

Interesting News

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What interesting news stories have you seen that give you a sense that we are near the end of the Age?

There continue to be news stories that reinforce the various end-times themes we've already been talking about the last several weeks. So, I wanted to instead spend more time on which of the stories have caught your interest and discuss their prophetic significance.

- And I also wanted to take more time to drill-down on the biblical significance of a more focused set of stories. For example:

Christian persecution around the world: 'People are being seriously hurt'

The countries that are identified as the worst for Christian persecution are Nigeria, North Korea, India, Iran, China, Pakistan, Eritrea, Algeria, Indonesia and Azerbaijan, said International Christian Concern (ICC).

<https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/christian-persecution-world-highlighted-new-report-people-seriously-hurt>

Canadian Military Chaplains Directed Not to Invoke God in Public Prayer Except on Remembrance Day

Liberal members of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government have gone on the defensive after media reports that the nation's military chaplains had been ordered not to pray.

<https://www.westernjournal.com/canadian-military-chaplains-directed-not-to-invoke-god-in-public-prayer-except-on-remembrance-day-report/>

Neo-Nazi Terrorists Have Been Targeting US Power Grid

A power-grid security watchdog warns there is a cadre of neo-Nazi domestic terrorists targeting U.S. power-grid with guns and explosives, seeking to undermine the American way of life. U.S. power grid attacks were up 71% last year, according to a Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC)... The past plots are raising fears of expanded attacks on U.S. infrastructure amid the world instability overseas, potentially from hostile foreign actors tied to China, Russia, or Iran, according to the report.

<https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/neo-nazi-terrorists/2023/10/29/id/1140139/>

This last article is from Newsmax so you'd think it trustworthy but there are some details here that aren't logical... a sure sign of propaganda.

- Deeper in the article it also mentions threats from "hostile foreign actors tied to China, Russia, or Iran" ...so which is it, "hostile foreign actors" or neo-Nazi's? both? but the Nazi's made the headline
- The article just assumes it is the Nazi's who want to "undermine the American way of life" ...but why?

What does the term "Neo-Nazi Terrorists" tell you about the threat to our way of life?

- They're bad people; there are none worse than Nazi's
- They are racists
- They are nationalists, ultra-patriots
- They are extremists, ultra-conservative
- They want a totalitarian form of government
- They are home-grown, "domestic terrorists"

What religious group do they want you to associate with "Neo-Nazi Terrorists"?

Who are the most likely to be nationalist, conservative, and all-for a totalitarian theocracy?

Christians, of course... the term "Neo-Nazi Terrorists" is often associated with "Christian Nationalists."

Do Christians seek a totalitarian theocracy?

Some may who hold to postmillennialism but this is not biblical. Instead, Christians love freedom...

2 Corinthians 3:17 – *where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

Christians know that in this fallen world, there needs to be checks and balances on government because:

Romans 3:23 – *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

We do look forward to the Lord's rule during the Millennium but that is not for the Church Age.

Do Christians want to bring on Armageddon in order to bring back the Lord?

No. Bible believing Christians do not expect to be on earth during the Tribulation that culminates in Armageddon.

- However, this idea is exactly what Islamic eschatology teaches... the al Mahdi will return during a great jihad between Muslims and infidels.

Christians are looking forward to the rapture which does not require anything to happen first... that is the doctrine of imminence.

Luke 12:40 – *Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect*

We get excited about developments indicating the Tribulation is near because we know the end of the Church Age has to happen before that. But God is in control of history and there is nothing we can do to speed up the coming of the Tribulation (nor would we want to).

Is there nothing the church can do to speed up the return of the Bridegroom?

2 Peter 3:11-12 – *Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?*

This seems to imply that there is... by working to help all who will come to Christ do so sooner rather than later. The idea here is that there is a set number of people who will comprise the Church Age Christians. While that may be true, God is still sovereign and it is He who is the One who saves people, not us...

1 Corinthians 3:6 – *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.*

Are Christians nationalists or globalists?

Both... nationalists during the Church Age but looking forward to the Lord's rule on earth during the Millennium (so, yea, we are also looking forward to a totalitarian theocracy in that sense).

Acts 17:26 – *He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings*

Why is nationalism so maligned?

It is in direct opposition to the zeitgeist, "the spirit of the age" which is that since we have all these global problems (climate change, wars, pandemics, etc.), we need globalist solutions.

Should we resist globalism?

Some aspects of globalism are good, like trade which brings food to places having famine. But we should resist the globalist vision of global government which paves the way for the Antichrist:

Revelation 13:7 – *authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

We should resist the globalist policies seeking to deal with climate change which are really about depopulation and totalitarian control.

Ephesians 5:11 – *have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.*

How is globalism anti-God at its core?

Genesis 11:6 – *the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.*

It is a revival of the spirit behind Babel where the people sought to make their own way to heaven apart from God. The collective mindset has no room for God.

Can Christians be ultra-conservative extremists?

Christians generally tend to be conservative because conservative values line up the closest to a biblical worldview. But adding the prefix "ultra" and calling them "extremists" implies that you can be too conservative.

- It is like saying the problem isn't their religion, it is religious fundamentalism.
- It is like saying you can be too Christian, too biblical.
- It is those fundamentalists who take the Bible literally rather than accept the interpretations of the learned scholars.

Jesus wants us to be extreme in our following Him...

Revelation 3:19 – *Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.*

The definition of zealous is showing great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or objective... sounds pretty extreme to me.

Can Christians be racists?

Certainly professing, “fake” Christians and immature babes-in-Christ Christians can be racists. But as you grow in Christ embracing a biblical world view, it becomes clear that racism is something to repent of. There is only one race, the human race; all human beings are equally created in the image and likeness of God:

Genesis 1:27 – God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Jesus commands us to love one another as He loves us:

John 13:34 – A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you

It was Christian initiatives that ended slavery...

Exodus 21:16 – He who kidnaps a man and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, shall surely be put to death

What is the prophetic significance of the media advancing a narrative that extreme Christianity is the root cause of domestic terrorists?

In general, it is to be expected in a pre-judgment culture:

Isaiah 5:20 – Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Propaganda will only increase and get bolder as we get closer to the end of the Age and the Restraint foreshadows the Tribulation when evil is not restrained.

John 8:44 – the devil... does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him... for he is a liar and the father of [lies].

Increasing frequency and intensity of both deception and persecution are birth pang signs of the end of the Age...

Matthew 24:9-11 – they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake... Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many

This is speaking specifically about Israel during the Tribulation but the principle applies to Christians during the Church Age and it was in the context of birth pangs.

Daniel 7:25 – He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

Certainly, the persecution of God's people is the spirit of Antichrist which is already present during the Church Age (1 Jn 2:18), & will only increase over time.