FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

HIGH PRIEST SELECTED; JEWISH TEMPLE SERVICE COULD BE REINSTATED IN ONE WEEK

Preparations for the Third Temple continue. The Jewish Sanhedrin has recommended Rabbi Baruch Kahane as the next Kohen Gadol (high priest) in case political conditions change and Jews have access to the Temple Mount for sacrifices. Kahane “is confident that if that should happen, Temple service could begin in less than one week” (“High Priest Is Chosen,” Breaking Israel News, Aug. 29, 2016). The Temple Institute, founded in 1986, has fashioned the necessary items for the temple, including priestly garments, the high priest’s golden crown costing $30,000, the high priest’s breastplate with its 12 precious stones inscribed with the names of the tribes of Israel, a copper laver, an incense altar, silver trumpets, gold- and silver-plated shofars, harps, and many other things. Of special interest is the menorah that was fashioned from 95 pounds of pure gold. In December 2007 the menorah was moved to an outside location on

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ARCHAEOLOGISTS RESTORE TEMPLE FLOOR WHERE JESUS WALKED

The following is excerpted from “Archaeologists Restore,” ChristianToday.com, Sept. 8, 2016: "Israeli archaeologists have restored floor tile fragments they believe originally stood in Jerusalem’s Second Temple. The temple was destroyed in AD 70, with its ruins now known as the Temple Mount to Jews, and the Noble Sanctuary to Muslims. For Gabriel Barkay, an archaeologist who has excavated in Jerusalem for over 50 years, the restoration is profoundly significant. Speaking to Media Line, he said, "It is very touching for me to realise that these are the actual floors upon which our forefathers walked and sacrificed as they were active on the Temple Mount 2,000 years ago.” The reconstructed tiles are part of the Temple Mount sifting project, an Israeli endeavour which began in 2005. The initiative commenced after the Muslim Waqf, a religious trust which controls the holy site, removed 400 truckloads of artifact-saturated soil from the holy site for the expansion of nearby mosque. The extraction of the soil was an opportunity for excavating a site previously untouched because of the sensitivity surrounding the site, which is significant to both Muslims and Jews and has frequently been a flashpoint of controversy. ... As for the temple floor restoration, about 600 coloured stone tile segments have been uncovered, more than 100 of which date back to the Herodian Second Temple period.”
HATRED OF JEWS AT “HIGHEST LEVEL OF OUR LIFETIMES”

The following is excerpted from “Hatred of Jews at ‘Highest Level,’” The Algemeiner, Sept. 7, 2016: “Hatred of Jews and demonization of Israel are at the highest level of our lifetimes,” Israel’s UN envoy warned on Monday during a high-level forum on antisemitism held by the world body at its headquarters in New York. ‘Over 1/3 of European Jews are afraid to wear a yarmulke or Star of David in public,’ Danny Danon said in an address to the forum. ‘More than half of French Jews have considered emigrating because they don’t feel safe living as Jews in France. Today we hear things about Jews and the Jewish people that we thought belonged to the pages of history. ... Antisemitism is returning to everyday life without shame.’ ... There has been a noted rise in antisemitism in Europe in recent years. ... Danon said, ‘In our internet era, [hatred of Jews] has gone global. ... The enemies of the Jewish people are using the tools of modern technology to target and harass Jews around the world.’ ... Danon went on to call out the UN for the antisemitism exhibited by a number of its member states. ‘There is a place where some are not ashamed to spread lies and slander about Israel and the Jewish people and you are sitting in it right now, here at the UN,’ Danon said.”

Danny Danon

The answer is only someone who does specific things can be called the Messiah. The one who brings Israel back to Israel. The one who builds the temple again. The one who makes Israel go according to the commandments. After that he can be called the Messiah.” This is a description of the Messiah as a Super Problem Solver, which is exactly how the Antichrist will present himself at first. It is important to understand that the Jews are not looking for a Saviour Messiah to take away their sins. When we asked a Reformed Jewish American rabbi in Jerusalem, “How do you purge your sins?” and he replied, “We ask God for forgiveness through prayer and through actions.” He said that to interpret Leviticus 17:11 as meaning that man needs a literal blood sacrifice to be acceptable to God i false. The Jews stumbled at the Lamb of God 2,000 years ago. They were looking for a Messiah to save them from Rome, not a Messiah to die for their sins. They wanted a king, not a Saviour, and nothing has changed in that regard.

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the Western Wall Plaza across from the Temple Mount, where it sits today awaiting the building of the Third Temple. The Temple Institute has also created a registry of priests and established a priest training school. In Jewish tradition, the rebuilding of the temple is associated with the coming of the Messiah. According to Maimonides (also called Rambam), the highest rabbinical authority, any Jew that starts rebuilding the temple is a potential Messiah. Shimon ben Kosiba was considered a Messiah in the second century when he led a revolt to recapture Jerusalem and build the temple. Ben Kosiba was named Bar Kokhba (“Son of the Star”) based on the Messianic prophecy of Numbers 24:17, and a coin was struck depicting the temple with the Ark of the Covenant inside and the Messianic star on the roof. By this tradition, it is possible to see how the Antichrist will be looked upon as the Messiah. On a visit to the Temple Institute a few years ago, a representative said: “We are waiting for a Messiah. In Jewish tradition, we believe that in every generation there is someone who can be the Messiah. The question is who will he be.
NASA’S RIDICULOUS MISSION

NASA has done some amazing things in its history, at the head of which was the Apollo space mission and the Space Shuttle program, but in recent decades it has become fixated on missions that are technologically brilliant but have patently ridiculous objectives. The latest is OSIRIS-Rex, a mission to collect dirt from an asteroid, dirt which is supposed to "hold the key to answering some of our biggest questions about the universe, such as where we came from, and why we exist" ("NASA is launching a mission that could solve the mystery of life," Business Insider, Sept. 8, 2016). The spacecraft, which launched successfully last week, is tasked with journeying two years to rendezvous with an asteroid, draw near enough to scoop up some dirt, and return to earth. This mission is ridiculous for two reasons. First, it is ridiculous because there is zero evidence for evolution and irrefutable evidence for divine creation. Known laws of science, such as biogenesis and the laws of thermodynamics, destroy the myth of evolution. The very brilliance required to send a spacecraft to an asteroid proves the Bible’s teaching that man is made in God’s image and is not an animal. Second, the mission is ridiculous because if evolution were true and the universe is the product of a meaningless Big Bang and random, non-intelligence-driven evolutionary forces, there would be no meaning to life. NASA would be playing silly games in a purposeless, dying universe. Man’s life would have no more ultimate meaning than a worm’s. Thank God, that isn’t true, but it is the inescapable conclusion of the dogma of evolution.

DRIVERLESS CARS AND SOCIAL ENGINEERING

The driverless car phenomenon is steamrolling. Massive amounts of money are being poured into development of the technology. Google is testing driverless cars in eight states plus the District of Columbia. Singapore’s nuTonomy company is testing driverless taxis in a small region of the city (though they still have people in the taxis monitoring them). Uber is doing the same thing with taxis in Pittsburgh. Ford plans to put fully autonomous cars on the road by 2021. While I don’t think the driverless car phenomenon will play out as quickly and broadly as currently predicted, there can be no doubt that it is coming and that it will cause major changes to the reality of driving. I believe the driverless car business...
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will ultimately be about control and taking away people’s freedom, independence, and choices. Toby Walsh, professor of artificial intelligence at the University of New South Wales, says, “Ninety-five per cent of road accidents are caused by driver error and, AS SOON AS WE CAN GET THE HUMAN OUT OF THE LOOP, the vast majority of those accidents are going to stop happening” (“Machine smarts: How will pedestrians negotiate with driverless cars?” The Guardian, Sept. 9, 2016). Professor Robyn Dowling of the University of Sydney says, “We can already see the end of the family car coming in the near future” (“Driverless cars could lead to transport revolution,” abc.net.au, Sept. 9, 2016). This isn’t just about technology; it’s about social engineering. As such, it is very much a sign of the times.

WHY DO WE SIGH?

The following is from CreationMoments.com, July 22, 2016: “As we all know, coughing is a reflex that clears our breathing passages from secretions, irritants, foreign particles and even microbes that might make us sick. We also know that sneezing is a reflex that cleanses our nasal cavity by forcefully expelling foreign particles and irritants. But why do we sigh? Is it just because we’re exasperated or surprised? Well, here’s a surprise for you. Though you aren’t even aware of it, you take a deep breath--that is, you sigh--about 12 times every hour. As researchers have discovered, we sigh about every five minutes to keep our lungs functioning properly. In fact, if we didn’t sigh, we would die. Researchers from UCLA and Stanford call sighing ‘a life-sustaining reflex that prevents air sacs located in the lungs, called alveoli, from collapsing.’ Study co-author Jack Feldman told LiveScience, ‘A human lung has as much surface area as a tennis court, and so that’s all folded inside your chest.’ If humans didn’t sigh about every five minutes, the alveoli would not be able to reinflate, causing the lungs to fail.

The only way to pop alveoli open again is to take a deep breath. Now remember that sighing is just one of thousands if not millions of vital processes going on inside your body all the time. If your body was lacking even one of those vital processes, you’d be in big trouble. So the next time you sigh, thank your all-wise Creator!”

INFORMATION

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.wayolife.org/wayolife/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@wayolife.org.