

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC Newsletter

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DR. ED HINDSON

Nearly 2,000 years Jesus gave us the Great Commission to evangelize the whole world. And in those twenty centuries, the Gospel has been taken to every continent on the earth in one form or another.

Through television and the Internet, God is using World Prophetic Ministry and The King Is Coming weekly telecast to reach more souls than ever before with the Good News!

God has promised that if you and I do what He has called us to do, He will meet our personal needs -- and our international ministry needs! Like Jabez in the Old Testament, I trust God will further "expand our territory" of ministry influence and outreach.

Your continued support is needed this month. Through this ministry, God is able to use both your prayers and gifts in a mighty way!

Until He returns,

Ed Hindson

US Condemns China for Persecuting People of Faith



Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback speaks at the Department of State in Washington on June 21, 2019. (Sarah Silbiger / Getty Images)

On June 21st, the State Department's Office of International Religious Freedom released its latest report on International Religious Freedom across the globe, which contained both positive examples of lessening of religious persecution but also focused on many of the world's largest nations in religious persecution. The report focused on ten countries in particular: Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

In a special section of the report dedicated specifically to China, the report documented China's Xinjiang

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2,600-Year-Old Seal Discovered in Jerusalem

A clay bulla (seal impression), roughly 2,600 years old, was found recently in Jerusalem in the remains of a public building destroyed by the Babylonians during the destruction of the first temple in 586 BC.

Archaeologists from the Israel Antiquities Authority and Tel Aviv University found the seal, which reads, “Nathan-Melech, Servant of the King.”

Little is known specifically about Nathan-Melech, but he was mentioned in 2 Kings 23:11: “And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire.”

Dr. Anat Mendel-Geberovich of the IAA stated, “The fact that this official was mentioned by his first name alone indicates that he was known to all, and there was no need to add his family lineage.” The phrase “Servant of the King” found on the seal is a common term used throughout the Old Testament and usually signified someone that served as an official close to the King. This is not the first seal of this type found by archaeologists, as the seals of Baruch, Jeremiah’s scribe, King Hezekiah and a possible seal of Isaiah was found just last year.



Copyright: Eliyahu Yanai, City of David

Archaeological finds like this seal may at first seem inconsequential but they have been used by both archaeologists as well as apologists to argue for the historicity of the Bible.

For example, prior to the finding of the Tel-Dan Inscription in 1993, liberal bible scholars and archaeologists argued either that David was a mythical figure that the Israelites had created during the Divided Monarchy to make their nation seem to have a stronger history or that he was a minor tribal ruler, but

could not have been a true king with a royal palace. Since the discovery, even critics of the Bible must admit that David was a historical figure. Similarly, prior to the finding of the Merneptah Stele by British archaeologist Flinders Petrie in 1896, liberal scholars argued that Israel had not even existed as an independent nation until the Divided Monarchy. While liberal scholars today still view the Exodus event and the conquest of Canaan with skepticism, they can no longer argue that Israel was not in existence well before 1,000 BC. Therefore, these types of discoveries are very important and show that the Christian faith was not written into mythology, but instead has a foundation in history that can be established through archaeology.— PNL

PRAY: Pray that more archaeological discoveries related to the biblical text will continue to be unearthed by archaeologists and continue to be used to share the historicity of the biblical text with skeptics.

Christians in Hong Kong Sing Praises to the Lord

Earlier this summer, during several weeks of demonstrations in Hong Kong, Christians could be heard singing “Sing Hallelujah to the Lord” by Linda Stassen-Benjamin while protesting and marching in the streets. “Sing Hallelujah” became the unofficial anthem for those fighting an extradition bill that would send criminal suspects to communist China for prosecution.

Hong Kong Christians have no doubt that the Chinese government would use the proposed law to target and silence their critics. There have been widespread reports of the Chinese government intensifying its efforts to rid the mainland of Christian symbols such as removing crosses from churches and demolishing “unregistered” places of worship.

After the intense demonstrations and calls for her resignation, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said she would suspend the bill. However, many believe it is just a matter of time before it will be brought forward again. *China Aid* reports that, “many experts believe it would allow China easier access to dissidents to the Chinese Communist Party, who have enjoyed relative freedom and protection under Hong Kong’s laws. China, on the other hand, routinely imprisons, tortures, and sometimes even kills those who disagree with its policies.”

Prominent Christian activist, 22-year-old Joshua Wong was one of the most visible faces of the demonstration. Recently released from serving a two-month prison sentence, Wong vowed to continue to fight for protecting freedom in Hong Kong.

In an earlier interview, Wong told *WORLD Magazine*, “As Christians, we are not only



responsible for preaching the gospel and then waiting to go to heaven when we die. We need to be bringing heaven down to earth. That seems like a totally idealistic dream, but if we want that dream to come true, how should we let people know that as Christians we don’t focus only on trying to increase our salaries and better our careers? We ask, how can we do more for the people around us?”

Previously, many people viewed Christians as detached and unconcerned about the issues facing Hong Kong society. As a result of these few weeks of protest, there has been an increase in respect for Christians and other protestors wanting to go back to church.

The Bible is replete with admonitions that we should expect to suffer for our faith (Matthew 24:42-22; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Peter 3:3-4). Therefore, let us pray for the Christians in China. — PNL

PRAY: Pray for the continued perseverance of Christians in China, both Hong Kong and mainland. Pray that the Lord would continue to strengthen them and allow their faith to serve as a beacon to others.

providence where between 800,000 and one million Uighur Muslims have been detained and subjected to “forced disappearances, torture, physical abuse and prolonged detention without trial because of their religion and ethnicity.” China has long been viewed as a major proponent and instigator of religious persecution, targeting members of many faiths including both Christianity and Islam.

Members of underground Christian churches in China face the threat of arrest and forced demolition. Authorities require these churches to install surveillance cameras and have forced house church members to sign papers renouncing their faith.

This report led both Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Ambassador-at-Large for Religious Freedom Sam Brownback to rebuke China for its “war on faith.” Brownback stated, “We’ve seen increasing Chinese government abuse of believers of nearly all faiths and from all parts of the mainland. They’ve increased their repression of Christians, shutting down churches and arresting adherents for their peaceful religious practices.”

Pompeo also mentioned some good news in his statement, highlighting improvements in Uzbekistan, which for the first time in ten years is no longer designated as a country of particular concern by the State Department and the releases of Asia Bibi, released by Pakistan after being charged with blasphemy against Muhammed, and pastor Andrew Brunson, released by Turkey after a two-year imprisonment on terrorism and espionage charges.

However, while some progress is being made, there are still more than 40 individuals in Pakistan still being held and facing life sentences or execution for blasphemy against Muhammed and Turkey is still 27th on the World Watch List, which ranks nations based on their religious persecution.

Brownback stated, “We will not stop until the iron curtain of religious freedom comes down, until governments no longer detain and torture people for simply being of a particular faith or associated with it.”

In order to better assess and respond to religious persecution across the globe, Pompeo announced that the Office of International Religious Freedom, along with the State Department’s office dedicated to monitoring and fighting anti-Semitism, are being elevated at the State Department and now report directly to the undersecretary for civilian security, democracy and human rights. Pompeo believes that this will help to streamline many of the actions of the two offices and to help to combat the rise of religious persecution that has continued to increase across the globe.

Pompeo concluded his address by stating, “For all those that run roughshod over religious freedom, I’ll say this: The United States is watching, and you will be held to account.”

The Bible clearly predicts such persecution will increase as the end times draw near (Matthew 10:22). We must pray for the continued perseverance of Christians in these nations that the Lord would strengthen and sustain them. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for those Christians that are under persecution throughout the world, whose lives are in danger for the sake of the Gospel. Pray that the State Department and other agencies will continue to hold nations accountable for their acts of persecution against people of faith. Finally, pray for the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones because of persecution throughout the world.

World Prophetic Ministry Donates *Jesus of the Bible* Materials

Earlier this year in March, World Prophetic Ministry donated two pallets of Spanish *Jesus of the Bible* materials to Radio Nueva Vida Network, a Christian Spanish radio station in California. These teaching materials were distributed, free of charge, to all the pastors who attended the Solemn Assembly at Calvary Community Church in Westlake Village, CA. We received word that they were so grateful to receive this special gift!



PRAY: Pray that these *Jesus of the Bible* materials will be a great blessing to our Hispanic pastors and their congregations.

Doctor Could Lose Medical License for Praying with Patients

Dr. Richard Scott, a general practitioner at Bethesda Medical Center in Kent, England, is currently under investigation by both the General Medical Council and the National Health Service in England after a complaint was issued by the National Secular Society about Dr. Scott praying with patients. The NSS, on behalf of a former patient, alleged in a complaint that Dr. Scott “made a vulnerable patient fell discomfort at the use of prayer.”



Dr. Richard Scott could lose his medical license and his job terminated depending on the outcome of an investigation into him praying with patients.

on another person. The NSS also included in their complaint a comment that Dr. Scott, in an appearance on BBC radio earlier this year, declared drug addiction to be a “relevant circumstance” for using faith in his work. Dr. Scott clarified later in that interview that he used faith in addition to medical treatments and never as an alternative.

The NSS wrote to the General Medical Council to ask what actions the group would take to ensure that patients had the ability to receive health care without having evangelism forced upon them and that it was unacceptable in a multi-cultural society to force one’s faith

works for the advocacy group Christian Concern and is in communication with Dr. Scott, said that Dr. Scott always asks patients if they are open to discussion before bringing his faith into a consultation and has never forced his faith discussion on anyone that did not wish to talk about faith.

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Government Meeting in Alaska Opened with “Hail Satan” Prayer

At the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting this past week a Satanic Temple member was allowed to open the government meeting with the phrase “hail Satan”, which led to a walkout by several residents and officials. Iris Fontana delivered the invocation, which was the first time that a member of the Satanic Temple was allowed to give the invocation since the borough changed its policy last November. Prior to that policy change, those who wanted to give the invocation had to belong to an official organization with an established presence on the Kenai Peninsula. However, the ACLU of Alaska brought a lawsuit against the borough in 2016 and asserted that the policy was unconstitutional. The case made its way to the Alaska Supreme Court, which ultimately ruled that the borough’s policy was unconstitutional. This led to the borough changing the policy. Fontana’s invocation stated, “That which will bend must break and that which can be destroyed by truth should never be spared its demise. It is done, hail Satan.”

The invocation was not met without protest. Several members of the borough left the meeting in protest. There were also around 40 protesters

at the meeting, some holding signs such as “reject Satan and his works” and “know Jesus and his love.”

The Satanic Temple, founded in 2013 and active in thirteen states, is well-known for its activities in church and state issues and its promotion of secularism. It is different from the Church of Satan, which was founded in 1966 by Anton Szandor LaVey. In April, they announced that they had received tax-exempt status from the IRS, making it comparable to a church in

the eyes of the law. Since its founding, they have been active in the legal arena, countering Christianity.

In 2018, the Chicago chapter of the Satanic Temple forced officials to display a “Snaketivity” statue next to the Christmas tree in the Illinois statehouse rotunda. In 2016, the group, to counter evangelical Christian Good News Clubs, created their own after school Satan clubs at public schools. The main goal of this group is to end what they believe is favoritism towards Christianity found within the United States government and to propagate secularism through both legal and evangelistic means.—PNL



“Snaketivity” Statue in Illinois

PRAY: Pray that the push for greater secularism in the United States will be confronted with the gospel message of Jesus Christ. Pray that those that are blinded by the secular worldview will have their eyes open to the truth.

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He also never encourages a patient to ignore medical treatments in favor of prayer. Dr. Scott has more than 20 years of experience as a doctor

but could have his medical license revoked and his job terminated based upon the outcome of the investigation. — PNL

PRAY: Pray for Dr. Scott and his family during this investigation. Pray for those Christians all around the world that come under persecution for living out their faith on a daily basis.