



For Members of the Prophecy Forum

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

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# CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

## **1 IN 3 'CHRISTIANS' SAYS 'JESUS SINNED'**

*WorldNetDaily.com* reports: "Half of Americans who call themselves 'Christian' don't believe Satan exists and fully one-third are confident that Jesus sinned while on Earth, according to a new Barna Group poll.

Another 40 percent say they do not have a responsibility to share their Christian faith with others, and 25 percent 'dismiss the idea that the Bible is accurate in all of the principles it teaches,' the organization reports.

Pollster George Barna said the results have huge implications.

'Americans are increasingly comfortable picking and choosing what they deem to be helpful and accurate theological views and have become comfortable discarding the rest of the teachings in the Bible,' he said.

'Growing numbers of people now serve as their own theologian-in-residence,' he continued. 'One consequence is that Americans are embracing an unpredictable and contradictory body of beliefs.'

The results are a dramatic departure from the nation's foundations, when leaders held prayer meetings in the halls of Congress and attributed to Almighty God the victory in the Revolutionary War.

Barna noted the millions of people who describe themselves as Christian and believe Jesus sinned, or those who

say they will experience eternal salvation because they confessed their sins and accepted Christ as their savior, 'but also believe that a person can do enough good works to earn eternal salvation.'

Barna's private, non-partisan, for-profit research group in Ventura, Calif., has been studying cultural trends since 1984. For this study, the organization randomly sampled 1,004 adults across the continental U.S. The study has a margin of error of 3.2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

For the study, 'born-again Christians' were defined as people who said they had made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that was still important in their life today and who also indicated they believed that when they die they will go to heaven because they had confessed their sins and had accepted Jesus Christ as their savior. The results highlight the significant shift in beliefs held by Americans, the study said.

'For much of America's history, the assumption was that if you were born in America, you would affiliate with the Christian faith,' the report said. Now however, 'half of all adults now contend that Christianity is just one of many options that Americans choose from and that a huge majority of adults pick and choose what they believe rather than adopt a church or denomination's slate of beliefs.'

Fifty percent of Americans believe Christianity no longer has a lock on

people's hearts. Two-thirds of evangelical Christians (64 percent) and three out of every five Hispanics (60 percent) embraced that position, making them the groups most convinced of the shift in America's default faith..." **(What a sad situation that exists within Christendom simply because ministers are failing God by ignoring doctrine in their sermons – II Timothy 3:16; 4:2-4. Believe God's Word: Christ did no sin – I Peter 2:22; Christ knew no sin – II Corinthians 5:21; Christ was God and could not sin – James 1:13. Those who believe Christ could sin will spend eternity in hell – Galatians 1:8, 9.)**

## **BIBLE 'EXPERT' PROCLAIMS: JESUS IS NOT GOD**

*WorldNetDaily.com* reports: "A national radio show discussing Bible truth took a heated turn Christmas Eve when a so-called biblical expert proclaimed that Jesus Christ is not God.

The assertion came during the Dec. 24 broadcast of the Jesse Lee Peterson Show, as Peterson had on several guests, one of whom was 'the Bible Go-to Guy' who emphatically declared that Jesus is not really God.

'You are breaking some serious news here on this program if you're saying that [the Bible says] Jesus Christ is not God,' said a stunned Joe Kovacs, author of 'Shocked by the Bible: The Most Astonishing Facts You've Never Been Told.'

'It is serious news. And He is not [God],' responded the Bible Go-to Guy.

Kovacs immediately went into a strong scriptural defense of Jesus in fact being God, citing the very first verse of the Gospel of John in the New Testament.

'I'm just reading it for the words on the page,' said Kovacs. 'I'm trying to get people to just look at the words on the page without throwing their own spin on things. The Bible says, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' I take that to mean the Word was God.'

The Bible Go-to Guy responded, 'That was a misinterpretation and it should have

been 'and the Word from God.'

He continued: 'In Scripture, it says that the Christ is the firstborn of creation. And then also Christ said of himself, that of myself, I can do nothing without the Father. And God cannot die. Christ died. God cannot die. It's impossible. He has lived forever. He cannot die. So God cannot die and Christ can. That was his sacrifice to us.'

'This is silliness. He came as a man to die, that was His purpose – to take on our sins,' Kovacs shot back. 'Jesus Himself created the world. The Bible says, 'without him was not anything made that was made.' (John 1:3)

'Jesus did not create the world,' said the Bible Go-to Guy. 'The world was created through Him. That's a difference.'

'I'm reading right out of the Bible,' said Kovacs. 'He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.' (John 1:10) 'This is stunning that 'the Bible Guy' does not know that Jesus is God. I'm more shocked than I was when I wrote 'Shocked by the Bible.'

'Well, we have our own version of 'Shocked by the Bible,' said the Bible Go-to Guy...' **(What an idiot as a Bible manipulator. See Matthew 1:23; John 1:1, 14; Acts 16:31, 34; Romans 9:5; I Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:8.)**

# THE NEW WORLD ORDER

## **KISSINGER: OBAMA PRIMED TO CREATE 'NEW WORLD ORDER'**

*WorldNetDaily.com* reports:

"According to Henry Kissinger, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and former secretary of state under President Nixon, conflicts across the globe and an international respect for Barack Obama have created the perfect setting for establishment of 'a New World Order.'

Kissinger has long been an integral figure in U.S. foreign policy, holding positions in the Nixon, Ford and Reagan administrations. Author of over a dozen books on foreign policy, Kissinger was also named by President Bush as the chairman of the Sept. 11 investigatory commission.

Kissinger made the remark in an interview with CNBC's 'Squawk on the Street' hosts Mark Haines and Erin Burnett at the New York Stock Exchange, after Burnett asked him what international conflict would define the Obama administration's foreign policy.

'The president-elect is coming into office at a moment when there is upheaval in many parts of the world simultaneously,' Kissinger responded. 'You have India, Pakistan; you have the jihadist movement. So he can't really say there is one problem, that it's the most important one. But he can give new impetus to American foreign policy partly because the reception of him is so extraordinary around the world. His task will be to develop an

overall strategy for America in this period when, really, a new world order can be created. It's a great opportunity, it isn't just a crisis.'...

The phrase 'new world order' traces back at least as far as 1940, when author H.G. Wells used it as the title of a book about a socialist, unified, one-world government. The phrase has also been linked to American presidents, including Woodrow Wilson, whose work on establishing the League of Nations pioneered the concept of international government bodies, and to the first President Bush, who used the phrase in a 1989 speech...' **(It's within sight. My new video on the New World Order will be ready in mid-April 2009. See Revelation 13:1, 7; Daniel 7:23.)**

## **HENRY KISSINGER: THE WORLD MUST FORGE A NEW ORDER OR RETREAT TO CHAOS**

*The Independent.co.uk* reports: "As the new US administration prepares to take office amid grave financial and international crises, it may seem counterintuitive to argue that the very unsettled nature of the international system generates a unique opportunity for creative diplomacy.

That opportunity involves a seeming contradiction. On one level, the financial collapse represents a major blow to the standing of the United States. While American political judgments have often

proved controversial, the American prescription for a world financial order has generally been unchallenged. Now disillusionment with the United States' management of it is widespread.

At the same time, the magnitude of the debacle makes it impossible for the rest of the world to shelter any longer behind American predominance or American failings. Every country will have to reassess its own contribution to the prevailing crisis. Each will seek to make itself independent, to the greatest possible degree, of the conditions that produced the collapse; at the same time, each will be obliged to face the reality that its dilemmas can be mastered only by common action.

Even the most affluent countries will confront shrinking resources. Each will have to redefine its national priorities. An international order will emerge if a system of compatible priorities comes into being. It will fragment disastrously if the various priorities cannot be reconciled.

The nadir of the international financial system coincides with simultaneous political crises around the globe. Never have so many transformations occurred at the same time in so many different parts of the world and been made accessible via instantaneous communication. The alternative to a new international order is chaos...

What kind of global economic order arises

will depend importantly on how China and America deal with each other over the next few years. A frustrated China may take another look at an exclusive regional Asian structure, for which the nucleus already exists in the ASEAN-plus-three concept. At the same time, if protectionism grows in America or if China comes to be seen as a long-term adversary, a self-fulfilling prophecy may blight the prospects of global order. Such a return to mercantilism and 19th-century diplomacy would divide the world into competing regional units with dangerous long-term consequences.

The Sino-American relationship needs to be taken to a new level. This generation of leaders has the opportunity to shape relations into a design for a common destiny, much as was done with trans-Atlantic relations in the postwar period – except that the challenges now are more political and economic than military.

The complexity of the emerging world requires from America a more historical approach than the insistence that every problem has a final solution expressible in programmes with specific time limits not infrequently geared to our political

process. We must learn to operate within the attainable and be prepared to pursue ultimate ends by the accumulation of nuance. An international order can be permanent only if its participants have a share not only in building but also in securing it. In this manner, America and its potential partners have a unique opportunity to transform a moment of crisis into a vision of hope...” **(President Sarkozy of France believes the present financial chaos will bring in the New World Order. I predicted this in 1983, 26 years ago in my first edition of my book “11:59 & Counting.)**

# THE SURVEILLANCE SOCIETY

## **BIG BROTHER DATABASE A 'TERRIFYING' ASSAULT ON TRADITIONAL FREEDOMS**

*Independent.co.uk* reports: “Sweeping new powers allowing personal information about every citizen to be handed over to government agencies faced condemnation amid warnings that Britain is experiencing the greatest threats to civil rights for decades.

Shami Chakrabarti, the director of the pressure group Liberty, warned that the laws...were among a string of measures that amounted to a ‘terrifying’ assault on traditional freedoms.

Proposals in the Coroners and Justice Bill include measures to authorise ministers to move huge amounts of data between government departments and other agencies and public bodies. Bodies that hold personal information include local councils, the DVLA, benefits offices and HM Revenue and Customs.

The Bill will allow ministers to use data-sharing orders to overturn strict rules that require information to be used only for the purpose it was taken. But it places no limit on the information that could eventually be shared between public bodies, potentially allowing vast amounts of personal data to be shared by officials across Whitehall, agencies or other public bodies.

Safeguards in the Bill will ensure that the proposed orders are considered by the Information Commissioner and require them to be formally approved by Parliament.

Ministers insisted there would be a series of safeguards to ensure that data was secure and not misused. But in an interview with *The Independent* Ms Chakrabarti warned the measure was one of a string of threats to civil liberties that range from attacks on the Human Rights Act, the advent of ID cards, and proposals to retain data on internet and email use. She declared: ‘The combination amounts to the most authoritarian time in my lifetime. In Britain, we are seeing happening things I would never have dreamt of seeing.’

Ms Chakrabarti also condemned plans in the Bill to restrict the use of juries in inquests and hold hearings in secret. She added: ‘It’s the second week of January and we have already seen plans for new gang Asbos and secret coroners as well as very broad data-sharing measures. What will next week bring?’...” **(Revelation 13:16 – 18; 14:9; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4.)**

## **EU TO LAUNCH BIOMETRIC PASSPORTS BY SUMMER**

*The EU Observer* reports: “MEPs on Wednesday (14 January) backed new rules on the introduction of biometric passports throughout the EU later this year, while exempting children under 12 years from having fingerprints included in their passports.

The rules were approved at a first reading by an overwhelming majority of MEPs – 594 against 51, while 37 abstained.

The parliamentarians underlined the need to improve document security in the EU by introducing ‘more reliable biometric data, namely fingerprints,’ and

highlighted the different criteria member states currently apply when checking the passport applicants’ identity.

‘Many countries require that the citizen applying for a passport actually present him or herself in person, together with their documents and photographs, and in these cases the officials at the passport-issuing office can see if that person bears a resemblance to the photo presented,’ Polish Christian Democrat Urszula Gacek said during a plenary debate on the issue in Strasbourg.

But in some states, in particular the UK, ‘applications by post are the norm, and the authenticity of the photo is only confirmed by a so-called ‘professional person’ who has known the applicant for at least two years,’ she indicated.

The new rules stipulate that all EU countries, as well as in Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, should start issuing passports containing biometric elements – such as facial images and fingerprints – as of 29 June this year.

States have until 2012 to fully implement the rules and current passports will remain valid for travelling for most countries until then.

Meanwhile, some member states – such as Germany, France and the Netherlands – have started issuing the new passports before the June deadline...” **(Read again the verses from the previous article.)**

# PLAGUES AND PESTILLENCE

## **AL-QAEDA CELL KILLED BY BLACK DEATH 'WAS DEVELOPING BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS'**

*The London Daily Telegraph* reports: "An al-Qaeda cell killed by the Black Death may have been developing biological weapons when it was infected, it has been reported.

The group of 40 terrorists were reported to have been killed by the plague at a training camp in Algeria.

It was initially believed that they could have caught the disease through fleas on rats attracted by poor living conditions in their forest hideout.

But there are now claims the cell was developing the disease as a weapon to use against western cities.

Experts said that the group was developing chemical and biological weapons.

Dr Igor Khrupinov, a biological weapons expert at Georgia University, told *The Sun*: 'Al-Qaeda is known to experiment with biological weapons. And this group has direct communication with other cells around the world.

'Contagious diseases, like Ebola and

anthrax, occur in northern Africa. It makes sense that people are trying to use them against Western governments.'

Dr Khrupinov, who was once a weapons adviser to the Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, added: 'Instead of using bombs, people with infectious diseases could be walking through cities.'

It was reported last year that up to 100 potential terrorists had attempted to become postgraduate students in Britain in an attempt to use laboratories..." (Matthew 24:7; Revelation 6:7, 8)

## **SERIOUS INFECTIONS RISING IN U.S. CHILDREN**

*Reuters* reports: "Children in the United States increasingly are developing serious head and neck infections with a drug-resistant type of 'superbug' bacteria called MRSA, U.S. researchers said.

They said rates of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA, are rising in children, and called on doctors to be more judicious in prescribing antibiotics.

'There is a nationwide increase in the prevalence of MRSA in children with head and neck infections that is alarming,' said Dr. Steven Sobol of Emory University,

whose study appears in the *Archives of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*.

MRSA previously had been a major concern only in hospitals, attacking patients who are already weakened by disease. But recent outbreaks in the community in otherwise healthy children have raised new concerns.

Sobol noted that other studies have shown increases in community-acquired infections of the skin and soft tissue, but some institutions have observed MRSA infections among children with head and neck infections, such as those involving the ear, nose, throat or sinuses.

To get a sense of the scope of the outbreak, the researchers studied 21,009 children ages 1 to 18 with head and neck infections caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* from 300 hospitals across the nation between 2001 and 2006.

While only 12 percent of the staph infections in 2001 showed signs of antibiotic resistance, that number more than doubled to 28 percent in just five years.

Nearly 60 percent of all MRSA infections of the head and neck among children in the study were acquired outside hospitals. Most were in children's ears..." (Luke 21:11, 27)

# KNOWLEDGE INCREASED

## **SCIENTISTS NOT SO SURE 'DOOMSDAY MACHINE' WON'T DESTROY WORLD**

*Fox News* reports: "Still worried that the Large Hadron Collider will create a black hole that will destroy the Earth when it's finally switched on this summer?

Um, well, you may have a point.

Three physicists have reexamined the math surrounding the creation of microscopic black holes in the Switzerland-based LHC, the world's largest particle collider, and determined that they won't simply evaporate in a millisecond as had previously been predicted.

Rather, Roberto Casadio of the University of Bologna in Italy and Sergio Fabi and Benjamin Harms of the University of Alabama say mini black holes could exist for much longer

— perhaps even more than a second, a relative eternity in particle colliders, where most objects decay much faster.

Under such long-lived conditions, it becomes a race between how fast a black hole can decay — and how fast it can gobble up matter to grow bigger and prevent itself from decaying.

Casadio, Fabi and Harms think the black hole would lose out, and pass through the Earth or out of the atmosphere before it got to be a problem.

'We conclude that ... the growth of black holes to catastrophic size does not seem possible. Nonetheless, it remains true that the expected decay times are much longer (and possibly  $\gg 1$  second) than is typically predicted by other models,' the three state in a brief paper posted at the scientific discussion Web site *ArXiv.org...*' (As serious as this situation is with possible

catastrophic consequences, the world will never end. The six Biblical texts mentioning the "end of the world" — Matthew 13:39, 40, 49; 24:3; 28:20; and Hebrews 9:26 are mistranslations of the Greek work "Aeon" which means "end of the age [of grace] before entering the "age" of the Millennium.)

## **FDA ALLOWS FIRST TEST OF HUMAN STEM CELL THERAPY**

*Reuters* reports: "The Food and Drug Administration has cleared the way for the world's first study of human embryonic stem cell therapy, Geron Corp said.

The California biotechnology company plans to start a clinical trial to try to use the stem cells to regrow nerve tissue in patients with acute spinal cord injury.

'This marks the beginning of what is potentially a new chapter in medical

therapeutics -- one that reaches beyond pills to a new level of healing: the restoration of organ and tissue function achieved by the injection of healthy replacement cells,' Geron Chief Executive Thomas Okarma said in a statement...

Former President George W. Bush had been at odds with Congress, researchers and advocates for years over the issue and by executive order restricted federal funding of work involving human embryonic

stem cells.

President Barack Obama, who succeeded Bush had been widely expected to rescind that directive. Although the FDA says it does not make decisions based on politics, the company made the decision public just days after Obama was sworn into office.

Stem cells are the body's master cells, giving rise to all the tissues, organs and

blood. Embryonic stem cells are considered the most powerful kinds of stem cells, as they have the potential to give rise to any type of tissue.

But they are difficult to make, requiring the use of an embryo or cloning technology. Geron and some other companies have been pursuing the goal without the use of federal funds..." (Daniel 12:4 – "knowledge shall be increased" in the last days before Christ's return.)

# NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

## **IISS: TEHRAN COULD HAVE NUKES IN '09**

*The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Iran will most likely have produced enough enriched uranium to make an atomic bomb by the end of 2009, according to a paper released by Mark Fitzpatrick of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). He clarified, however that before the uranium could be used for a nuclear weapon, it would have to be further enriched.

Fitzpatrick said that this reality brings up 'the question of whether military action is needed in the absence of progress in diplomacy.'

The London-based institute's report, titled 'The Adelphi Paper' assessed that the Iranian nuclear threat 'can only be solved if Iran makes a strategic decision not to seek a nuclear weapons capability.'

'Based on Iran's past diplomacy, it can be expected to neither accept nor reject proposed restrictions, but rather to shunt them aside through non-responsive counter-proposals and endless negotiation and filibuster,' Fitzpatrick surmised.

In the IISS report, Fitzpatrick concluded that the best way to minimize the threat from the Iranian Republic would be to reinforce the 'cooperation or isolation' line. 'If Iran continues to defy the [UN] Security Council, its enrichment program can be constrained and delayed by export controls, sanctions, financial pressure, interdiction and other means of exploiting Iran's vulnerabilities,' said the report..." (Vice-President Biden warned the world on February 5th that the U.S.A. might have to deal sternly

with Iran in the future. "Blow the trumpet and warn the people" – Ezekiel 33:3.)

## **IRANIAN LEADER DEMANDS U.S. APOLOGY**

*BBC News* reports: "Iran's president has responded to an overture by the new US president by demanding an apology for past US 'crimes' committed against Iran.

The US 'stood against the Iranian people in the past 60 years,' Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said during an address in the western region of Khermenschah.

'Those who speak of change must apologize to the Iranian people and try to repair their past crimes,' he said.

President Obama has offered to extend a hand if Iran 'unclenched its fist'.

President Barack Obama discussed the possibility of a softening of US policy towards Iran in an interview recorded with a Saudi-owned Arabic TV network.

The Iranian president welcomed the possibility of US change, but said: 'When they say 'we want to make changes', change can happen in two ways'.

'First is a fundamental and effective change... The second ... is a change of tactics. It is very clear that, if the meaning of change is the second one, this will soon be revealed,' he said.

The remarks are the first Iranian comment on the US since Mr. Obama took office.

The *BBC's* Jon Leyne in Tehran describes it as one of Mr. Ahmadinejad's strongest tirades against the US..." (This little cocky blasphemer who wants to

rid the world of every Jew will soon go down in history as a total failure. Proverbs 16:18 states "pride goeth before destruction".)

## **HAMAS LEADER MESHAL: IRAN HAS BIG SHARE IN OUR VICTORY IN GAZA**

*Haaretz* reports: "Exiled Hamas leader Khaled Meshal told Iranian leaders during a visit to Tehran that the Islamic Republic had played a big role in helping Hamas to achieve 'victory' during Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip.

'The Islamic Republic of Iran has a big share in our victory in the Gaza Strip,' said Meshal, who met Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

A high-level delegation from Hamas arrived in Tehran as part of a regional push to reinforce support for the Palestinian group after Israel's 22-day offensive in Gaza, a Hamas official said.

Khamenei told Hamas during the visit to be prepared for possible fresh Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, the semi-official *Fars* news agency reported. He said the war in Gaza had yet to be finished and praised 'the resistance of Gazans'.

'The Islamic resistance (Hamas) should be prepared for any possible situation, including a fresh war in Gaza,' Khamenei told Meshal, *Fars* reported. 'The enemy's [Israel] psychological war ... still goes on.'

Israeli and U.S. officials have accused Iran of providing weapons, cash and training to Hamas militants in Gaza. Iran

insists it only gives moral and political support to Hamas.

Hamas was in close contact with Iran, its main backer along with Syria, during the Gaza assault, which was halted last month, with the two sides declaring separate cease-fires.

Hamas views the war as resulting in regional diplomatic gains for the group, with Turkey criticizing Israel and Qatar convening a high profile meeting with the participation of Hamas that supported Hamas's objectives..." **(What victory? The European Union and even Egypt, a Muslim nation blames Hamas for the deaths of 1,300 Palestinians by constantly sending 6,000 rockets into Israel. Believe me, victory cries for Hamas are ridiculously silly – Proverbs 16:18.)**

### **GADDAFI SUGGESTS NEW STATE CALLED 'ISRATINE'**

*YnetNews.com* reports: "Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi advised US President Barack Obama to give Osama bin Laden a chance to reform, telling the new president that America's most wanted man was looking for 'dialogue'.

Gaddafi hailed what he called 'positive signals' so far from the new Obama administration, including plans to close the US prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

A video grab from an undated footage from the Internet shows al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden making statements from an unknown location.

Speaking to students at Georgetown University via a satellite link-up from Libya, Gaddafi said Washington must review its approach to bin Laden, who is blamed for the September 11, 2001 attacks and tops the US Most Wanted List.

'Terrorism is a dwarf not a giant. Osama bin Laden is a person who can be given a chance to reform,' Gaddafi said through an interpreter. He gave no indication that he had any contact with bin Laden or wanted to act as a go-between.

'Maybe we can have a dialogue with him and find out the reason that led him in this direction,' he added.

Moreover, he said the Taliban, which the United States helped oust in Afghanistan, was 'not as it has been portrayed' and Washington should review its views on that group too.

In a speech outlining his views on how to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Gaddafi called for the creation of one state rather than two nations living side by side.

'We can call it Isratine,' he said..." **(Sorry Gaddafi. The God of Israel states "I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name" – Isaiah 56:5.)**

# NEWS FROM ASIA

### **NORTH KOREA TEARS UP AGREEMENTS**

*BBC News* reports: "Communist North Korea has said it is scrapping all military and political agreements signed with the South, accusing Seoul of hostile intent.

South Korea's government had pushed relations 'to the brink of a war', the North's cross-border relations body said on state media.

South Korea expressed regret at the announcement and called for dialogue.

Relations have deteriorated since South Korea's President Lee Myung-bak took a harder line approach to the North.

One agreement the North said it was to scrap covers the maritime border in the Yellow Sea.

The two countries' navies fought bloody skirmishes in the area of the de facto border in 2002 and 1999.

'All the agreed points concerning the issue of putting an end to the political and military confrontation between the North and the South will be nullified,' the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea said.

It said that the situation on the Korean peninsula had reached a point where there was 'neither way to improve [relations] nor hope to bring them on track'.

The North has stepped up rhetorical attacks on the administration of South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, who has promised to stop the free flow of aid to the North unless it moves to end its nuclear weapons programme.

Earlier North Korea criticized the appointment of a new South Korean unification minister, describing the choice of Hyun In-taek as evidence that the South wanted to intensify confrontation between the two Korean states..." **(North Korea will probably be one of the nuclear nations marching against Israel as the Kings of the East move into the Middle East during the second round of Armageddon – Revelation 16:12; Revelation 9:14-18. Notice the next three articles.)**

### **NORTH KOREA 'PREPARING MISSILE TEST'**

*BBC News* reports: "North Korea appears to be preparing to test-fire its longest range missile, apparently capable of hitting the US, a South Korean official and reports say.

Satellite spy images reportedly showed a train loaded with a large cylindrical object, moving towards a missile launch site close to the Chinese border.

So far, there has been no on-the-record

confirmation from any government.

It follows a recent declaration by the North that it was scrapping pacts with the South made to prevent hostilities.

Reports of the apparent missile preparations were carried in both the South Korea and Japanese press, quoting government sources.

Experts quoted in the reports said any such test would not take place for at least another month.

There was similar media speculation ahead of North Korea's last long-range missile test in July 2006.

The Taepodong-2 missile, thought to have a potential range of more than 6,000km (3,730 miles), failed soon after launching. Pyongyang tested a nuclear bomb in the same year..."

### **NORTH KOREA SAYS IT HAS 'WEAPONIZED' ITS PLUTONIUM**

*The International Herald Tribune* reports: "The North Korean military declared an 'all-out confrontational posture' against South Korea as an American scholar said he was told by officials in North Korea that it had 'weaponized' 30.8 kilograms of plutonium.

South Korea ordered its military to heighten vigilance along the border with North

Korea, the world's most heavily armed frontier, said a spokesman of the South Korean military Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

North Korea's saber-rattling oratory against the South has been common, especially after Lee Myung Bak came to office as president of South Korea a year ago vowing to take a tougher stance on the North in a reversal from 10 years of his liberal predecessors' efforts to engage Pyongyang with economic aid. But what made the threat unusual was the way it was delivered: a statement read on North Korean television by a uniformed spokesman for the North Korean military Joint Chiefs of Staff.

'Strong military measures will follow from our revolutionary armed force,' the spokesman, a colonel, said, according to *Yonhap*, South Korea's national news agency, which monitors North Korean broadcasts...

Thirty kilograms of plutonium, the amount North Korea declared to the United States last year, is enough to make four or five bombs, according to nuclear experts. *Reuters* reported that the American scholar, Selig Harrison, a North Korean expert at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

in Washington, said at a news conference in Beijing that North Korean officials had told him that the weapons made from the plutonium 'cannot be inspected.'

Harrison just returned from a trip to Pyongyang, where he met North Korean officials, including Li Gun, the Foreign Ministry official in charge of relations with Washington. Harrison said the North Koreans would not say how the plutonium had been 'weaponized' but indicated it was used for missile warheads. Harrison said he could not vouch for the credibility of North Korea's claim, *Reuters* said.

South Korea had no immediate reaction to North Korea's latest threat or to Harrison's report.

If the claim is true, it will further complicate Washington's efforts to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program..."

### **NORTH KOREA VOWS TO RETAIN ATOMIC BOMBS UNTIL US 'THREAT' ENDS**

*SpaceWar.com* reports: "North Korea's military vowed to keep atomic weapons until the United States removes its nuclear threat, reiterating a tough stance amid stalled disarmament talks.

'The DPRK (North Korea) will never

'dismantle its nuclear weapons' unless nukes in South Korea are dismantled to remove the nuclear threat from the US,' a spokesman for the North's General Chiefs of Staff was quoted as saying by the official *Korea Central News Agency*.

South Korea's *Yonhap* news agency, which monitors media in the communist state, said the spokesman's statement was carried on state television.

The spokesman said denuclearization of the Korean peninsula does not only mean disarmament of the North but should also include verification of alleged nuclear facilities in South Korea, according to *KCNA*.

South Korea denies having any atomic weapons.

'There are no nuclear weapons in South Korea,' defense ministry spokesman Won Tae-jae told *Yonhap*.

The foreign ministry in Pyongyang, staking out a tough position for the incoming US administration, took a similar stance last month.

It said it may not give up its atomic weaponry even if ties with Washington are established, until the US completely removes its nuclear threat..."

# SIGNS IN THE SUN, MOON, AND STARS

## **POWERFUL SOLAR STORM COULD SHUT DOWN U.S. FOR MONTHS**

*Fox News* reports: "A new study from the National Academy of Sciences outlines grim possibilities on Earth for a worst-case scenario solar storm.

Damage to power grids and other communications systems could be catastrophic, the scientists conclude, with effects leading to a potential loss of governmental control of the situation.

The prediction is based in part on a major solar storm in 1859 that caused telegraph wires to short out in the United States and Europe, igniting widespread fires.

It was perhaps the worst in the past 200 years, according to the new study, and with the advent of modern power grids

and satellites, much more is at risk.

'A contemporary repetition of the [1859] event would cause significantly more extensive (and possibly catastrophic) social and economic disruptions,' the researchers conclude.

When the sun is in the active phase of its 11-year cycle, it can unleash powerful magnetic storms that disable satellites, threaten astronaut safety, and even disrupt communication systems on Earth.

The worst storms can knock out power grids by inducing currents that melt transformers.

Modern power grids are so interconnected that a big space storm — the type expected to occur about once a century — could cause a cascade of failures that would sweep

across the United States, cutting power to 130 million people or more in this country alone, the new report concludes.

Such widespread power outages, though expected to be a rare possibility, would affect other vital systems.

'Impacts would be felt on interdependent infrastructures with, for example, potable water distribution affected within several hours; perishable foods and medications lost in 12-24 hours; immediate or eventual loss of heating/air conditioning, sewage disposal, phone service, transportation, fuel resupply and so on,' the report states.

Outages could take months to fix, the researchers say. Banks might close, and trade with other countries might halt.

'Emergency services would be

strained, and command and control might be lost,' write the researchers, led by Daniel Baker, director of the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

'Whether it is terrestrial catastrophes or extreme space weather incidents, the results can be devastating to modern societies that depend in a myriad of ways on advanced technological systems,' Baker said in a statement released with the report...

The race is on for better forecasting abilities, as the next peak in solar activity is expected to come around 2012..." **(This situation is identical to what the Electromagnetic Pulse explosion can create – Revelation 6:12; Matthew 24:29.)**

### **MYSTERY ROAR DETECTED FROM FARAWAY SPACE**

*Fox News* reports: "Space is typically thought of as a very quiet place. But one team of astronomers has found a strange cosmic noise that booms six times louder than expected.

The roar is from the distant cosmos. Nobody knows what causes it.

Of course, sound waves can't travel in a vacuum (which is what most of space is), or at least they can't very efficiently. But radio waves can.

Radio waves are not sound waves, but they are still electromagnetic waves, situated on the low-frequency end of the light spectrum.

Many objects in the universe, including stars and quasars, emit radio waves. Even our home galaxy, the Milky Way, emits a static hiss (first detected in 1931 by physicist Karl Jansky). Other galaxies also send out a background radio hiss.

But the newly detected signal, described at the 213th meeting of the American Astronomical Society, is far louder than astronomers expected.

There is 'something new and interesting going on in the universe,' said Alan Kogut of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

A team led by Kogut detected the signal with a balloon-borne instrument named ARCADE (Absolute Radiometer for Cosmology, Astrophysics, and Diffuse Emission).

In July 2006, the instrument was launched from NASA's Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility in Palestine, Texas, and reached an altitude of about 120,000 feet (36,500 meters), where the atmosphere thins into the vacuum of space...

The signal is measured to be six times

brighter than the combined emission of all known radio sources in the universe.

For now, the origin of the signal remains a mystery.

'We really don't know what it is,' said team member Michael Seiffert of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

And not only has it presented astronomers with a new puzzle, it is obscuring the sought-for signal from the earliest stars.

But the cosmic static may itself provide important clues to the development of galaxies when the universe was much younger, less than half its present age.

Because the radio waves come from far away, traveling at the speed of light, they therefore represent an earlier time in the universe..." **("Fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven" – Luke 21:11; 26.)**

### **CHINA MAKING LEAPS IN SPACE**

*The Asia Times Online* reports: "In 2009, China will be pursuing its ambitious plans for space in all sorts of ways. But in terms of missions and milestones, China will find it quite hard to surpass the stellar success of the spacewalk during the Shenzhou 7 mission in September. China ended 2008 with 11 successful launches, and set a new record for launches in a single year. China intends to set another new record this year.

At least four new BeiDou-2 (Compass) satellites will be launched in 2009 by the team at the China Satellite Navigation Project Center. And a Russian launch vehicle will carry a Chinese micro-satellite into space in late 2009. If everything goes according to plan, Yinghuo-1, China's first Mars probe, will be another noteworthy achievement for the Shanghai Institute of Satellite Engineering.

'I would expect China to maintain its steady pace of deploying and maintaining constellations of unmanned satellites for practical applications such as weather, communication, and navigation,' said Scott Pace, director of George Washington University's Space Policy Institute. 'I would also expect to see them increase their involvement in multilateral cooperative efforts such as environmental monitoring, communications standards, and unmanned lunar exploration.'

According to a report issued last year by Paris-based Euroconsult, 'World Prospects for Government Space Markets', the China National Space Administration's (CNSA) current budget is about US\$1.3 billion, up 6% from 2007. Launch vehicle development accounts for 25% of the estimated overall budget followed by human spaceflight and Earth

observation, with 20% each of overall Chinese investment. Satellite navigation and satellite communications both represent about 10% of the Chinese space budget.

China's Earth observation budget was estimated at \$260 million in 2007 and is growing steadily from the \$160 million in 2003. Although satellites are marked as civil government expenditure, China's program no doubt includes many military surveillance satellites, and Euroconsult reports budgets through 2012 will at least hold steady. China's 'HJ' fleet of Earth observation satellites equipped with radar or optical sensors will continue to grow over the next three years. Expansion of China's maritime surveillance satellite fleet also continues with the launch in 2009 of Haiyang-2, China's third maritime surveillance satellite..." **(Luke 21:25 – 27)**

### **IRAN SATELLITE MOVE SPARKS FEARS**

*BBC News* reports: "Western powers have expressed serious concerns after Iran launched its first domestically-made satellite into orbit.

Iran says the satellite, carried on a Safir-2 rocket, is meant for research and telecommunications purposes and insists its intentions are peaceful.

But the US, UK and France have voiced concerns that the technology used could lead to ballistic missile development.

The move comes a day before officials from six world powers meet to discuss a row over Iran's nuclear activities.

Iran is subject to United Nations sanctions because some Western powers think it is trying to build a nuclear bomb.

Tehran denies that claim and says its nuclear ambitions are limited to the production of energy.

The group of six - comprising the US, Russia, China, UK, France and Germany - has offered Iran a package of incentives if it suspends uranium enrichment and enters into talks on its nuclear programme.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, speaking after meeting UK Foreign Secretary David Miliband, said the US representative at the talks in Frankfurt would continue to discuss the approach to take towards Iran.

'It is clear that... Iran has an opportunity to step up and become a productive member of the international community,' she said.

'As President Obama said, we are reaching out a hand [to Iran] but the fist has to unclench...' **(Luke 21:26 "Men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth")**