### Today's News in Light of the Bible

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Dear Friend,

God gave us signs and indications of what is going to happen in the future woven throughout Scripture.

We know the Bible states there will be *"wars and rumors of wars,"* there will be a rise in sinful rebellion against God, and there will be a disregard to the sanctity of life and those who support it.

We have to remind ourselves that Heaven is still our focus. We are sojourners, pilgrims passing through. Together we must continue to reach a hurting world for Christ and share the truth of God's Word and the Gospel without ceasing!

This month, we are so excited to offer the newly updated, soon-to-be released, NKJV Evangelical Study Bible!

This Evangelical Study Bible contains notes and other supplemental materials written by theological scholars from Liberty University, one of the largest most influential Christian universities in the world. Putin Suspends Treaty as US-Russia Tensions Rise



Tensions between the U.S. and the Kremlin ratcheted up over US support for Ukraine as Vladimir Putin vowed to pull Russia back from a key nuclear treaty and President Joe Biden reaffirmed the U.S. and its allies won't back down. Putin's move came on the heels of a surprise visit by Biden to Kyiv. In a nearly two-hour speech to both houses of the Russian Parliament, Putin said he was suspending Moscow's participation in New START, a strategic nuclear arms reduction treaty between the U.S. and Russia. Putin said he was taking action because of the U.S. and NATO. "In this regard, I am forced to announce today that Russia is suspending its participation in the strategic offensive arms treaty," he said.

President Biden followed with his own speech in

-World Prophetic Ministry

# LGBT Population on the **Rise in America**

The share of the American population identifying as LGBT has doubled over the past decade as Generation Z is more likely generation, with 11.3% of millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) having a significantly larger LGBT population than Generation

Χ

(1.7%).

(3.3%),

boomers (2.7%) and

the silent generation

many more younger

baby

"With

than older Americans to identify as gay, lesbian. bisexual. transgender or something "other" than heterosexual in new Gallup data. A new survey released examined Americans' self-identification with the LGBT community based on

than older adults themselves seeing as something other than heterosexual. the LGBT share of the entire U.S. adult population can be expected to grow in future years," Gallup

responses from more than 10,700 adults in the United States collected in 2022. The overall margin of sampling error is  $\pm 1$  percentage points. The sampling error among the 584 LGBT adult respondents is ±5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The share of Americans who identify as LGBT reached a record of 7.2% in 2022 after hitting 7.1% in 2021, up from 5.6% in 2020 and 3.5% in 2012, the year Gallup began collecting data on LGBT identification.

Generation Z, defined as the group of adults born between 1997 and 2004, has a much higher share of its population identifying as LGBT than its older counterparts. Nearly one in five (19.7%) members of Generation Z consider themselves part of the LGBT community, with 13.1% describing themselves as bisexual, 3.4% identifying as gay, 2.2% categorizing themselves as lesbians, 1.9% telling pollsters that they are trans-identified and 1.5% choosing the "other LGBT" category when asked about their sexual orientation.

The share of adults belonging to the LGBT community dropped in descending order by Senior Editor Jeffrey M. Jones wrote in the report. "However, this growth depends on younger people who enter adulthood in future years continuing to be much more likely to identify as LGBT than their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents."

The findings of the Gallup survey appear consistent with the data collected in "Gen Z Post Election Research" polls conducted by the Walton Family Foundation and Murmuration in conjunction with SocialSphere. That survey queried those between the ages of 15 and 17 in addition to adults. Only 75% of Generation Z respondents called themselves "heterosexual or straight," compared to 92% of older adults. Thus, if this trend continues, and the growth continues to expand with each generation, very soon the LGBT population will no longer be a small minority of the American population, but instead will become a major element within the population.

Biblical Connections: Romans 1:26-28 states, "For this reason God gave them

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# China is Considering Sending Drones and Ammunition to Russia

The US has intelligence that the Chinese government is considering providing Russia with

drones and ammunition for use in the war in Ukraine. It does not appear that Beijing has made a final decision yet, the sources said, but negotiations between Russia and China about the price and scope of the equipment are ongoing. Since invading Ukraine,

Russia has repeatedly requested drones and ammunition from China, the sources familiar with the intelligence said, and Chinese leadership has been actively debating over the last several months whether or not to send the lethal aid, the sources added.

US intelligence officials have collected information in recent weeks, however, that suggests China is now leaning towards providing the equipment. The US and its allies began publicly warning about China's potential military support to Russia in an effort to deter Beijing from moving ahead with it and crossing a point of no return in terms of being seen

> as a pariah on the world stage, US officials said. US officials would not describe in detail what intelligence the US has seen suggesting the recent shift in China's posture, but senior officials have been concerned enough that they have been actively sharing the

intelligence with allies and partners.

Asked recently about the potential sale of lethal equipment to Russia, foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in a daily briefing that "China has always taken a prudent and responsible approach to military exports and does not provide any arms sales to conflict areas or belligerents." The provision of drones and ammunition – which would likely be for small arms like handheld weaponry rather

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up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting." These types of sexual sins have always been viewed as a corruption of God's Creative order. Sodom and Gomorrah were punished for these types of sins. These types of sins were outlawed in the Mosaic Law. If America continues to go down this road and this type of sin continues to increase, then America will continue to drive itself away from God. — PNL

**PRAY:** Pray God will get a hold of this generation and that they will turn back to God instead of continuing in their sinful rebellion.

Warsaw. He said Putin thought Ukraine would "roll over" when he invaded with tanks a year ago, but "he was wrong" because of the bravery of Ukrainians and "iron will" of nations everywhere that have come to Ukraine's aid. "One year ago, the world was bracing for the fall of Kyiv," Biden said. "Well, I just came from visiting Kyiv, and I can report, Kyiv stands strong. Kyiv stands proud. It stands tall. And most importantly, it stands free."

New START is the last remaining nuclear arms reduction deal between the U.S. and Russia. It was signed in 2010 and extended for five years in 2021. It limits each side to 1,550 long-range nuclear warheads. "Over the last few years Russia has violated and walked away from key arms control agreements. With today's decision on New START the whole arms control architecture has been dismantled," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken described Putin's move as "deeply unfortunate and irresponsible. We'll be watching carefully to see what Russia actually does." Biden said Russian forces have committed "crimes against humanity without shame or compunction," pointing to the targeting of civilians, the kidnapping of children, "rape as a weapon of war" and bombings of maternal hospitals, schools and orphanages. "It's abhorrent," Biden said, promising Russia will be held accountable.

Although Biden did not directly address Putin's pledge on the nuclear treaty, he said "autocrats" like Putin have gotten weaker over the past year as democracies have strengthened in solidarity with Ukraine. "A dictator bent on building an empire will never be able to quench the people's love of liberty," Biden said. Biden also addressed the Russian people, telling them the U.S. and allies "do not seek to control or destroy Russia" and pushing back at Putin's claim that the West is plotting to attack Russia. He said the Russian people "are not the enemies." Directing his comments to Poland and other NATO allies, Biden said Putin "no longer doubts the strength of our coalition," but said he "still doubts our conviction" and "staying power." He declared: "Ukraine will not waver. NATO will not be divided. And we will not tire."

As he has done many times before, Putin blamed the West for provoking the war, accusing the U.S. and its European allies of wanting to acquire "limitless power." He said Ukraine's allies were "playing a dirty game," that NATO members were openly talking about supplying Ukraine with nuclear weapons and that the entire planet was "dotted" with U.S. military bases. Putin claimed Western economic sanctions on Russia were not working: Russian farmers just had a "record" grain harvest and he plans to bolster Russia's diplomatic and economic ties to India, Iran and other countries in the Middle East.

Large parts of his speech were focused on domestic policies connected to infrastructure spending and financial reforms. He praised Russian soldiers and said he would "systematically" continue with the Ukraine invasion he ordered a year ago. He did not unveil any new military objectives connected to Ukraine. Putin did rule out Russia making a first nuclear strike in Ukraine and said Russia would conduct nuclear tests only if the U.S. did so first.

*Biblical Connections:* Ezekiel 38-39 points to Russia continuing to be a major player on the world stage. — *PNL* 

**PRAY:** Pray that any type of nuclear war can be avoided, and that God will enable peace to occur in both Ukraine and in the world as a whole.

# National Archives Forced to Apologize

The National Archives Museum in Washington, D.C., has apologized and agreed

to provide a personal tour to a pair of visitors who sued the federal records agency after being told to cover up their pro-life attire when visiting on the morning of the March for Life. The plaintiffs

alleged they visited the museum on Jan. 20 with their daughters and over 30 members of their Catholic school class. A Feb. 8 lawsuit claims security officers "chilled their religious speech" by "requiring plaintiffs to remove or cover their attire because of their pro-life messages." They wore hats, buttons and other attire with various messages including "Life is a Human Right" and "Life Always Wins."

According to court papers, the museum promised the plaintiffs a personal tour and "a personal apology on that tour regarding the events." The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) apologized for the incident, citing its status as "the home to the original Constitution and Bill of Rights," which enshrine First Amendment rights. "NARA policy expressly allows all visitors to wear t-shirts, hats, buttons, etc. that display protest language, including religious and political speech," the NARA statement reads. "We are actively investigating to determine what happened. Early indications are that our security officers quickly corrected their actions and, from that point forward, all visitors were permitted to enter our facility without needing to remove or cover their attire. We have reminded all of our security officers at our facilities across the country of the rights of visitors in this regard."

The plaintiffs are represented by the American Center for Law and Justice, which is advocating for a total of four clients who were a part of three separate groups that visited the National Archives three different times on

> Jan. 20. "When one of our clients questioned the order, a National Archives security officer said that the apparel would 'incite others' and that she was 'disturbing peace,"" ACLJ Executive

Director Jordan Sekulow explained in a statement.

"Yet another one of our clients was told that her T-shirt was 'offensive' and had to be covered up or removed. Her shirt read simply, 'MARCH 4 LIFE 2014: Saint Cecilia's Youth Group, Glen Carbon, IL.' Perhaps most disturbing of all were the National Archives security officers who instructed a whole group of Catholic students and chaperones to remove or cover up ALL their religious and pro-life clothing while standing in the same room as the Constitution of the United States." "In the weeks ahead, the ACLJ will be demanding answers on how and why such a clear violation of our clients' rights occurred and who all was involved in the decision to target pro-life visitors," Sekulow stressed.

The ACLJ helped multiple plaintiffs file a similar lawsuit against the Smithsonian Institution after National Air and Space Museum security guards allegedly asked them to leave for wearing beanies with prolife messages during March for Life weekend. ACLJ delivered a demand letter to the museum on behalf of several students from Our Lady of the Rosary School in Greenville, South Carolina, and their parents. The Christian legal nonprofit requested that the Smithsonian preserve information relevant to the incident in anticipation of possible litigation.

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than larger artillery, the sources said – would mark a significant escalation of China's support for Russia, which to date has been largely limited to Chinese companies providing nonlethal equipment like helmets, flak jackets, and satellite imagery to Russian forces. It would also provide a potentially significant boost to Russian capabilities at a critical moment.

"The concern that we have now is based on information we have that they're considering providing lethal support, and we've made very clear to them that it would cause a serious problem for us and in our relationship," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. Blinken's Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, responded to the US' allegations, saying that China's position on Ukraine "can be simply put as promoting peace talks." "China will continue to firmly stand on the side of dialogue and peace and play a constructive part in easing the situation," he said. China also proposed a "peace plan" for the Ukraine war that US officials remain highly skeptical of.

Russia has purchased hundreds of weaponscapable drones from Iran in recent months but is burning through them quickly with repeated attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure and civilian areas. To date, Beijing has been hesitant about providing lethal equipment that might be traced back to China because of the risk of international blowback, and Beijing still wants the provision of any equipment to Russia to be deniable and ideally non-attributable, the sources said. That is why much of the non-lethal support that has gone to Russia's military to date has been small and done through Chinese companies. However, the lines between public and private entities in China are negligible, the sources said, and US intelligence suggests that Beijing has been using the companies for plausible deniability.

**Biblical Connections:** While China is not directly mentioned in the Bible, Matthew 24 talks about "wars and rumors of war" occurring as a lead up to the end times. Escalation between the West, Russia and China could be a lead up to these events. — PNL

**PRAY:** Pray that peace can be established and this new combination of Russia, China and even Iran will be divinely held back.

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Sekulow called the incident a "clear-cut First Amendment violation." "The federal government simply cannot ban speech with which it or its employees disagree," he stated. A spokesperson for the museum stated that the security officer who told the students that they were not allowed to wear their pro-life hats inside made a mistake. "Asking visitors to remove hats and clothing is not in keeping with our policy or protocols. We provided immediate retraining to prevent a re-occurrence of this kind of error," the spokesperson stated.

**Biblical Connections:** Psalm 139:14 states, "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well." A nation that rejects the sanctity of life is a nation that has turned its back on God. — PNL

**PRAY:** Pray the push to criminalize or discriminate against the pro-life movement will be stopped.