FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

THE UNITED NATIONS’ REBELLION AGAINST GOD

It is not often that the nations have an opportunity to vote up or down on the authority of the Bible, but they had that opportunity on December 18 when the United Nations voted on whether to support America’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. On December 6, President Donald Trump announced from the White House, “I have determined that it is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.” In so doing, Trump was simply recognizing the truth of God’s Word. The Bible plainly states that the entire land in question belongs to Abraham’s seed “for an everlasting possession” (Genesis 17:9), and Jerusalem is Israel’s God-given capital (2 Chronicles 6:5-6; 12:13; Psalm 76:1-2; 78:68-69; 132:13). Jerusalem is mentioned repeatedly in Bible prophecy as the capital of the Messianic kingdom. The nations had a clear choice, and they failed the test miserably, and one day it will be clear that this is no small matter. There is a God, and every nation will give continued on next page...

GOD WILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH

“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 thy 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).
The British Royal Navy was once the most powerful navy on earth, but that is no longer true. Following is an excerpt from “The Decline of the Royal Navy” by David Axe, Maritime Executive, Aug. 10, 2016: “Traditionally, Britain’s Royal Navy has been the U.S. Navy’s closest partner. The two have fought together against most every foe. So any weakening of the Royal Navy also erodes Washington’s naval power. Today, however, the Royal Navy is a shadow of its former self. ... It can barely patrol the United Kingdom’s own waters, much less project British influence abroad. Though London officials now vow to reverse the decline, it might be too late. With morale plummeting, and its few remaining ships frequently malfunctioning at sea, the Royal Navy’s suffering might be terminal. ... During World War Two, the British fleet was still dominant. On D-Day in 1944, it was able to send more than 900 British warships across the English Channel to escort the Allied troops who would liberate Europe from Nazi Germany. As recently as 1982, the Royal Navy could quickly muster no fewer than 115 ships--including two aircraft carriers carrying jet fighters, plus 23 destroyers and frigates--to retake the Falkland Islands from Argentina. Today, the British navy doesn’t even have jet fighters. It mothballed its last Harriers in 2010. It possesses just 89 ships. ... Only the six destroyers, 13 frigates and seven attack submarines can be considered true frontline vessels. ... [In 2012] Islamic State fighters swept through northwestern Iraq. The world mobilized air and sea power to help Baghdad push them back. The U.S. and French navies deployed aircraft carriers to launch air strikes on the militant forces. ... But for the first time in a century, Britain could do little to help. ... The two new Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers ... are the biggest warships Britain has produced. [But they] were planned for a larger fleet. An aircraft carrier requires more planes and escorts than Britain can provide. ... The Royal Navy expects to deploy just one carrier at a time and keep the second at home. It projects that its new carriers will deploy between 12 and 24 F-35s--too few to use the ships to their full potential.”
OHIO PASSES DOWN SYNDROME ABORTION BAN

In Iceland and Denmark nearly 100% of babies determined by prenatal testing to be Down Syndrome are aborted. But the state of Ohio has taken steps to protect these children. “Pro-life advocates are applauding the Ohio legislature’s passage of a bill to ban abortions of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome. They expect a signature from Gov. John Kasich within the next week or so. Last month, the state House passed the bill 64-31, and the Senate passed it 20-12 last week. The legislation prohibits abortions ‘because an unborn child has or may have Down syndrome.’ Abortionists who violate the law would face a fourth-degree felony charge, but their patients would not face prosecution. ... Two other states have passed Down syndrome abortion bans with mixed results: North Dakota’s 2013 law still stands, while a federal judge blocked Indiana’s 2016 ban in September. Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill announced since then he plans to appeal the injunction” (“Ohio Passes,” Christian Headlines, Dec. 22, 2017).

“I DON’T BELIEVE THERE WILL BE A NATIONAL REVIVAL”

Many people who have communicated with me about praying for the nation have expressed their opinion that there will be no “national revival.” I don’t believe there will be a national revival, either, but I see this as a red herring, because it seems to keep people from praying at all. Personally, I’m not praying for a national revival, and I have never urged anyone else to pray for such a thing. What I am urging people to do, and I am urging it as forcefully and often as I can, is simply to do what God commands His people to do in 1 Timothy 2:1-2. But in my experience, very, very few individuals and churches are doing this; even half-heartedly, let alone fervently; even monthly, let alone daily. Let me ask some questions. Do you believe that effectual fervent prayer in Christ changes things? Do you believe that God would tell His people to pray for something specifically and not be ready to answer? Do you believe that if a good number of God’s people would pray according to 1 Timothy 2:1-2 that God would do something for the nation that He would not otherwise do?
THE DESIGN ARGUMENT IS SCRIPTURAL

The following is excerpted from Seeing the Non-existent: Evolution’s Myths and Hoaxes, David Cloud, copyright 2011: “Biologist Michael Behe, though he is not a biblical creationist, calls ‘intelligent design’ the elephant in the room for evolutionists: ‘To a person who does not feel obliged to restrict his search to unintelligent causes, the straightforward conclusion is that many biochemical systems were designed. They were designed not by the laws of nature, not by chance and necessity; rather, they were planned’ (Darwin’s Black Box, chapter 9, ‘Intelligent Design’). The ‘design’ argument, in fact, is Scriptural, because the Bible says that the creation is evidence for the existence of an Almighty God. ‘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’ (Romans 1:18-21). This passage says that the invisible things of God are seen in creation and that this is an evidence that God has given to men. The part of God’s character that is witnessed by creation is His ‘eternal power and Godhead.’ Men are therefore without excuse if they do not believe in God and do not seek God. Verse 21 says that the reason men do not glorify God is that their hearts are darkened by sin. This is why men cannot ‘clearly see’ God through creation. ‘In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them’ (2 Corinthians 4:4).”

Biologist Michael Behe

INFORMATION

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