

Westboro Baptist Church

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Religious Opinion & Bible Commentary on Current Events

Sunday, December 10th, 2023

NEWS RELEASE

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Signs of the Times: Shining Bible Light on Current Events

The Lord has wrought many blessed judgments in the world this week which can be seen plainly by any who have been given eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to understand by the gracious hand of God. **“Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.” (Ezekiel 12:2)** This entire world is a rebellious house! Therefore, the Lord, the God of Israel, is punishing the people of it! Let’s view some of this week’s judgments from the proper perspective:

With much of the world’s attention encapsulated by the Israel-Palestine war and the Russia-Ukraine war it is easy to be unaware of the 50+ other armed conflicts consuming countries across the globe. In 2023 alone more than 150,000 have died due to these conflicts and in total they have caused an estimated 15 million deaths since the early 1900’s. The wars range from ethnic/cultural disputes, territorial disputes, civil wars, Islamic terrorists, and drug wars affecting people in: Afghanistan, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Russia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, and Yemen. Further other conflicts are mounting as this week Venezuela announced its intention to take over a large portion of its neighbor Guyana. China and the United States stand opposite each other with regards to Taiwan. Yemen’s Houthi rebels have begun launching rockets at ships in the red sea. North and South Korean relations are deteriorating further over recent spy satellite launches by both countries. Haiti remains in gang related turmoil since the assassination of its president in 2021. And much more.

“But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven... In your patience possess ye your souls.” (Luke 21: 9-11,19)

This week gun violence was prevalent. 17-year-old Ethan Crumbley was sentenced to life without parole for the 2021 Oxford High School shooting in Michigan. 6 were killed in a shooting spree in Austin, Texas, 4 are dead after a shooting in Colorado, 4 are dead in Dallas, Texas including a 1-year-old. 3 are dead in Las Vegas, Nevada after a professor came onto the University of Nevada campus and opened fire before being killed by campus police. In total there have been 40,381 deaths by guns in 2023; 22,638 suicides and 17,743 murders or accident-related deaths. **“Thou hast forsaken me, saith the Lord, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee... I will bereave them of children, I will destroy my people since they return not from their ways.” (Jeremiah 15: 6-7)**

Photographs were released this week indicating that Israel is preparing to flood Hamas’ underground tunnel network with water from the Mediterranean Sea. This has raised intense concern from the international community over the long-term effects that much salt water would have on the ground water and land. This comes as Israel has increased its air strikes in the Southern region of Gaza, exactly where it has told civilians to flee. Research from New York University and Columbia University found significant increase in short-selling stocks “by orders of magnitude” just prior to the start of the war. Short selling typically increases around events of major social unrest, but not to this degree. The only other time it has increased to this level was on April 3, when Hamas had originally planned its attack. This has raised concerns that some investors had inside information that the attacks were going to occur and chose to profit from it. **“The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.” (Psalms 11:5).**

“Wherefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Ye eat with the blood, and lift up your eyes toward your idols, and shed blood: and shall ye possess the land? Ye stand upon your sword, ye work abomination, and ye defile every one his neighbour’s wife: and shall ye possess the land? Say thou thus unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; As I live, surely they that are in the wastes shall fall by the sword, and him that is in the open field will I give to the beasts to be devoured, and they that be in the forts and in the caves shall die of the pestilence. For I will lay the land most desolate, and the pomp of her strength shall cease; and the mountains of Israel shall be desolate, that none shall pass through. Then shall they know that I am the LORD, when I have laid the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed.” (Ezekiel 33 25-29)