driving gas-powered vehicles, farmers using too much fertilizer, ranchers raising too many cows that pass gas, etc.

Behind the deception (called climate change) is a globalist effort to put a leash (global laws) on everyone on earth that will allow an unelected world government to monitor and control everything people do, or remove them (population reduction) from society.

The idea is to close all the coal mines; force people to drive electric vehicles, ride a bicycle or walk; force farmers to use less fertilizer and produce less food; create a meatless society, and force people to eat bugs and worms, etc.

The current meeting will include an effort to get the nations to speed up their agenda and bring it to pass by 2030 or sooner.

Eleven, here are some daily updates on the war:

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023 (Day 54): Day six of the ceasefire; Second day of the extended ceasefire.

- Hamas released 10 more Israeli hostages and 4 more foreigners.
- Israel and Hamas agreed to extend the ceasefire, and Hamas agreed to release 20 more hostages over the next 2 days.
- A U.S. destroyer shot down a drone that they believe was launched by Houthis in Yemen that support Hamas.
- It was reported that Israel has been allowing the International Red Cross (IRC) to visit Palestinian prisoners, but Hamas not only did not allow the IRC to visit Israeli hostages, the IRC also would not even try to visit them. The son of one hostage who wanted the IRC to take desperately needed medicine to his mom and was refused asked, “Why are they there if they don’t do anything?”
- The UN said it will investigate reports that Hamas troops subjected women and girls to sexual violence when they invaded Israel on Oct. 7. Israel believes the UN already has proof and it needs to act, not investigate.

Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023 (Day 55): Day seven of the ceasefire; Third day of an extended ceasefire.

- Officials in the U.S. and Israel have explored the idea of expelling thousands of low-ranking members of Hamas to countries such as Turkey, Qatar, Iran, Russia, and Lebanon (if Hamas will agree to go and if those countries will take them).
- Hamas’ collection of hostages is decreasing, so Hamas is expected to increase its demands if they are to keep releasing them.
- Netanyahu must decide if he will try to get the remaining hostages at a greater price or go back to war.
- The Biden administration is looking for ways to stop Netanyahu from keeping his promise to destroy Hamas.
- Hamas released 8 Israeli hostages and launched rockets toward Israel.
- The leader of Hamas said Oct. 7 was just a rehearsal.

Friday, Dec. 1, 2023 (Day 56): Day eight of the ceasefire; Fourth day of an extended ceasefire.

- Israel accused Hamas of breaking the ceasefire by not releasing enough hostages and firing rockets at Israel.
- S. Sec. of State Blinken said Hamas fired rockets into Israel while the ceasefire was still in effect.
- The ceasefire has ended.
- Israel withdrew its hostage negotiating team from Qatar.
- Israel dropped leaflets urging Palestinians to leave part of southern Gaza, where Hamas has troops.
- Israeli jets quickly struck about 200 terror targets, and Hamas claimed that more than 170 people were killed.
- Hezbollah, which is armed and paid by Iran, fired several rockets into Israel from Lebanon.
- 6 hostages have died in captivity (Hamas and other terrorist groups are still holding about 136 hostages. A total of 105 have been released).
- The U.S., EU, and others are planning to strongly push the two-state solution (a fake peace treaty) after the Israeli-Hamas war is over.

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 (Day 57): The second day of the resumed war.

- Israel said Hamas had agreed to release all women and child hostages during the ceasefire, but they restarted the war before doing that.
- An Israeli doctor said the child hostages that Hamas held were severely abused psychologically and in other ways.
- Israeli jets attacked Hamas strongholds in southern Gaza.
- Early in the war, many Palestinians left northern Gaza and went to Khan Younis, but Hamas moved their temporary headquarters there to hide among the displaced citizens.
- Israel declared Khan Younis a war zone, and Israeli Jets struck the city 50 times.
- Hamas claims 15,200 people have been killed and 40,000 have been wounded since the war began (their numbers are unsubstantiated).
- 395 Israeli soldiers have been killed and more than 9,000 injured.
- Israel is preparing for a ground offensive in the south.
- Israel notified the Arab nations that it wants a buffer zone between Gaza and Israel when the war is over.
- US Vice President Kamala Harris said that “under no circumstances will the United States permit the forced relocation of Palestinians from Gaza or the West Bank, the besiegement of Gaza, or the redrawing of the borders of Gaza.”
- Netanyahu said he will not allow the PA to return to power after the war is over. He said the PA does not fight terrorists; it calls for the destruction of Israel, so a different kind of government is needed.

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023 (Day 58): The third day of the resumed war.

- Israeli troops have found about 800 tunnel shafts in Gaza and destroyed about 500 of them.
- Israel's ground operation was expanded to every part of Gaza.
- The UN estimated that 1,800,000 Palestinians had been displaced.

Monday, Dec. 4, 2023 (Day 59): The fourth day of the resumed war.

- A rocket (likely fired by Hamas) struck an Israeli military base where fuel and nuclear-capable missiles are kept. It caused a fire that burned about 40 acres before it was put out.

- Heavy tanks, armored vehicles, and bulldozers have reached the outskirts of Khan Younis (where Israel believes the Hamas military leaders are located).
- Israel said its troops will stay in Gaza until Hamas is destroyed and the hostages are released.
- A senior Hamas leader said a massacre of Jews bigger than Oct. 7 is imminent, and he wonders why people think it won't happen.

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023 (Day 60): The fifth day of the resumed war.

- Qatar (home of several Hamas political leaders) asked the UN Security Council to force Israel to return to the negotiating table.
- Israel has captured a Hamas base and command and control center at the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza.
- Israeli troops have reached the heart of Khan Younis (the largest city in southern Gaza).
- Hezbollah fired several rockets from Lebanon into Israel, and Israeli jets struck several Hezbollah sites in Lebanon.

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023 (Day 61): The sixth day of the resumed war.

- There was very heavy fighting (some house-to-house) in many parts of Gaza.
- In a Palestinian refugee camp on the West Bank in Israel, Israeli troops found two tunnel shafts and three bomb-making labs.
- Israel found hundreds of rockets, long-range missiles, launchers, grenades, anti-armor missiles, drones, and explosive devices near a clinic and a school in northern Gaza.
- Israel is preparing to flood tunnels with seawater.

FYI: God does not send anyone to Hell (all of us are born with a sin nature and destined to go to Hell because we sin), but God has provided a way (Jesus) for everyone to go to Heaven (and He is the only way to get there; John 14:6).

Finally, are you Rapture Ready?

If you want to be rapture ready and go to heaven, you must be born again (John 3:3). God loves you, and if you have not done so, sincerely admit that you are a sinner; believe that Jesus is the virgin-born, sinless Son of God who died for the sins of the world, was buried, and raised from the dead; ask Him to forgive your sins, cleanse you, come into your heart and be your Saviour; then tell someone that you have done this.