

Friday Church News Notes

Pope Calls for World Political Authority

In a new encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI calls for a “world political authority” to manage the global economy. The encyclical, “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”), calls for more redistribution of wealth as well as “redistribution of energy resources.” The pope’s “world political authority” would have the power to force nations to redistribute their wealth and to lower their energy consumption, among other things. The pope said, “Obviously it would have to have the authority to ensure compliance with its decisions from all parties...” (Reuters, July 7, 2009). In fact, government interference in free markets has played a large role in the current financial crisis (e.g., the U.S. government mandating that home loans be given to unqualified buyers). A global government is not the proper solution to any real problem, but the time is ripe for laying the groundwork for the antichrist’s global kingdom and nothing can stop it. If the pope really cared about the poor and really thought that money could solve the poverty problem, he would liquidate the Roman Catholic Church’s massive assets and give them away.



EPISCOPAL BISHOP CALLS INDIVIDUAL SALVATION “HERESY”

Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in America, says it is “heresy” to believe that an individual can be saved through a sinner’s prayer of repentance (OneNewsNow, July 9, 2009). Speaking at the denomination’s General Convention, which is held every three years, she further said that “the individualist focus is a form of idolatry.” Schori’s statement is not surprising. The Episcopal Church in America is a hodgepodge of the vilest heresies and immoralities. (See “Fifty Years of Anglican Liberalism” at the Way of Life web site.)

WHAT WOULD DUMBLEDORE DO?

The following is excerpted from “Harry Potter Pushing Same-Sex Marriage,” WorldNetDaily, July 3, 2009: “That’s not a typo on the familiar WWJD -- ‘What Would Jesus Do?’ -- a theme among Christians. It stands for ‘What Would Dumbledore Do?’ a new move to answer such questions and spark ‘social change’ through the ‘teachings’ available in the Harry Potter witchcraft books and movies. The campaign has begun specifically promoting ‘gay’ marriage. ... It’s all, according to an Orlando Sentinel blog that described the effort, a part of the Harry Potter Alliance program to teach values and beliefs and achieve social ‘change.’ Alliance Executive Director Andrew Slack wrote, ‘In just two weeks, millions of theater goers will watch the shocking death of Harry’s mentor Albus Dumbledore followed by Harry stating that Dumbledore will live on in all who remain loyal to his spirit. ‘Although Dumbledore is a fictional character, his

presence remains real in the hearts of Harry Potter fans and his message, much like the message of such real life figures as Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama, is needed in our world.’ Moviegoers are being encouraged to share a lesson that Dumbledore taught them, and various fan sites are asking their supporters to ‘tweet’ Dumbledore ‘with the hope that each time people do, they’ll think of what he stood for and how he lives on in each of us.’ Ultimately, the 100 online lessons ‘articulate how Dumbledore’s values can be translated to our personal lives.’ ... The movie, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, is set to launch July 15.” Albus Dumbledore is the headmaster of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the Harry Potter series. A major theme of the series is that man is not bad, does not need redemption, and can gain the power to fulfill his dreams through the occult.



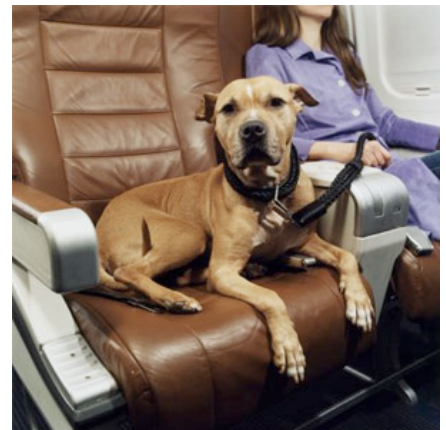
PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DOES NOT ALLOW PRAYERS IN JESUS' NAME

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives no longer allows chaplains to pray in Jesus' name. Pastor Gerry Stoltzfoos (right) of Freedom Valley Worship Center in Adams County discovered this when he was invited by state Rep. Will Tallman to open a session of the House with a prayer as guest chaplain in June. Someone on the staff of the Speaker of the House, Keith McCall, told the pastor that he could not use the name of Jesus in the prayer ("State House Edits Jesus from Pastor's Prayer," *York Daily Record*, June 30, 2009). Stoltzfoos subsequently declined the invitation, saying, "I think prayer is talking to God, so when I pray, I try to talk to him. ... I only know one God personally. I only serve one God. How do I do something that dishonors him?"



SOME AIRLINES ALLOW PETS IN THE CABINS

Some airlines are allowing dogs and cats to travel in the cabins of their aircraft. Southwest Airlines allows small dogs and cats to travel in the cabin area in approved kennels that fit under the seats. Midwest Airlines even allows "celebrity" dogs that appear in competitions to sit in the same seats as humans. Susan Kerwin, who oversees the airline's pet program, says, "They are just passengers with four legs instead of two" ("More Airlines Embracing Furry Travelers," CNN, July 10, 2009). That is a ridiculous statement. Dogs are not "just passengers." They can have little control over bowel movements, shed their hair at prodigious rates, and bark, among other things. Terry Trippler, a frequent flyer, complained about a dog that had diarrhea three rows in front of him. "You could certainly smell it." Indeed. America has gone absolutely insane. 2 Timothy 3:3 says that one characteristic of the last days is that men will be "without natural affection." There is a level of affection for animals that is unnatural.



AL GORE SAYS GLOBAL WARMING LEGISLATION WILL BRING ABOUT "GLOBAL GOVERNANCE"

The following is excerpted from "Gore: U.S. Climate Bill," ClimateDepot.com, July 10, 2009: "Former Vice President Al Gore declared that the Congressional climate bill will help bring about global governance. 'I bring you good news from the U.S.,' Gore said on July 7, 2009, in Oxford at the Smith School World Forum on Enterprise and the Environment, sponsored by UK Times. 'Just two weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed the Waxman-Markey climate bill,' Gore said, noting it was 'very much a step in the right direction.' ... Gore touted the Congressional climate bill, claiming it 'will dramatically increase the prospects for success' in combating what he sees as the 'crisis' of man-made global warming. 'But it is the awareness itself that will drive the change and one of the ways it will drive the change is through global governance and global agreements.' Gore's call for 'global governance' echoes former French President Jacques Chirac's call in 2000. On November 20, 2000, then French President Chirac said during a speech at The Hague that the UN's Kyoto Protocol represented 'the first component of an authentic global governance.'"

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF KING DAVID'S PALACE

The following is excerpted from "The World of Archeology Is Rocked," aish.com, July 6, 2009: "For a growing number of academics and intellectuals, King David and his united kingdom of Judah and Israel, which has served for 3,000 years as an integral symbol of the Jewish nation, is simply a piece of fiction. ... But the debunkers of Jewish biblical history got some bad news recently, when a spunky, dedicated archaeologist began her latest dig. Dr. Eilat Mazar, world authority on Jerusalem's past, has taken King David out of the pages of the Bible and put him back into living history. Mazar's latest excavation in the City of David, in the southern shadow of the Temple Mount, has shaken up the archaeological world. For lying undisturbed for over 3,000 years is a massive building which Mazar believes is King David's palace. ... She holds a doctorate in archaeology from Hebrew University, is author of *The Complete Guide to the Temple Mount Excavations* ... Mazar says, 'In truth, when I began to excavate, I had to be prepared for any result. I even had to be prepared to accept Finkelstein's hypothesis if that's what the facts indicated. Still, I am a Jew and an Israeli, and I feel great joy when the details on the ground match the descriptions in the Bible. ... Mazar believes that the palace was used for Jewish monarchs until the destruction of the First Temple 450 years later. To indicate this, she speaks excitedly about a tiny clay item she found at the site (found on the 17th of Tammuz, the fast day commemorating the siege of Jerusalem before its destruction). It is called a 'bulla,' a clay disc, inscribed in ancient Hebrew script with the name of the sender as a 'return address,' used to seal papyrus scroll 'mail.' The bulla bears the name of Yehuchal [Jehuchal] Ben Shelemiah, who is mentioned in chapters 37 and 38 of the Book of Jeremiah. Yehuchal was one of two emissaries dispatched by King Zedekiah to Jeremiah, asking him to pray for the people during the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. In an

about-face, chapter 38 tells that Yehuchal was one of four ministers who asked the king to kill Jeremiah, claiming that he was demoralizing the besieged nation with his prophecies of doom and destruction. Yehuchal's 'business card' is actually one of several that have been discovered in the last decade, which give further testimony to the veracity of the biblical account of the king's court activities prior to Jerusalem's destruction. In another excavation site, thought to be the remains of a public building, over 50 bullas were discovered under the charred layers of destruction. King Nebuchadnezzar's fires razed the city, but those same fires solidified the clay seals like a kiln, preserving them in good condition and fully legible. They bear dozens of Hebrew names, two of them belonging to characters in the Bible who were contemporaries of Yehuchal. One of those is Gemaryahu Ben Shafan, one of King Jehoiakim's scribes, in whose chamber Baruch Ben Neriah read Jeremiah's words of rebuke and repentance (Jeremiah 36:10). Another name is Azaryahu Ben Hilkiyahu, a member of the family of high priests who officiated before Jerusalem's destruction (1 Chronicles 9:10)."

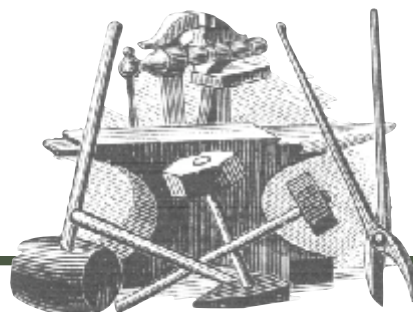


The Anvil of God's Word

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
When looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter these hammers so?"
"Just one," said he; then with a twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's Word,
For ages, skeptics blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed – the hammers gone.



WELCOME TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Introductory note from Brother Cloud. I don't know who wrote the following or I would give credit, and sadly the closing line, "Welcome to the Republican Party" is a myth since both major political parties in the United States are socialistic. The piece is clever, though. "I recently asked my friends' little girl what she wanted to be when she grows up. She said she wanted to be President some day. Both of her parents, liberal Democrats, were standing there, so I asked her, 'If you were President what would be the first thing you would do?' She replied, 'I'd give food and houses to all the homeless people.' Her parents beamed. 'Wow, what a worthy goal,' I told her, 'But you don't have to wait until you're President to do that. You can come over to my house and mow the lawn, pull weeds, and rake my yard, and I'll pay you \$50. Then I'll take you over to the grocery store where the homeless guy hangs out, and you can give him the \$50 to use toward food and a new house.' She thought that over for a few seconds, then she looked me straight in the eye and asked, 'Why doesn't the homeless guy come over and do the work, and you can just pay him the \$50?' I said, 'Welcome to the Republican Party.' Her parents still aren't speaking to me."

NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST SAYS "CLIMATE CHANGE DENIERS COMMIT TREASON AGAINST THE PLANET"

Paul Krugman, a nationally syndicated columnist whose writings appear in the *New York Times* and other influential papers, says that those who deny the man-made global warming theory are committing "treason against the planet." He further labels them "irresponsible," "immoral," and ignorant, to boot ("Climate-Change Deniers Commit Treason," *The Seattle Times*, June 30, 2009). Krugman claims that the threat of terrorism to America is mere "hyperbole," but global warming, now, that is a *real* threat. The clamor against biblically-informed common sense is increasing exponentially in this generation. Treason is a serious crime, and we can be sure that the new world order crowd will treat it as such in due time.



CONCLUSION: The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God's will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord's coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, UNSUBSCRIBE, or CHANGE ADDRESSES go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.