
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

The modern state of Israel was established on May 14, 1948. It is a fulfillment of the ancient Ezekiel 37 prophecy of the Valley of Dry Bones, which teaches that Israel will return from her diaspora, which is described in terms of a valley of death, in two stages. In the first stage she will return in a spiritually dead condition (verses 7-10). Verse 8 says, "...lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: BUT THERE WAS NO BREATH IN THEM." This is exactly *what* Israel is today and *where* Israel is today prophetically. Modern Israel is setting the stage for the fulfillment of the last stage of Daniel's prophecy of the 70 Weeks (Da. 9:24-27), which describes the entirety of God's dealings with Israel from the time of the Babylonian Captivity to the second coming of Christ. The prophecy is specifically said to pertain to Daniel's people, Israel, and it is specifically said to describe the finishing of Israel's transgression, the making of reconciliation for her iniquity, and the bringing in of everlasting righteousness, which will begin with Christ's return (verse 24). By this prophecy we know that one prophetic week of seven years remains of God's final



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LIBERTY COUNSEL WARNING: CALIFORNIA ABOUT TO BAN BIBLE SALES



The following is excerpted from "Liberty Counsel," WorldNetDaily, Apr. 27, 2018: "Liberty Counsel, which defends religious and civil rights, Friday warned that the state of California effectively is about to ban the sale of Bibles. A bill in the legislature, approved 50-18 in an Assembly vote this week, would forbid counselors from telling a gender-confused male client that he is actually a man. The law would allow, however, a counselor to advise a male he should identify as a woman. The legislation, AB 2943, 'is so far reaching that it also prohibits printed materials and even books,' Liberty Counsel warned. An affirmative vote in the Democratic-controlled state Senate appears to be likely. Liberty Counsel explained the bill 'would prevent so-called *conversion therapy*, sometimes called

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dealings with Israel, and at the beginning of that week the Antichrist will arise and make a seven-year covenant with many in Israel; and half way through the seven years, he will break the covenant and desecrate the third temple and cause the renewed sacrifices to cease. This will initiate the last half of the seven years, which is called the Great Tribulation in the New Testament (Matthew 24:15-22). Modern Israel is setting the stage for these events. She is

back in her own land, having partially returned from the nations. She is preparing for the building of the third temple. She is looking for a peace-making, temple-building Messiah, which is a perfect definition of the Antichrist at the beginning of his reign. Israel must return to the land in a spiritually unconverted condition for these things to happen, because a converted Israel would not receive a false christ. The stage is set!

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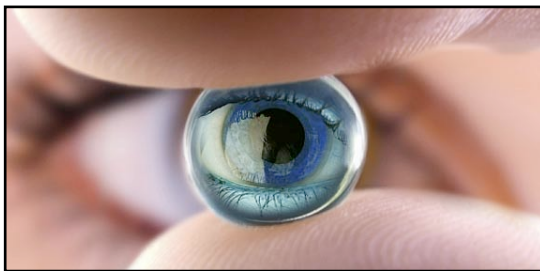
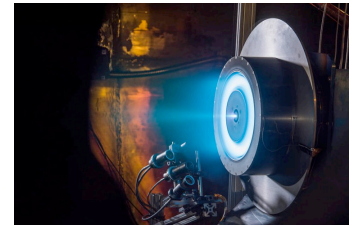
Sexual Orientation Change Efforts, and add it to the list of fraudulent schemes under the states' Consumer Legal Remedies Act.' The bill declares 'advertising, offering to engage in, or engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with an individual' is fraudulent business practice. ... This bill would also make it unlawful for any person to sell books, including the Bible, counseling services, or anything else that directs people to trust in Jesus Christ to help them overcome unwanted same-sex attraction or gender confusion.' Randy Thomasson, president of SaveCalifornia.com, a leading pro-family group, criticized the bill. 'How can any legislator voting for this call themselves pro-choice when they've voted to wipe out a person's own choice of a counselor?' Thomasson asked. 'How can any legislator voting for AB 2943 say they support religious freedom when they've just

threatened church bookstores that sell self-help books about overcoming unwanted same-sex desires? AB 2943 is anti-free-speech, anti-religious-freedom, anti-free-choice, and has no place in a free society. This intolerant bill contains no exemption and no protection at all for religious entities.' ... Mat Staver, Liberty Counsel's chief counsel, added: "The implications of California AB 2943 reach far beyond regulating the type of counseling offered by licensed therapists. This bill is unconstitutional as it substitutes the government for personal choice and is a shocking assault on free speech. 'Imagine a church not allowed to sell Christian books, or even Bibles, that help people overcome same-sex attractions. This bill will do the unimaginable if passed. If it does pass, we will immediately file suit.'

KNOWLEDGE SHALL INCREASE

About 2,500 years ago, during the Persian Empire, an angel told the prophet Daniel, “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” (Daniel 12:4). We are seeing a dramatic fulfillment of this in our day. Recent inventions and discoveries include the following:

NASA’s new X3 rocket thruster uses expelled plasma to generate thrust and can produce eight times the thrust of a chemical rocket and requires less propellant. It is still in the development and testing stage, but it is intended to take humans to Mars within the next 20 years (“NASA’s New Ion Thruster Engine,” ScienceAlert.com, Oct. 14, 2017). In 2018, the engineers plan to test the engine by running it continuously for 100 hours.



Israeli company CorNeat Vision is set to begin clinical trials for a synthetic cornea that could provide sight to millions of blind and visually impaired people (“Israeli company unveils revolutionary artificial cornea,” Israel21c.org, Oct. 9, 2017). “Corneat KPro uses advanced cell technology to integrate artificial optics within resident ocular tissue. The implant is produced using nanoscale chemical engineering that stimulates cellular growth.”

THE LAW WAS GIVEN: GRACE AND TRUTH CAME

The following is from John Phillips commentary on the Gospel of John: “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ’ (John 1:17). The law was given; grace and truth came. The law was impersonal, pealed out from Mount Sinai amid scenes of terrifying grandeur, engraved on cold tablets of stone, mediated by angels, given to Moses. Grace and truth were wrapped up in warm, vibrant human flesh and brought into this world by Jesus (the man) Christ (the Messiah). ‘He went about doing good’ was Peter’s summary--as grand a statement as any to emphasize our Lord’s grace. ‘Never man spake like this man’ said those sent once to arrest him--as great a statement as any to emphasize our Lord’s truth. Not grace at the expense of truth, not truth at the expense of grace, but grace and truth in perfect proportion--demonstrated in the

character, conduct, and conversation of the most balanced person who ever lived on earth. Out of hundreds of possible illustrations John selects a few and weaves his gospel around them: the night with Nicodemus, for example; the conversation with the woman at the well; his dealings with the woman taken in adultery and with her accusers. Thus, the law of Moses contained truth--sharp, demanding, penetrating--embodied in the Decalogue, expanded into some 613 edicts of the law. The law of Moses embodied grace. Human failure to keep the moral law necessitated the giving of the ceremonial law so that guilt could be covered until it could be cancelled at Calvary. But it was not until Jesus came that the truth and grace inherent in the law could be fully implemented in a peerless human life and thus be translated into a language all can understand.”

THE HYDROLOGICAL SYSTEM

“When he uttereth his voice, *there is* a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures” (Jeremiah 10:13). In describing God’s power and wisdom, the Bible refers to the great hydrological system. (See also Job 38:25-30, 34-35 and Amos 5:8.) Jeremiah mentions “**the multitude of waters in the heavens**” (referring to the clouds which hold great volumes of water); “**the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth**” (referring to the condensation and evaporation and evapotranspiration processes where water is carried aloft from the earth); the “**lightnings**” (lightning is an essential part of the hydrological system, though only dimly understood by modern science; it is an element of the electrification of the cloud system whereby “the storm clouds are charged like giant capacitors in the sky”; lightning strikes the earth about 100 times per second; it contains up to one billion volts of electricity, can be five times hotter than the sun, and can travel at 200 million mph); “**with rain**” (referring to the return of water to the earth by precipitation), “**the wind**” (which controls the movement of the clouds and affects precipitation). By the global hydrological cycle, water, which is essential for life, is purified and redistributed and replenished. At its heart is the mysterious and marvelous element of water itself, which is capable of changing states between liquid, vapor, and ice. Jeremiah says God is in control of these things. “He uttereth ... he causeth ... he maketh .. he bringeth forth.” These processes are not “natural” in the sense of having evolved or having a life of their own. The Creator is not an absentee God. He upholds all things (Heb. 1:3). By him all things consist (Col. 1:17).

PASTOR INQUIRES ABOUT A BOOK TO GIVE TO VISITORS

Recently I received an email saying, “My pastor thought it would be nice to give every visitor who comes to our church a book to read, a book to get them thinking about God, life, etc., along those lines. What book would you recommend?” I replied, “I suggest that you take a look at the following books: *Bible Critics Were Wrong*, *Bible Prophecies Fulfilled Today*, *The Bible’s Proof, Does Salvation Make a Difference?*, *Questions Answered on the Bible*, *Scientists Who Believe the Bible*. These can be found in eBook format at the free book section at Way of Life -

https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/index.php

Any of these can be purchased in print format at not much more than our costs.

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.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.