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“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh” - Luke 21:28

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Sodom and Gomorrah': Christians slam 2024 Paris Olympic opening ceremony

July 29, 2024 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: “The opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympics on Friday was particularly spectacular, in what was a form of compensation for the previous Olympics in Tokyo, which took place under the COVID-19 restrictions. The five-hour long event was held under the motto of equality, where alongside the history of Olympic sports and of France – it strove to give expression to the multifarious human fabric.

However, some did not find it to their taste. One part of the ceremony included an homage to Leonardo da Vinci’s iconic painting *The Last Supper*, which depicts the last time Jesus dined with his disciples before being crucified by Pontius Pilate. This is of course a founding event in the Christian religion. During the show, the painting was recreated by a human performance of drag artists, infuriating the global Christian community.

Many social media users worldwide, and not only Christians, criticized the move and claimed it was disrespectful, sacrilegious, and expressed contempt for religion. The official X, formerly Twitter, account of the Universitarios Católicos wrote in a post: ‘Sodom and Gomorrah is televised and watched by tens of millions of people live.’

The post further cited, J. R.R. Tolkien, adding, ‘Evil cannot create anything new, only corrupt or ruin what the forces of good have invented or built.’...’ (Be

not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting – Galatians 6:7,8. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly,

and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them – Romans 1:18-32.)

Muslim Father Burns Daughter for Turning to Christ

Aug. 2, 2024 -- *MorningStarNews.org* reports: “A Muslim in eastern Uganda burned his 19-year-old daughter with a flat iron on July 21 after learning that she had converted to Christianity, sources said.

Naasike Maliyati of Nampologoma, Butaleja District said she attended an evangelistic crusade with a friend in the course of a visit to her grandmother in Lwangoli, Busoba Sub-County, Mbale District, on July 15.

‘When they called people to give their lives to Christ, I also went and prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior,’ Maliyati said. ‘When I went back home, I told my sister that I had left Islam. She went and told our dad of

my conversion to Christianity.’

The following Sunday Maliyati, a student at Noor Islamic Institute in Mbale, attended a church service, and upon returning home found her father, 44-year-old Abdulrahim Kutosi, and uncles angry with her, she said.

‘They tied me up, beat me, and finally my dad picked up a hot flat iron and hot water and burned me and shouted loudly that I was an embarrassment to the family,’ Maliyati told *Morning Star News*. ‘I was burnt for leaving Islam and converting to Christianity, as my father furiously continued shouting that I had ashamed the family. He continued saying that even Allah is annoyed with me as the pain continued inside my body.’...” **(Great persecution will soon overtake most Christians in a majority of the world. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. – Matthew 5:10 – 12; If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me. – John 15:18 – 21; ...When he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held. — Revelation 6:9; ...I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. – Revelation 20:4; and Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. – Revelation 2:10.)**

New Survey Reveals Evangelicals Make Up Smaller Portion of U.S. Population than Expected

Aug. 14, 2024 -- *Crosswalk.com* reports: “A new survey says that evangelicals make up a smaller portion of the U.S. population than commonly believed, even if they remain a significant demographic. The American Worldview Inventory survey from George Barna at Arizona Christian University found that 10 percent of U.S. adults qualify as evangelicals by using a definition consistent with the National Association of Evangelicals’ own definition. That definition, according to the report, ‘defines evangelicals as people who recognize their sinful life, rely upon Jesus Christ for their redemption, and receive practical life guidance and wisdom from the Bible in their quest to live under the lordship of Jesus.’

If the 10 percent statistic is correct, then 25 to 30 million adults in the U.S. are evangelical.

‘In reality, evangelicals are far fewer in number than typically reported, often are far less biblical in their thinking than one might think, and tend to vote in far fewer numbers than expected,’ the report said.

A 2015 Pew study, for example, found that 25.4 percent of U.S. adults were evangelical Protestants...” (...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? – Luke 18:8. The article makes one wonder what the answer to that question would be. Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it. – Amos 8:11-12.

Thankfully, God always has a faithful remnant. In I Kings 19 following the victory over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, Elijah fled to the wilderness after hearing a threat from Jezebel. We read: ...he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his

head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the Lord came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God. And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. And the Lord said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him. – I Kings 19:4-18 [Emphasis mine]. Thank God for His faithful remnant.)

RUSSIA AND THE KINGS OF THE EAST

Russia-China partnership 'yielding results', Putin says

Aug. 22, 2024 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Russia's economic and trade links with China are 'yielding results' as he welcomed Chinese Premier Li Qiang to the Kremlin.

Moscow has looked to Beijing as an economic lifeline since the Ukraine conflict began, with the two boosting trade to record highs as Russia faces heavy economic sanctions from the West. 'Our trade relations are developing successfully... The attention that the two governments on both sides are paying to trade and economic ties is yielding results,' Putin said in a meeting with Li.

'Our states have worked out large-scale joint plans, projects in economic and humanitarian spheres, we expect for many years ahead,' he added.

Li told Putin that 'Chinese-Russian relations are at an unprecedentedly high level,' according to the Kremlin's translation of his remarks, saying Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping had created a 'strong impulse for further deepening of bilateral relations.'

In a separate meeting with Li, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin hailed the countries' links as a stabilising element.

'Our partnership and strategic cooperation is especially important in a situation where new contours of the global order are being formed,' Mishustin said..." **(China will become a basic partner with Russia for the rapidly approaching battle of Armageddon – Revelation 16:16. Russia will lead invasion number one – Ezekiel 38 & 39. China will lead invasion number two – Revelation 16:12; Revelation 9:14 – 16. Then all nations will come against Jerusalem for the final invasion at which point Jesus will return to stop the bloodshed and set up his eternal kingdom upon earth – [He gathers] all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken... Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south – Zechariah 14:2**

– 4. Then Psalm 2:6 occurs as God the Father says: *...I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion [Jerusalem].)*

China's 'growing authoritarianism' won't stop with Taiwan: Lai

Aug. 23, 2024 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te warned Wednesday that China's 'growing authoritarianism will not stop with' the island and urged democratic countries to unite to curb its expansion. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory, and a senior Chinese Communist Party official said Tuesday that Beijing was confident of 'complete reunification' with the island.

Speaking at the annual Ketagalan Forum on Indo-Pacific security in Taipei, Lai cautioned that Taiwan was not 'the only target' of Beijing.

'We are all fully aware that China's growing authoritarianism will not stop with Taiwan, nor is Taiwan the only target of China's economic pressures,' he told politicians and scholars from 11 countries attending the forum.

'China intends to change the rules-based international order. That is why democratic countries must come together and take concrete action. Only by working together can we inhibit the expansion of authoritarianism.'

Lai, who was sworn in on May 20, has been labelled a 'dangerous separatist' by China for his staunch defence of Taiwan's sovereignty..." **(A March 19, 2021 article in *The New York Times* – Tense Talks With China Left U.S. 'Cleareyed' About Beijing's Intentions, Officials Say <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/19/world/asia/china-us-alaska.html>) states: "Just as Washington's views on China have shifted after years of encouraging the country's economic integration, so have Beijing's perceptions of the United States and the privileged place in the world that it has long held. The Americans, in their view, no longer have an overwhelming reservoir of global influence, nor the power to wield it against China.**

That has made China more confident in pursuing its aims openly and unabashedly — from human rights issues in Hong Kong and Xinjiang to territorial disputes with India and Japan and others in the South China Sea to, most contentiously of all, the fate of Taiwan, the self-governing democracy that China claims as its own.

While China still faces enormous challenges at home and around the world, its leaders now act as if history is on their side." See the next report.)

China says U.S. has 'no right to intervene' in South China Sea disputes

Aug. 20, 2024 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "China warned the United States on Tuesday that it has 'no right to intervene' in its maritime disputes with the Philippines after another clash near a disputed reef in the South China Sea.

China and the Philippines have had repeated confrontations in the waters over the past year, including around a warship, grounded in 1999 by Manila on the contested Second Thomas Shoal, which hosts a garrison.

Both countries said on Monday that their coast guard ships had collided near the disputed Sabina Shoal, located 140 kilometres (86 miles) west of the Philippine island of Palawan and about 1,200 kilometres from Hainan island, the closest Chinese landmass.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea despite an international tribunal ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

The United States condemned the 'dangerous actions' against 'lawful Philippine maritime operations' on Monday after the latest clash.

'These actions are the latest examples of (China) using dangerous and escalatory measures to enforce its expansive and unlawful South China Sea maritime claims,' State Department spokesman Vedant Patel said.

Asked about Patel's remarks on Tuesday, his Chinese counterpart Mao Ning defended Beijing's 'legal measures to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests'.

'The U.S. is not a party in the South China Sea and has no right to intervene in maritime disputes between China and the Philippines,' Mao told a regular briefing..."

North Korea could create a 'nuclear domino' effect in Asia: Seoul

Aug. 23, 2024 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "Recognizing North Korea as a nuclear state threatens to create a domino effect that will cause an arms race around Northeast Asia, Seoul's top official on inter-Korean affairs warned Thursday,

as he called on the United States to reaffirm support for denuclearization on the Peninsula.

Unification Minister Kim Yung-ho made the remarks at a press briefing for foreign journalists while discussing the upcoming U.S. presidential election.

Neither the Democratic nor Republican platforms mention denuclearization as a goal for American policy on North Korea — a departure from the Democrats' 2020 platform and an omission that has sparked some concern in the South.

Kim, whose ministry oversees inter-Korean relations, said he believes that either incoming administration will take a closer look at the North Korean nuclear issue when taking office.

'Whichever party comes in, there will be a North Korean policy review at the beginning and during this process, we sincerely hope there will be a mention of the complete denuclearization of North Korea as one of the priorities,' Kim said. 'The South Korean government will also work closely to ensure that this idea is implemented in U.S. policy.'...''
(Nuclear war is coming – Saying to

the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. This conflict called Armageddon is described in Revelation 9:14 – 18. See the next report.)

North Korea warns South Korea, Japan will be nuclear 'cannon fodder'

Aug. 15, 2024 -- *SpaceWar.com* reports: "North Korean state media has warned

that strengthening trilateral ties with Washington risks turning the people of South Korea and Japan into 'cannon fodder' for a nuclear attack.

An unsigned commentary in state-run *Korean Central News Agency* on Tuesday said that military threats from the United States have forced the North into 'bolstering up its nuclear war deterrence.'

'The DPRK's 'nuclear threat,' touted by the U.S., is an inevitable result of the latter's deep-rooted hostile policy toward the former that has lasted decades after decades and generation after generation,' the *KCNA* article said.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the official name of North Korea.

The article added that growing security ties among the United States, Japan and Tokyo in response to North Korean threats has created a 'serious tripartite security crisis' in the region.

'The strengthened tripartite security cooperation trumpeted by the U.S. has only made the peoples of Japan and the puppet ROK cannon fodder of nuclear war,' the article said, using the official acronym for South Korea..."

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

Pro-Palestinian Protesters Outside DNC Want Israel Destroyed – and Target Jews

Aug. 21, 2024 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: "We don't want no two states; give us all of '48!' That was one among many anti-Israel — and anti-American chants shouted by pro-Palestinian protesters Monday outside the Democratic National Convention.

President Joe Biden would later tell his party, from the stage, that the protesters 'have a point.' But their point was not that '[a] lot of innocent people are being killed on both sides,' as Biden said. Their point was: destroy Israel.

At the front of the procession Monday

from Union Park to the perimeter fence outside the United Center — which protesters soon broke through — were several extremist flags, including the flag of the Hamas terrorist organization. Protesters chanted the familiar 'from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,' which refers to the destruction of Israel and its replacement by a Palestinian state (under current conditions, an Islamist one, controlled by Hamas)...''
(Almighty God has stated: ...I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off – Isaiah 56:5. Everlasting means everlasting. God promised to Abraham in Genesis 22:17: ...in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand

which is upon the sea shore... And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt; To drive out nations from before thee greater and mightier than thou art, to bring thee in, to give thee their land for an inheritance, as it is this day. Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else. Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, for ever – Deuteronomy 4:37 – 40.)

ISRAEL VS. HEZBOLLAH

IDF Spokesman Hagari: 'Hezbollah attempted to harm Israel, but was met with an iron fist'

Aug. 26, 2024 -- *Israel National News* reports: "IDF Spokesman Daniel Hagari addressed the press on Sunday and discussed the preemptive strike to prevent a major attack on Israel by Hezbollah.

'This morning, we thwarted a large-scale attack by the Hezbollah terrorist organization targeting northern communities and locations in central Israel. We monitored Hezbollah for weeks using technological means and aerial patrols by Israeli Air Force aircraft. As soon as we identified Hezbollah's intention to carry out the attack, we thwarted the majority of the attack. Hezbollah

attempted to severely harm the north and center of Israel, but was met with an iron fist,' Hagari opened.

'Approximately one hundred IAF aircraft simultaneously struck over two hundred and seventy targets in southern Lebanon, disrupting Hezbollah's attack plan. So far, we are also aware of six terrorists who were eliminated in the strikes, and we may discover

more in the coming days. Just last week, we eliminated approximately thirty terrorists, including Hezbollah commanders. Approximately ninety percent of the targets struck were short-range rockets aimed at northern Israel. Hezbollah planned to harm Israeli civilians. Hezbollah managed to launch only about two hundred and thirty rockets and over twenty unmanned aerial vehicles. Most of them either fell on their way to Israeli territory, landed in open areas, or were intercepted by Israeli Air Force defense systems and Israeli Navy ships. Contrary to Hezbollah's claims, there were no hits on IDF bases, neither in the north, nor in the center,' he clarified..." *(Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloody men. For, lo, they lie in wait for my soul: the mighty are gathered against me; not for my transgression, nor for my sin, O Lord. They run and prepare themselves without my fault: awake to help me, and behold. Thou therefore, O Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah. They return at evening: they make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city. Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips: for who, say they, doth hear? But thou, O Lord, shalt laugh at them; thou shalt have all the heathen in derision. Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defence. The God of my mercy shall prevent me: God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies. Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield. For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak. Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be: and let them know that God ruleth in Jacob unto the ends of the earth. Selah. And at evening let them return; and let them make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city. Let them wander up and down for meat, and grudge if they be not satisfied. But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble. Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy. – Psalm 59:1-17; Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from*

anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the Lord upholdeth the righteous. The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever. – Psalm 37:7-18; Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. – Psalm 2:1-5. See the next report.)

Nasrallah asserts Hezbollah attack was success, reserves right to strike again

Aug. 26, 2024 -- *The Times of Israel* reports: "Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah claimed on Sunday that an attempted massive attack on Israel by his terror group the night before, which was largely thwarted by Israel, had been completed 'as planned' and caused vast disruption.

Israel conducted a preemptive assault overnight between Saturday and Sunday, in which it said 100 planes destroyed thousands of rocket launcher barrels inside Lebanese territory shortly before they were to be used, and then intercepted most of the 230 rockets and 20 drones Hezbollah did fire.

In his speech, Nasrallah maintained that the attack had caused 'great disruptions' inside Israel. He indicated that the operation was conducted in two phases: Firstly, he claimed, the terror group fired over 320 Katyusha rockets on 11 different military sites to keep Israel's Iron Dome aerial defense system busy,

and then it launched dozens of drones directed at central Israel..."

IDF launches 'extensive' strikes against Hezbollah in 10 areas of southern Lebanon

Aug. 22, 2024 -- *The Times of Israel* reports: "The IDF said Thursday that it carried out 'extensive' airstrikes against Hezbollah terror group sites in southern Lebanon overnight, as the spiraling violence between the two sides showed no sign of losing momentum.

Attacks carried out by fighter jets targeted weapon depots, buildings used by Hezbollah and a rocket launcher, in 10 areas of southern Lebanon, according to an update from the military.

The widespread strikes come in response to a Hezbollah barrage of 50 rockets the previous day at the northern town of Katzrin that caused significant damage and wounded an Israeli man.

Meanwhile, rocket and drone alert sirens sounded in the border town of Kiryat Shmona and a number of other communities in the Galilee on Thursday morning. No injuries were reported.

The widespread IDF strikes also came a day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted at Israel's offensive capabilities in the north, and National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir called for a harsh response to the Hezbollah attack on Katzrin..." *(For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations – Deuteronomy 7:6-9. It is amazing that Israel, a nation whose land mass fits inside Lake Michigan, is considered the 8th most powerful nation in the world. See the next two reports.)*

PM says strikes on Hezbollah 'not end of story' as allies warn against escalation

Aug. 26, 2024 -- *The Times of Israel* reports: "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel's preemptive overnight strike on Lebanon's Hezbollah was not 'the end of the story,' as regional and global leaders warned against escalating toward a wider conflict. *Reuters* reported on Sunday that Israel and Hezbollah had communicated via intermediaries in order to prevent further escalation, while *Channel 12* news said Israel and Washington were working to achieve a detente through

diplomacy. The network's unsourced report said Washington had given its blessing to Israel's pre-dawn strike, but warned against triggering an all-out war. Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel hoped for a diplomatic settlement in the north, and Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah indicated the Iran-backed terror group might consider the current round of hostilities to be over, even as allied terror groups applauded Hezbollah's thwarted attack on Israel. Gallant earlier discussed the overnight strikes in a call with his U.S. counterpart Lloyd Austin, who according to the *Axios* news site ordered two U.S. aircraft carrier strike groups to stay in the region..."

'IDF prepared for all possibilities – including widescale war'

Aug. 27, 2024 -- *Israel National News* reports: "The IDF is prepared for a widescale war, an Israeli military source told *Sky News Arabic*. 'The IDF is prepared for all possibilities, including that of a general war,' the Tuesday report quoted the source as saying. 'Hezbollah did not use precise missiles since it knows that harming targets in central Israel with such missiles – means war. We will be able to quickly move from the southern front to the northern front as the central front.'..."

ISRAEL VS. HAMAS

Iranian media report that Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was eliminated in Tehran. Hamas confirms the report.

July 31, 2024 -- *Israel National News* reports: "The Hamas terrorist organization announced on Wednesday morning that the organization's leader, Ismail Haniyeh, was eliminated in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

Earlier, media outlets in Iran, citing the Revolutionary Guards, reported that Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards were killed in an attack on the home in which they were staying in Tehran.

Saudi media reported that Haniyeh was killed in his bedroom by a precision-guided missile that was launched towards him at 2:00 a.m. Tehran time.

Haniyeh was visiting Tehran in order to take part in the swearing-in ceremony of the new Iranian President, Masoud Pezeshkian, which took place on Tuesday.

In a statement, Hamas blamed Israel for the elimination, saying, 'The Islamic resistance movement Hamas mourns its leader Ismail Haniyeh, who died as a result of a treacherous Zionist raid on his residence in Tehran, after participating in the swearing-in ceremony of the new Iranian president.'

Hamas political bureau member Mousa Abu Marzouq commented on the elimination of Haniyeh, and said that 'the assassination of Commander Ismail Haniyeh is a cowardly act and will not go unanswered.'

During the visit to Tehran, Haniyeh met with Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, among others..." (*Hold not thy peace, O God of my praise; For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me:*

they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause. For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer. And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love. Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand. When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few; and let another take his office. Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow. Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places. Let the extortioner catch all that he hath; and let the strangers spoil his labour. Let there be none to extend mercy unto him: neither let there be any to favour his fatherless children. Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out. Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the Lord; and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out. Let them be before the Lord continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth. Because that he remembered not to shew mercy, but persecuted the poor and needy man, that he might even slay the broken in heart. As he loved cursing, so let it come unto him: as he delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from him. As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones. Let it be unto him as the garment which covereth him, and for a girdle wherewith he is girded continually. Let this be the reward of mine adversaries from the Lord, and of them that speak evil against my soul. But do thou for me, O God the Lord, for thy name's sake: because thy mercy is good, deliver thou me. For I am

poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me. I am gone like the shadow when it declineth: I am tossed up and down as the locust. My knees are weak through fasting; and my flesh faileth of fatness. I became also a reproach unto them: when they looked upon me they shaked their heads. Help me, O Lord my God: O save me according to thy mercy: That they may know that this is thy hand; that thou, Lord, hast done it. Let them curse, but bless thou: when they arise, let them be ashamed; but let thy servant rejoice. Let mine adversaries be clothed with shame, and let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a mantle. I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth; yea, I will praise him among the multitude. For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those that condemn his soul. Psalm 109: 1-31. See the next report.)

Killing of Haniyeh restores Israel's threat of deterrence to Iran, Iranian-Israeli journalist says

July 31, 2024 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Israel is restoring its deterrence in the eyes of the Iranians, Iranian-Israeli journalist Babak Itzhaki of *Iran International* told *103FM* Wednesday morning following the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Itzhaki explained the significance of the killing of Haniyeh while he was in Tehran, describing it as a huge embarrassment for the Iranians.

'It seems to them like Israel is restoring its lost deterrence in the eyes of the Iranians,' he explained. He elaborated that if Israel did this, it means they had managed to essentially send a missile into Haniyeh's bedroom.

‘And where? Inside Tehran, where it is supposed to be safest. In the capital of the biggest supporter of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.’

He continued, ‘The last we saw of [Haniyeh] was last night. They took him and all the leaders of the Axis of Resistance to a presentation in the heart of Tehran. And what was there? A model of al-Aqsa Mosque and the Temple Mount. And you could see him hugging the new president of Iran.’...”

Report: Hamas considering avenging Haniyeh by killing Israelis abroad

Aug. 23, 2024 -- *Israel National News* reports: “The Hamas terrorist organization is considering carrying out assassinations of Israelis abroad to take revenge for the assassination of

its leader Ismail Haniyeh last month, *Channel 12 News* reported.

The report, which cites Arab sources, comes as Israel continues to wait for the attack Iran has been threatening to launch since Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran.

The Hamas terrorist organization, like Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad, is an Iranian proxy that accepts funding, weapons, and orders from Tehran. Its ability to retaliate against Israel directly for the assassination of Haniyeh is limited given the losses it has suffered since the war in Gaza began...” (*Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords*

from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him. – Psalm 2:1-12.)

ISRAEL VS. IRAN

Report: Iran’s Khamenei Orders Direct Strike on Israel

Aug. 1, 2024 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “Iran’s so-called ‘Supreme Leader’ has called for a direct attack on Israel in response to an Israeli airstrike on Tehran, Iran’s capital city, that killed Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh on Wednesday.

The *New York Times* reported:

Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has issued an order for Iran to strike Israel directly, in retaliation for the killing in Tehran of Hamas’s leader, Ismail Haniyeh, according to three Iranian officials briefed on the order...

Israel has not yet directly claimed responsibility for the airstrike...” (*Iran has a long history of calling for the destruction of Israel. It will never happen. Almighty God has stated: ...I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off – Isaiah 56:5. Everlasting means everlasting. God promised to Abraham in Genesis 22:17: ...in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore... And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt; To drive out nations from before thee greater and mightier than thou art, to bring thee in, to give thee their land for an inheritance, as it is this day. Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the*

earth beneath: there is none else. Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, for ever – Deuteronomy 4:37 – 40.)

Impatient Ayatollah Khamenei Warns ‘Divine Wrath’ Will Strike if Iran ‘Retreats’ on Israel

Aug. 19, 2024 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: “Iran’s ‘supreme leader’ Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned his underlings in a meeting on Wednesday that making a ‘nontactical retreat’ would meet the ‘divine wrath’ of Allah as the world awaits a highly touted attack by Tehran on neighboring Israel...”

Khamenei made his remarks on Wednesday while meeting with legislative officials for an event commemorating ‘the Martyrs of the Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province.’

...Khamenei warned that the Quran would frown upon a ‘retreat’ against Israel.

‘As the Quran states, a non-tactical retreat in any domain—whether military, political, or economic—will incur divine wrath,’ he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Khamenei claimed that America and Israel were waging ‘psychological warfare’ against the Iranian people to fuel ‘feelings of weakness, isolation, and submission to the enemy’s demands.’...” (*Ayatollah Khamenei is right on one thing – ‘Divine*

Wrath’ will strike Iran; however, he is wrong about it originating with Allah. Iran will be blotted out when Russia, China, and Islamic nations fight Israel and her allies during Armageddon – Revelation 16:16. The battle is described in Ezekiel 39:1 – 5: ...thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured... Soon the war of wars will arrive from the North and East [Russia and China] – Daniel 11:44. The battle is described in Ezekiel 38:1 – 5: ...the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief [Russian] prince of Meshech and Tubal: [Moscow and Tubal, or Tubalsk – Southwest of the Russian capital]: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia,

and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet.)

Netanyahu warns of preemptive attack as Tehran speaks of Israel's annihilation

Aug. 8, 2024 -- *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Iran and Hezbollah of preemptive attacks, while Tehran spoke of the Jewish state's annihilation and the region braced for the possibility of a second direct confrontation between the two arch-foes.

'We are prepared both defensively and offensively,' Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated during a visit Wednesday to the IDF induction base at Tel Hashomer.

'I know that the citizens of Israel are concerned, and I ask one thing of you: Be patient and level-headed,' he said. 'We are striking our enemies and are determined to defend ourselves.'

The prime minister spoke with inductees at the base amid a tense week as Israel braced for potential reprisal attacks by Iran and its proxy groups, including Hezbollah, which has already been battling the IDF along the country's northern border with Lebanon for close to 11 months..." *(God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early – Psalm 46:1 – 5.)*

Iran rejects calls for restraint

Aug. 13, 2024 -- *Voice of America News* reports: "Iran's foreign ministry rejected calls for restraint in its response to the killing of a Hamas leader in Tehran, saying the pleas from France, Germany and Britain 'lack political logic and contradict principles of international law.'

The three European countries issued a statement Monday calling on Iran and its allies to refrain from attacks against Israel. 'Without any objection to the crimes of the Zionist regime [Israel], the E3 statement impudently requires Iran not to respond to a violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity,' Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said.

Kanaani called on Paris, Berlin and

London to 'once and for all stand up against the war in Gaza and the warmongering of Israel.'

Iran's president on Monday told Britain's prime minister that Iran has a right to retaliate against Israel over the killing of Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh, and retaliation would discourage future aggression, according to a report by Iran's official *IRNA* news agency..." **(According to *GlobalFirepower.com*, the United States has the highest Military Strength Rating, Israel is number 15, and Iran is number 21. Even if Iran were more powerful than Israel, history has shown us that when Israel is attacked by superior forces, the result is that Israel gets a new national holiday. Yahweh God has promised: ...I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off – Isaiah 56:5. See the next report.)**

Britain, France, and Germany Warn Iran to Not Attack Israel, Meanwhile U.S. Sends Nuclear Submarine

Aug. 14, 2024 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: "Which might sharpen the mind more? Trio of European leaders write to Iran, warning it will 'bear responsibility' if it attacks Israel while U.S. takes unusual step of announcing deployment of a nuclear attack submarine.

President Emmanuel Macron of France, Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany, and Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer of the United Kingdom released a joint statement on Monday warning 'Iran and its allies' to stop launching attacks that jeopardise negotiations over hostage releases, a ceasefire, and the delivery of aid to Gaza. While the communication doesn't mention Israel by name, but the context is clear and comes as Israel itself warns of an impending Iranian attack in the wake of their killing of Hezbollah and, allegedly, Hamas leaders. *The Times of Israel* states the government anticipates a strike by Iran this week but that the situation is 'still fluid'.

In the warning to Iran, the triad of European states say there is an opportunity for a ceasefire and if that is missed, then it will have been Iran's fault. While the document doesn't go as far as issuing an outright threat, it does state Iran would 'bear responsibility' for its actions..."

Iran Praises Genocidal Hamas Chief for Furthering 'Extinction' of Israel, Vows Revenge

Aug. 1, 2024 -- *Breitbart.com* reports: "Iranian state media praised Hamas

'political chief' Ismail Haniyeh on Wednesday as a key figure who pushed Israel to the 'brink of extinction,' celebrating the explicitly genocidal intent of Hamas leadership hours after an airstrike eliminated Haniyeh in the early morning hours of the day.

Haniyeh was in Tehran on Tuesday for the inauguration of new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and was seen embracing the new president and later holding a personal meeting with 'Supreme Leader' Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Hamas is a Sunni jihadist terror organization headquartered in Gaza which relies heavily on Iranian funding for its survival. Iranian leaders enthusiastically support Hamas's goal of destroying the state of Israel and eradicating Jews from the Middle East. The State Department recently estimated that Iran invests \$100 million in Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations a year.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), a U.S.-designated terrorist organization, confirmed on Wednesday that the residence housing Haniyeh was hit by a 'projectile,' killing the Hamas leader. The statement did not mention any other casualties. Iranian leaders later blamed 'Zionists' for the attack, though at press time no state or entity has taken responsibility for the strike..." **(They may threaten Israel, but Psalm 121 states: *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.* Notice especially verse 4 – *Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. During his confrontation with the prophets of Baal, Elijah mocked the prophets after they were unable to get a response from Baal. I Kings 18:27 states: *And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. God does not sleep, and He will preserve Israel.*)***