

Today's News in Light of the Bible

PROPHETIC *Newsletter*

www.TheKingIsComing.com

FEBRUARY 2018

Published by World Prophetic Ministry, Inc. (800) 622-2767
National Processing Center 1 PO Box 150439 1 Grand Rapids, MI 49515

“Storm Clouds Gathering” Over North Korea



Recently, at Fort Bragg N.C., United States Defense Secretary Jim Mattis stated publicly that “Storm clouds are gathering” over the Korean Peninsula. He also told the soldiers present that as diplomats try to resolve the nuclear standoff, the U.S. military must do its



HINDSON

part by being ready for war. Mattis stopped short of directly predicting a conflict and emphasized that diplomacy remains the best chance of preventing a war only if America's words are backed up by a strong and prepared military. Mattis told several dozen soldiers and airmen at the 82nd Airborne Division's

Hall of Heroes “My fine young soldiers, the only way our diplomats can speak with authority and be believed is if you're ready to go.” Mattis' comments were likely intended to give strength to the heightened sanctions imposed by the United Nations recently. The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved strict new sanctions against North Korea intended to compel nations to reduce their sales of oil to North Korea and to expel all North Korean expatriate workers within two years. Such workers are seen as a vital source of revenue for North Korea's government. These sanctions are intended to pressure North Korea to open negotiations focused on disposing of their nuclear ambitions and

See **STORM** on page 3



Putin Declares A.I. Will Rule The World

Will robots and drones control the world of the future? Russian President Vladimir Putin recently declared that the control of artificial intelligence (A.I.) will be crucial to global power. Mr. Putin was speaking to a group of Russian students in Yaroslavl and urging them to take the “next step” in Russia’s future. According to Russia Today, Putin stated “Artificial intelligence is the future not only of Russia but the future of humankind,” adding “Here there are colossal possibilities and threats that are hard to predict today. Whomever becomes a leader in this sphere will be the master of the world.” Putin predicted that in the future wars will be waged by drones and “when one party’s drones are destroyed by drones of another, it will have no other choice but to surrender.” Putin then commented on Russia’s efforts to expand their current military drone program labeling artificial intelligence and increased automation as “a crucial goal” for Russia in the next two years. Putin emphasized, “it is one of the most important directions for development in economics and defense.”

While the U.S. and China are currently seen as the global forerunners in the field of A.I., in light of the Russian emphasis on developing A.I., many analysts warn that America is in danger of falling behind. Similarly, with China recently announcing its ambition to

become the global leader in A.I. research by 2030, the development of artificial intelligence has increasingly become a national security concern. Although it is commonly thought that artificial intelligence will help increase a country’s economy in a number of areas – from heavy industry to medical research – A.I. technology will also prove to be useful in warfare. Artificial intelligence could be used to develop cyber weapons, and control virtually autonomous tools such as swarms of drones that can be used for surveillance as well as attacking opponents. In fact, we are already witnessing the beginning stages of this technology with the successful use of military drones by the U.S. that has been widely reported over the years. This could be what Mr. Putin was referring to when he stated that it “it would be strongly undesirable if someone wins a monopolist position” with A.I. technology and that Russia would be willing to share their A.I. technology “with [the] entire world, the same way we share our nuclear technologies today.” This has caused some analysts to wonder if Putin is seeking to enlist other nations to side with Russia in an A.I. arms-race. As such, we should watch this developing story closely over the next few years.

Likewise, we should be mindful of a potentially enlightening Bible passage.

See **PUTIN** on page 5

PAGE 2

intercontinental ballistic missiles. Similarly, the forceful comments made by Mattis and U.S. President Trump are intended to motivate Russia and China – who are the key powers in the region – to put additional pressure on North Korea so that war can be averted.

Interestingly, during his comments at Fort Bragg, Mattis recommended the U.S. troops read T.R. Fehrenbach's military classic "This Kind of War: A Study in Unpreparedness," which was first published in 1963, a decade after the Korean War ended. As soldiers listened in obedient silence, Mattis said "Knowing what went wrong the last time around is as important as knowing your own testing, so that you're forewarned - you know what I'm driving at here, so you gotta be ready." The U.S. has almost 28,000 troops stationed in South Korea permanently, but if a war were to break out with North Korea, many thousands more would be needed for a wide range of missions, including ground combat. Mattis' statements afterward seemed to indicate that his comments were given to strengthen U.S. troops in the face of what could be a very costly war on the Korean Peninsula. While Mattis repeatedly stressed that there is still time to work out a peaceful solution – at one time stating that diplomacy is "going positively," he also said "there is very little reason for optimism." Doubtlessly appropriate if indeed, as he stated, storm clouds are rising!

This type of language from world leaders is frightening and troublesome but it should

not be totally unexpected. Such preparations for war remind us that the Bible teaches the prevalence of "wars and rumors of wars" leading up to the end time (Matthew 24:6). Consider Jesus' ominous warning in Matthew chapter 24 where He teaches that there will be "wars and rumors of wars ... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (Matthew 24:6-7 ESV). The Bible clearly teaches that there will be at least one more major war that will occur in the future as the last days approach. Likewise, the beloved apostle John was shown a vision of a future war as he received the Book of Revelation. Beginning in Revelation chapter six – which I believe records the events of the beginning of the Tribulation period – John recorded what he was shown concerning the future. The unmistakable event of war is found in chapter six, and sadly war and rumors of war will continue to be a part of the unfolding events of human history until Christ returns (Revelation 6:2; 4; 11:7; 12:7; 13:4, 7; 16:14; 17:14; 19:11; 19:19-21). This increase in aggressive language from our national leaders could very well be the first stages of the coming wars and rumors of wars that we are warned of in Scripture. As such, we should be in serious prayer for this situation. — PNL



PRAY: Pray that a peaceful resolution would be found for the situation concerning North Korea. Pray for wisdom and discernment for the leaders of the world in dealing with this situation.

U.N. Votes Against U.S. and Israel



Unsurprisingly, the United Nations General Assembly voted – by a wide margin – to adopt an anti-Israel resolution, implicitly condemning America’s recent recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. During a so-called emergency session of the General Assembly, the body voted 128 to 9 to adopt draft resolution A/ES-10/L22, rejecting President Trump’s recent declaration recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital city and rebuking Israel over illegal “actions in Occupied East Jerusalem.” An additional 35 nations abstained from the vote, including Canada, Mexico and Australia, while another 21 did not participate. The measure was surprisingly drafted by U.S. ally, Egypt, and urges nations to support U.N. resolutions dating to 1967 — when Israel captured East Jerusalem from Jordan — that require Jerusalem’s status to be decided through negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. The vote came after U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley issued a statement saying that the U.S. will think twice about funding the U.N. if it voted to condemn Trump’s decision. “The United States will remember this day in which it was singled out for attack in this assembly,” Haley said. “We will remember it when we are called upon to once again make the world’s largest contribution” to the UN and when other member nations ask Washington “to pay even more and to use our influence for their benefit.” Reinforcing this sentiment, U.S. president Donald

Trump stated, “Let them vote against us, we’ll save a lot.” Trump added, “We don’t care. This isn’t like it used to be where they could vote against you and then you pay them hundreds of millions of dollars and nobody knows what they’re doing.” Americans are “tired of being taken advantage of” at the U.N. “and we’re not going to be taken advantage of any longer,” Trump said.

Such an opinion seems only fitting considering the history the U.N., led by numerous Islamic nations, has for repeatedly condemning Israel. U.S. Ambassador Haley said, “no vote in the United Nations will make any difference” on the U.S. decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem, which will go ahead because “it is the right thing to do.” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked Trump and the countries that abstained in a statement issued shortly after the vote. Netanyahu said “Israel rejects the decision of the United Nations and, at the same time, we show gratitude to the high number of countries that abstained from this resolution.” He added, “Israel thanks President Trump on his unequivocal position in favor of Jerusalem and thanks other countries that voted together with Israel, together with the truth.” Israel’s Ambassador to the U.N., Danny Danon commented that the U.S. decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem “officially declared what has always been true. Jerusalem

See **U.N.** on page 5

PUTIN from page 2

Revelation 13:14-15 may shed some light on a potential prophetic connection to A.I. as it tells us of a time when a future leader will



“deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed” (KJV). We believe this leader will be none other than the Antichrist and – as artificial intelligence technology continues to increase – it is not too hard to imagine he might use such technology to his advantage in deceiving the world when he rises to power. In the meantime, let us be in prayer over this situation. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray that Mr. Putin’s statements were not intended to rally support for the military applications of artificial intelligence. Pray for the leaders of the world to recognize the potential of A.I. to bring about positive change.

U.N. from page 4

always has been and always will be the capital of Israel.” Meanwhile, many criticize the U.S. decision and support the U.N. vote against Israel and yet radical Islamic terrorists continue to attack innocent civilians across the globe and the U.N. has the audacity to call an “emergency” meeting to complain about Jerusalem being recognized as the capital of Israel. Accordingly, Ambassador Haley slammed the international body, calling it a “hostile place for the State of Israel.” She added, “To its shame, the United Nations has long been a hostile place for the State of Israel. It’s a wrong that undermines the credibility of this institution, and that in turn is harmful for the entire world.”

The harm that the U.N. repeatedly attempts to bring on the nation of Israel should cause us great concern but it shouldn’t be a shock to us. The Bible clearly indicates there will come a time when the nations of the earth

will be gathered together, under satanic beguile, to oppose Israel (Ezekiel 38: 1-23; Zechariah 12:3; 14:1-2; Revelation 16:13-16). Likewise, the Bible warns that God will curse those who curse Israel. Genesis 12:3 is an amazing verse in many respects. The first half, dealing with blessing, implies a maximization element. When someone blesses Israel, God wants to maximize that blessing to as many as He can. “I will bless those who bless you” But when someone curses Israel, God’s normal approach is to localize the impact as much as possible. “and the one who curses you I will curse.” It is noteworthy that the biblical word for “curse” (Hebrew *Klaah*) carries the semantic meaning of wishing harm violence, or disaster. Thus, this recent vote by the U.N., in the minds of many, is an obvious “curse” to the nation of Israel. As such, we should be in serious prayer over this situation. — *PNL*

PRAY: Pray for God’s blessings on those countries brave enough to stand with Israel and the United States. Pray also for the people of the world the recognize the bias of the U.N. toward the nation and people of Israel.

Iraq Announces War on ISIS has Ended

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi recently announced a formal victory over the forces of ISIS after more than three years of – often intense – combat operations. The announcement comes two days after the Russian military announced the defeat of ISIS militants in neighboring Syria, where Moscow is backing Syrian government forces. At a press conference in Baghdad, the Iraqi Prime Minister stated that forces were in total control of the country's borders and that the ISIS terrorists had been driven from all of the territory they formerly occupied. Prime Minister al-Abadi confidently declared, "Our forces are in complete control of the Iraqi-Syrian border and I therefore announce the end of the war against Daesh (Daesh is an Arabic acronym for ISIS.)," adding "Our enemy wanted to kill our civilization, but we have won through our unity and our determination. We have triumphed in little time." Shortly after Prime Minister al-Abadi's statement, Lt. Gen. Abdul-Amir Rasheed Yar Allah – a senior military commander – confirmed that combat operations had been completed and issued a statement that "All Iraqi lands are liberated from terrorist Daesh gangs and our forces completely control the international Iraqi-Syrian border." Following these remarks, the Iraqi government declared a national holiday in celebration of the victory.

While assuredly a cause for celebration, the victory has been hard-fought. By the summer of 2014 ISIS had overrun nearly a third of Iraqi territory, including Mosul, the country's second largest city. Since then, over the past three and a half years, Iraqi ground forces were closely backed by the U.S.-led coalition and have retaken all of that territory. Yet, in their retreat ISIS has left countless cities in total ruin. Iraq now faces the daunting challenge of the

significant reconstruction of their infrastructure. The fighting caused massive devastation in many areas, and some 3 million Iraqis are still displaced. Yet, the removal of the official occupation of ISIS forces in Iraq is substantial but is not yet a complete eradication of the ISIS threat. ISIS is still capable of executing insurgent attacks in Iraq, and while they are seemingly contained it is unlikely that ISIS will completely disappear. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert acknowledged the fight against terrorism in Iraq is not over and said the U.S. would continue to provide the country military support stating "Together, we must be vigilant in countering all extremist ideologies to prevent the return of ISIS or the emergence of threats by other terrorist groups." Nauert also said the U.S. would continue to provide much-needed humanitarian aid to the war-torn country so that displaced Iraqis could return to their homes and "begin to reestablish their lives."

The war on terrorism will be an ongoing conflict for the modern world. The bad news is it is not going to end - at least not anytime soon. The Bible teaches that this is a struggle that stems from the deep-seated tensions that can be traced back to Isaac and Ishmael (Genesis ch. 12-21) – almost 4,000 years ago! The situation will never end with peace until the peace of Christ reigns. As those who maintain faith in the reality of that event, we must proclaim the Gospel to all the nations of the world, we must speak out against the evils and irresponsibility we see all around us, and we must encourage other believers to do the same. We have been commissioned by Christ Himself to make a difference in this world until He calls us home. The greatest tragedy of the conflict in the Middle East is that without Christ there is no hope of lasting peace! — PNL

PRAY: Pray for the people of Iraq as they begin to rebuild much of their country literally from the ground up! Pray for the Christian humanitarian groups operating in the region to be able to assist with the physical and spiritual needs so that people hear the Gospel as a result.