
FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

LEONARD COHEN'S *HALLELUJAH*: ANTHEM FOR THE AGE OF SELF



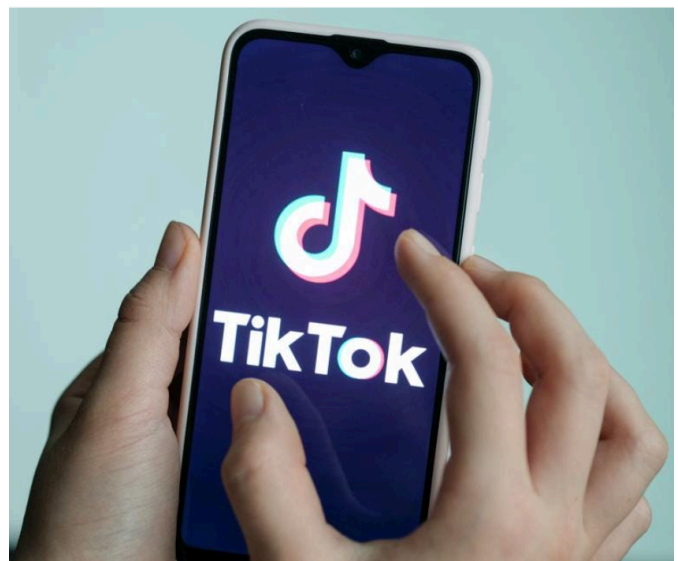
The Bible prophesies an age of apostasy, blasphemy, narcissism, unbelief, rebellion, and scoffing skepticism preceding the Day of the Lord, and we are observing that age nearing full bloom. See Psalm 2; 2 Timothy 3; 2 Peter 3. Leonard Cohen's (1934-2016) "secular hymn" *Hallelujah* is one of the anthems of the perverted age. Wildly popular, it has been covered in at least 300 versions. It celebrates the spiritualization of everything. Holy and unholy merge into one. There is no repentance, no redemption, no saving light. The Bible restricts the use of "hallelujah" to the worship of God and His holy character. *Hallelujah* is from the Hebrew "Halal

Jah" or "halal Jehovah," but Cohen and his proud generation would apply "hallelujah" to whatever pleases man. The singer questions God's right to judge. "You say I took the name in vain/ I don't even know the name/ But if I did, well really, what's it to ya?/ There's a blaze of light in every word/ It doesn't matter which you heard/ The holy or the broken hallelujah. ... Love is not a victory march/ It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah. Maybe there's a God above/ But all I've ever learned from love/ Was how to shoot at someone who outdrew you. And it's not a cry that you hear at night/ It's not somebody who's seen the light/ It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah." Though Cohen sang and wrote of love, it was eros love, self love, lust love. Leonard Cohen exemplified the life he

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TIKTOK ADDICTION AND INFLUENCE

The following is excerpted from "TikTok addiction," *Fox News*, Oct. 4, 2022: "Scrolling ... scrolling ... gone. (Hours gone, that is.) Standout social media app TikTok has gotten pretty good at keeping its users on its platform, and indulgers are having a hard time kicking the habit, as has been widely reported. ... TikTok's main feed called the 'For You' page provides short videos that are circulated based on each user's specific interactions with the app and its content. ... 'The real secret sauce is the algorithm,' Open Influence CEO and social media expert Eric Dahan told *Fox News*. 'It's layering in a really solid content recommendation algorithm and the content format is really bite-sized,' he added. 'And so, the algorithm can



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acclaimed in poetry, fiction, and song. Jonathon Van Maren observes, "Like so many artists, he deluded himself into believing that passionate promiscuity could be the pursuit of art. It was the women and children who paid the price of these delusions. There is a trail of blood through Cohen's canon. In *Leonard Cohen, Untold Stories: The Early Years*, musician Julie Felix says of Marianne [Cohen's girlfriend on the Greek island of Hydra]: 'He made her have five abortions.' ... Cohen's friend Peter Katoundas recalled that one abortion had left Marianne sterile ... Marianne was Cohen's most famous muse, and he nearly destroyed her. ... few marriages survived that island paradise ... Few children did, either. The histories of those raised on the island are rife with substance abuse, suicide, and institutionalization. Marianne's son Axel never recovered and spent much of the rest of his life in mental hospitals" (Van Maren, "Leonard Cohen's Lost Children," FirstThings.com, July 4, 2022). "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

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quickly learn.' ... *Fox News Digital* sat down with author Celeste Headlee recently at the Library of Congress National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. She explained that, in her view, **TikTok is 'designed to be addictive.'** **The author said that the social media app actually 'tricks your brain' by 'shooting in dopamine.'** **'It's called the addiction hormone for a very good reason. It's the exact same hormone that's triggered by pulling a slot machine,'** she added. ... Dahan said that TikTok's short-form video format specifically aligns with the interests of Gen Z [born 1997 to 2012, the first smartphone generation]--the primary user age group--such as mobile video creation and staying up-to-date on the latest trends. "That makes it a lot more engaging than just really good content recommendation," he said. "That's why it's addictive." Dahan mentioned that, compared to other social media apps, TikTok's

format is skewed against social connection, since users can scroll for hours and hours and never interact with a single person. ... Instead, **the app seemingly 'reads your brain,' Dahan described--based on personal thoughts and interests.** ... While the app has the intention of entertaining, TikTok is most often used to leverage brands. ... Dahan mapped out the powerful scale of how TikTok moves markets and consumer interest, as more people hop on the trend of 'TikTok made me buy it.' ... 'It's becoming, increasingly, a key platform for engaging consumers,' he said. 'TikTok has a massive amount of influence.' ... TikTok continues to drive other media sectors such as music--as today's top-streamed songs are commonly used and discovered first as TikTok sounds. It also has been known for driving the news cycle, since the app is a growing news source for many."

PARENTS WIN IN COURT AFTER 6-YEAR-OLD SON LABELED “TRANSPHOBIC”

The following is excerpted from “Christian Parents Win,” *Fox News*, Sept. 28, 2022: “Two Christian parents in the United Kingdom have prompted the government to revise its gender-related guidance for children after they took legal action when a school labeled their 6-year-old son as potentially ‘transphobic.’ ... Nigel and Sally Rowe explained to *Fox News Digital* how they first raised concerns with their son’s Isle of Wight primary school after he came home ‘confused’ by the school’s transgender-affirming policies toward his male classmates who identified as girls. ... Nigel said of his case, ‘To cut a long story short, in the school, when our boys were six years of age, in the classroom one of their friends decided to transition from being a boy to a girl. It was just announced to the kids. And therefore, when we heard, we objected to that.’ ... The Rowes, who have since taken to homeschooling their children, met with their son’s teachers at the time about the issue and sent a letter to the school laying out their concerns about its gender policies. They reportedly were met with a ‘cold’ response. Instead of listening to their

concerns, they said the school sent them a letter that accused both them and their young son of potential ‘transphobic behavior.’ ... After seeking legal counsel regarding whether the school’s behavior was legal, the London-based Christian Legal Centre (CLC) told them it was not. ... The government agreed to settle the case last week after the Rowes won permission for a full judicial review hearing before the High Court in February. They intended to present international expert evidence exposing how transgender-affirming policies have led to ‘catastrophic outcomes’ for children struggling with gender dysphoria. They were awarded £22,000 in legal costs, which they are donating to CLC, and the government also committed to reform. ... Given their son’s primary school was affiliated with the Church of England, they said they also went to the leaders of their local diocese about their ordeal. ‘They weren’t supportive at all,’ Sally remembered. ... Nigel said the Church of England representatives were against them then and remain opposed. ‘They still don’t support us,’ he said. ‘It’s a bizarre world we live in.’”

RELIGIOUS OPPRESSION INCREASES IN TURKEY



Turkish flag

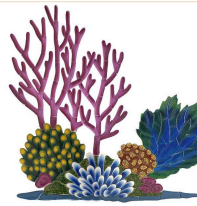
The following is excerpted from “Victims of religious oppression in Turkey,” *Christian Post*, Oct. 14, 2022: “Victims of religious oppression in Turkey shared their stories at an event on religious freedom at the European Parliament where the speakers suggested that political and social atrocities in that country were behind **the Christian population’s decline from 20% to a mere 0.2% over the last century**. The victims highlighted atrocities against Christian minorities committed by the Turkish government and parts of society, according to the human rights group ADF International, which held the event this week in partnership with the group European Conservatives and Reformists. Among those who testified

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at Wednesday's event in Brussels, 'Freedom of Religion in Türkiye,' was Mark Smith, a Christian missionary who was expelled from the country in 2020 after living there for over a decade. ... The Turkish government has expelled at least 60 foreign Christian missionaries and their families since 2020, according to the religious freedom group Open Doors, which says Christians in Turkey experience 'incredible pressure from very strong--and increasing--religious nationalism' in the country. ... Turkey has a long history of Christian persecution, and its government still refuses to admit that the Ottoman Turks committed genocide of Christian Armenians in 1915. Turkey is 99% Muslim, according to its own statistics."



CORAL REEF TIME CLOCKS

The following is from creationmoments.com, April 6, 2021: "Many people know that, despite its appearance, coral is actually a tiny animal. Even a small coral growth may be made up of billions of tiny animals, each living inside its limestone skeleton. What many people don't know is that coral cannot live without the help of algae--a plant. Thousands of one-celled algae live in the tiny stomach of each coral polyp. The polyp requires the waste products of the algae to complete its nutrition requirements and to get the calcium with which it builds reefs. In return, the polyp's stomach provides an ideal protected living place for the algae. Incidentally, the wonderful colors in living coral come from the algae in each polyp's stomach. Evolutionists have said that it must take millions of years for the tiny polyps to build large coral reefs--like the 2,000-kilometer-long Great Barrier Reef in Australia. The Great Barrier Reef, incidentally, is considered the largest structure ever built by living organisms. However, it has now been shown that coral polyps can double their own weight in just over 10 days! As a result, the claim of millions of years for the age of the Great Barrier Reef has been reduced by a factor of 40! Many of the long-age figures claimed by evolutionists have had to be drastically revised downward as we have learned more about the creation. The resulting figures fit the Bible's account of history much more closely. Author: Paul A. Bartz Ref: Langreth, R.N. 1990. 'Bleached reefs,' *Science News*, v. 138, Dec. 8, p. 364. Chen, I. 1990. 'Great Barrier Reef: A youngster to the core,' *Science News*, v. 138, Dec. 8, p. 364."

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.