ISRAEL’S HOMOSEXUAL COUPLES HIRE SURROGATE MOTHERS IN NEPAL

Nepal has become the preferred destination for Israeli homosexual couples who want to purchase the services of a surrogate mother. This made the news this week when Israel flew 26 couples and their babies out of Nepal after the recent earthquake. McClatchy News Service reports: “Although Tel Aviv is one of the gay capitals of the world, Israeli law doesn’t allow same-sex couples to adopt or to have children via surrogates in their home country. So foreign surrogacy has boomed in Israel over the last decade, first in India—until it restricted the service to heterosexual couples—then in Nepal. Magdassi said surrogacy in Nepal could cost as little as a fifth of the price in America. ... Magdassi said about 40 children had been born through Lotus Surrogacy since she began operating in Nepal last year. Legal experts in Israel say about 100 children a year are born via surrogates to Israeli parents” (“Infants born to gay Israelis via surrogate moms are rescued in Nepal,” Miami Herald, Apr. 28, 2015). This reminds us that though Israel is back in her land, she remains in a spiritually dead condition.

EARTHQUAKE! A FOREVIEW OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION

Six days ago an earthquake measuring 7.8 struck with devastating effect in Nepal. The official death toll has passed 5,000, but it could easily be three times that of more. Tens of thousands of homes were destroyed. Many of Nepal’s ancient temples collapsed into piles of broken brick and wooden kindling. The cost of rebuilding has been estimated at $5 billion, or one-fifth of Nepal’s total GDP. Nepal’s news media is calling this the Great Earthquake, but as terrible as it was, it is a “walk in the park” compared to what the Bible prophesies for the future. Daniel called it “a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time” (Daniel 12:1), and Jesus called it “great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21). Every Bible prophecy has come to pass precisely as prophesied, including the amazing prophesies that described every aspect of Jesus’ life, including the name of His very birthplace and the words He spoke on the cross. Nothing in this life is more certain than Bible prophecy.

Jesus said the coming Tribulation will be greater than every trouble that this deeply troubled world has ever experienced.
Greater than the most devastating earthquake. Greater than the rampages of any ancient tyrant. Greater than the modern world wars or the berserk ruinations of Stalin or Mao. Greater than every terrible plague and famine. Nepal's earthquake is a mere foretaste of the coming Tribulation.

**Consider the loss of life.** Jesus warned that the number of deaths in the Tribulation will be so far-reaching that “except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved” (Mat. 24:22).

**Consider the destruction of property.** In the Tribulation, there will be destruction from the great wars and from other things described in the book of Revelation, but consider the destruction that will occur from just one of the judgments that will occur at that time. “And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone...” (Rev. 16:21). A talent is more than 100 pounds.

**Consider the shaking.** As terrible as it was, the shaking of Nepal's recent quake was like a gentle rocking of a baby's crib compared to the following: “And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. ... And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found” (Rev. 16:18, 20). I wonder what that one will measure on the Richter scale?

**Consider the destruction of idols.** The media is bemoaning the destruction of “Nepal's ancient heritage,” referring to her oldest Hindu temples. But God condemns idolatry in the strongest terms. The very first of the Ten Commandments says, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth” (Exodus 20:3-4). In the coming Tribulation, every idolatrous temple and false religious system that is contrary to God's Word will be destroyed. “And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish” (Isaiah 2:17-18).

**Consider the humbling of man.** When an earthquake hits, it is a very humbling event. Man is utterly powerless before such things. For a little time, strutting and self-sufficiency cease. It is usually a fleeting impression, though, and soon the survivors are back to normal, which is walking in the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). In the coming Tribulation, prideful, God-rejecting men will be humbled and there will never again be a “back to normal.” The Tribulation is called “the day of the Lord,” because in that day the blessed Creator will be exalted to His rightful position as Lord of the earth. “Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low” (Isaiah 2:10-12).

The Bible says that judgment is God’s “strange work,” because what He most delights in is salvation. He has done everything He can to provide salvation to mankind by sending His only begotten Son to suffer and die on the cross to atone for man's sin. Jesus Christ rose from the dead after three days, and for 2,000 years the gospel of salvation has been proclaimed throughout the earth. The Bible has been translated into every major language (and most minor ones) and the gospel is available in every form of media known to man, from print to the Internet. There is no excuse for the fact that the vast majority of people the world over have ignored God's most gracious offer of salvation and have continued their lives in impenitence and unbelief. Friend, time is short. “Earthquakes in divers places” is one of the signs that Jesus gave of the end times. Are you ready to face your Maker?
AMY GRANT AND FRIENDS BUILDING THE ONE-WORLD “CHURCH”

Amy Grant, one of the most influential contemporary Christian musicians, has been on a downward spiritual journey since the dawn of her career. Today she is comfortable holding hands with everyone from Baptists to New Agers. On April 19, she joined the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Catholic Matt Maher, and others for a unity concert in Ypsilanti, Michigan. In January, she was one of the headliners for the “We Are United” concert promoting ecumenical unity. The “33 greatest CCM artists in history” who participated represented a who’s who of Contemporary Christian Music and illustrated the fact that nothing is building the one world “church” more effectively than contemporary musicians. “We Are United” participants included Steve Green, Michael W. Smith, Newsboys, Sandi Patti, Travis Cottrell (Beth Moore’s worship leader), Dallas Holm, Russ Taff, The Imperials, Don Francisco, Jaci Velasquez, Petra, 4Him, Point of Grace, Carman, and Nicole Mullen. “We Are United” was the brainchild of Stan Moser, one of the fathers of CCM, and board members of the Gospel Music Trust Fund, a major beneficiary of the concert, include Bill Gaither and National Quartet Convention President Les Beasley. The broad CCM unity tent not only includes Roman Catholics but also New Agers. Roma Downey played a prominent role in the “We Are United. Not only does she pray to Mary as Queen of Heaven, but she also has a graduate degree in Spiritual Psychology which is the practice of “knowing yourself as a Divine Being.” Roma Downey’s false gospel, false christ, and false spirit are welcome within the broad tent of CCM, and Bible-believing churches that play around with contemporary worship music are building bridges to this most dangerous world.

THE BIBLE AND ISLAM

Our new book The Bible and Islam answers the question, “What does the Bible say about Islam?” and the answer is that the Bible has a lot to say. In light of today’s news events, we do well to ask this question. Islam controls a large part of the world and is on a jihadic rampage that hasn’t been seen in hundreds of years. Islam is in the process of doing what it failed to do earlier in its history, which is to conquer Europe. It is winning this objective by immigration, prolific breeding, and crafty politics, all made possible by the spiritual blindness, lack of wisdom, and pacifism of Europeans in general. The most “radical” form of jihad is supported by a large portion of the Islamic world. Modern jihadists have murdered tens of thousands, toppled two of the world’s largest buildings in the world’s most powerful nation, threatened presidents and prime ministers, and conquered territory amounting to millions of square miles. If it weren’t for Bible prophecy, it would not be unreasonable to assume that Islam would eventually reach its perpetual objective of establishing a world caliphate. But this won’t happen. The Bible and Islam contains the history and doctrine of Islam, the goal of Islam, the three stages of jihad, the Koran’s doctrine of abrogation, Islam’s hatred of Christianity, Islam as a judgment on apostate Christianity and apostate Israel, Islam’s divisions and internecine hate (Sunni vs. Shiite, etc.), Islam’s preparation for the Antichrist, and Muslim nations in prophecy. The book explains what is happening in the Middle East, and where these events will ultimately lead. 80 pages. Available in print and free eBook editions from www.wayoflife.org.
THE MURDER OF MILLIONS OF BABY GIRLS CREATES “MARRIAGE SQUEEZE” IN CHINA, INDIA

The rapidly growing “marriage squeeze” in China and India is due to a lack of brides, and the reason is the murder of millions upon millions of baby girls, either by abortion or infanticide. The squeeze in China is caused by the Communist state’s “one-child policy,” which has motivated parents to seek a boy as their only child. In India, the squeeze is largely caused by the Hindu culture’s preference for boys. Prenatal screening results in sex-selective abortions (even though it is technically illegal). There are 20 million more men than women in China, and 37 million more men than women in India (“The ‘marriage squeeze,’” Business Insider, Apr. 23, 2015). “If births rates were normal, China would have 66 million more girls born in 2010. For India, it would have been 43 million.” The problem is increasing dramatically. It is estimated that by 2050, India will have 130 single men for every 100 single women, and China will have 186 single men for every 100 single women.

THE PRAYER OF A GREAT SCIENTIST

The following is from CreationMoments.com, April 17, 2015: “The great scientist James Clerk Maxwell, a contemporary of Charles Darwin, was certainly no friend of Darwin’s theory of evolution. Even so, the staunchest evolutionists today would agree that Maxwell was a scientist of gigantic proportions, ranking right up there with celebrated scientists like Sir Isaac Newton. In a previously aired Creation Moments broadcast, we told you that Maxwell believed that Jesus Christ is the Savior who came to deliver humanity from the results of sin. We also mentioned that a writing of his, found after his death, stated that the motivation for his work was that God had created all things just as Genesis says. And since God created humans in His image, scientific study is a fit activity for one’s lifework. But Maxwell’s heart for God is expressed most clearly in a prayer he wrote that was found in his notes after he died in 1879 at the young age of 48. The rest of today’s broadcast is in Maxwell’s own words: ‘Almighty God, Who hast created man in Thine own image, and made him a living soul that he might seek after Thee, and have dominion over Thy creatures, teach us to study the works of Thy hands, that we may subdue the earth to our use, and strengthen the reason for Thy service; so to receive Thy blessed Word, that we may believe on Him Whom Thou hast sent, to give us the knowledge of salvation and the remission of our sins. All of which we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.’”

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, go to http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click “Manage My Subscription.” Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.