

Newsbytes

The First Watch

August 15, 2018

No. 885

Since 2001

Newzbytes is a ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

www.ccapleton.org

“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

Fiends in the Heartland

Jim Fletcher

raptureready.com

I've written recently about the “Christ at the Checkpoint” conference that is now opening a branch/front in the U.S. From October 15-18, in Oklahoma City, this diabolical group of anti-Israel, pro PLO narrative activists has now released a speaker's list.

It's a Who's Who of Christian Palestinianists, including Gary Burge, Bob Roberts Jr., the overtly anti-Semitic Stephen Sizer, and Gerald McDermott. The latter is from Beeson Divinity School and is the only participant who is not anti-Israel/anti-Jew. In fact, McDermott has contributed good literature making the case for Christian Zionism.

My quibble with his participation is, as with other CATC conference speakers like Michael Brown, the PLO hacks organizing the event will use his participation as propaganda. As in, “Well, we've invited these Christian Zionist speakers in the interest of fair and balanced.”

The CATC is anything but fair and balanced, though. Theologically and politically, they insert their anti-Jew worldview into the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is of course being mainstreamed within Evangelicalism and, to date, no evangelical leader in America will denounce it.

Not one.

Think about that.

It grieves me that the conference will take place in my hometown. But to give you some historical perspective, Oklahoma City for decades has been home to pro Israel ministries like Southwest Radio Church and Prophecy in the News.

Can I be frank? Ministries like this are slipping in popularity due to the cultural changes we see now sweeping over the land. Noah Hutchings and J.R. Church would have led the fight against CATC in the heartland, but they are gone. That's why the moment is right for hate groups like CATC to infiltrate (invade?) traditional strongholds for Israel.

They're not meeting in New York City or Washington. They are meeting in Oklahoma City. The anti-Israel denomination the United Methodist Church is helping them, and I'm not aware of any pastors or ministries in the area opposing this grotesque conference.

I hope McDermott says some good things, but sadly, this will be seen as more talking-across-the-aisle and dialogue. All the while, from John Hagee to Ronnie Floyd to John MacArthur to Chuck Swindoll to...name several more...no one will condemn this anti-Semitic confab.

Among the other speakers is Bob Roberts Jr., pastor of the (Baptist) NorthWood Church in Keller, TX. Roberts engages in dangerous interfaith dialogue with our enemies, including the Muslim Brotherhood and Iranian imams.

Why is Roberts not called-out by fellow pastors and ministry leaders?

Mae Cannon, now director of Churches for Middle East Peace (an Israel-bashing group), was formerly with World Vision. She has also been, according to the website's bio, "Director of Development and Transformation for Extension Ministries at Willow Creek Community Church (Barrington, Illinois), and as a consultant to the Middle East for child advocacy issues for Compassion International."

Willow Creek? She cut her teeth on anti-Israel activism with Bill and Lynn Hybels. And Compassion? This is how insidious anti-Israel work is within evangelicalism.

Compassion International does terrific work around the world. They bring relief, especially to children. Their efforts are and should be applauded.

But by allowing people like Mae Cannon in the tent, it broadens her reach. When she does have private conversations with people in such organizations, inevitably the Middle East will come up. And inevitably people will hear that Israel brutally occupies the poor, defenseless Palestinians.

Now more of this sludge will be pumped into Middle America, via this conference in October.

Soft dialogue and reaching across the aisle and hesitancy to name names and problems has brought this about.

Pray for Israel, especially during this time, during the conference. Pray for the people who hear these messages, that the Israel-hate speech will not penetrate their hearts.

Oh, you'll understand I'm sure that almost all the speakers at the OKC conference also despise the teaching of Bible prophecy.

This is a spiritual war that is raging.

I will support the Jews with the last breath in my body.

There is so much wrong with this it's hard to know where to start but you will get the general idea. Rick Warren clearly does not get the general idea – MD

Rick Warren Says Saddleback Has Matched the Growth of Church in Acts 2: Just Needs a Few More Baptisms to Pass a History-Making Milestone

Daniel Long / August 9, 2018

Do you want to feel significant, special, important? Then you need to be baptized! But, baptism in any old church won't do! Nope. In order for your baptism to be really special, you need to be baptized at one of the twenty Saddleback Campuses.

Why?

First, because "no other church in America," or quite possibly the world, has done what Saddleback has done! Saddleback is the modern-day church of Acts 2.

Acts 2:47 "...praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

Yep! Every day 3.6 people have been baptized at Saddleback since the church started in 1980, making Saddleback the modern-day church of Acts.

And second, you could be the lucky 50,000th person to be baptized at Saddleback! Think about it! What an amazing, faith building, assurance bringing, God must be for me, Now I have a purpose feeling being baptized at Saddleback would bring!! Why, you'll go down in History!

Not sure if you believe it? Here's the News Letter to prove it:

August 1, 2018

Dear Saddleback Family,

The first church began in Jerusalem, 2000 years ago. It grew very rapidly.

Acts 2:47 tells us "EVERY DAY the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." Think about that. Daily!

That means, at the very least, one person a day was saved and baptized. (That church grew a minimum of 365 new members every year.)

Not many churches could match that kind of growth. But Saddleback has! For 38 years, this phrase "Every day the Lord added to their number" has been true of our church family.

Since beginning on Easter, 1980, our church has baptized three to four people every single day since then. (Precisely 3.6 people every day)

NOW: On the weekend of August 11-12, our church will pass a history-making milestone: Someone that weekend will be our 50,000th baptism!



This is a miracle of God's life-transforming power. No other church in America has done this. It will be big news!

That weekend, every Saddleback Campus will be baptizing after every service. Of course, we'll photograph every baptism and then figure out from each campus, what individual, couple, or family was the 50,000th baptism. IT COULD BE YOU!

Here's how I need your help:

First, watch this brief video about baptism here.

Second, sign up to be baptized here.

Third, forward this to friends or family and invite them to be baptized on this historic day! It will be a huge celebration!

Pastor Rick

Dr. Rick Warren

Saddleback Church

Global P.E.A.C.E. Plan

P.s. THIS WEEKEND I'm teaching on "When You Feel Like You've Lost Everything" part 2 of my series "How God Turns Setbacks into Comebacks."

You'll learn what a man named Job did when everything fell apart in his life, how God turned it all around, and how Job's life, after his comeback, was twice as good as before his setback.

You can be sure that YOU will have setbacks in your days ahead: health setbacks, financial setbacks, relational setbacks, and setbacks in many other areas. Will you know what to do? Don't miss this transforming, skill-building series! You can watch Part 1 "When You've Had a Business Setback" here.

Already baptized? That's ok! Since baptism doesn't really do anything your invited to come and be baptized again! Here's Rick to tell you all about it (video available at <http://longfortruth.com/2018/08/rick-warren-says-saddleback-has-matched-the-growth-of-church-in-acts-2-just-needs-a-few-more-baptisms-to-pass-a-history-making-milestone/>)

Now, you might be thinking, "But wait a minute. If I get baptized, I might become like one of those radical Christians I hear about, always concerned about things like going to church every week, reading the Bible, praying, killing sin (even the little ones), looking for ways to love and to share Christ with their neighbors, etc."

But don't worry! At Saddleback, you won't get the Biblical Gospel! None of that wrath of God, you're a sinner, repentance, and faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins talk here! The Saddleback gospel is all about purpose!

US - Turkey Relations at Crossroads, Erdowan Warns of New Friends in Eastern Places

Turkish president threatens to sever ties with Washington, seek out new allies

BY CHARLES BYBELEZER/THE MEDIA LINE General Assembly in New York, U.S., Septembe. (photo credit: KEVIN LAMARQUE)

In an apparent bid to circumvent the Trump administration and appeal directly to the American public, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan this weekend published an op-ed in the New York Times, titled, "How Turkey Sees the Crisis With the US" In it, he warned that the ongoing dispute between the NATO allies could lead to the dissolution of ties and a shift eastwards by Ankara.

"Washington must give up the misguided notion that our relationship can be asymmetrical and come to terms with the fact that Turkey has alternatives," Erdogan threatened in his article. "Failure to reverse this trend of unilateralism and disrespect will require us to start looking for new friends and allies."

The diplomatic row, which has gradually intensified over the years, recently boiled over ostensibly due to Turkey's detention for nearly two years of American pastor Andrew Brunson. Ankara claims that Brunson has ties to the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has waged a decades-long insurgency against the Turkish government; as well as to the so-called Gulenist movement, which Erdogan blames for a failed coup in 2016.

The Turkish president repeatedly has voiced displeasure over Washington's tepid response to the attempted mutiny and subsequent refusal to extradite Fethullah Gulen, who lives in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania. Erdogan also has on numerous occasions publicly rued over the US' cooperation in Syria with the Kurdish YPG, which Ankara views as an extension of the PKK.

For its part, Washington is uneasy by Erdogan's massive crackdown on civil society, accompanied by the progressive Islamization of the country's institutions; his vocal support for the Muslim Brotherhood—including its Palestinian offshoot, the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip—which has been blacklisted by most American allies in the Arab world; and, among other things, his alleged facilitation of the operations of the Islamic State as well as efforts to circumvent US sanctions on behalf of Iran.

The bilateral spat sparked global anxieties when President Donald Trump last Friday hiked tariffs on the import of Turkish aluminum and steel, precipitating the lira's free-fall. The Turkish currency has plummeted about 20 percent since then, reaching a new low overnight Sunday against the American dollar. This, in turn, has caused shock waves across markets in Europe and Asia, with banks on both continents at risk due to their exposure to Turkey's economy.

In response, Erdogan accused the White House of waging an economic war against Ankara in the form of an "underhand plot." This, despite Turkey's pre-existing poor economic outlook, with inflation in the debt-ridden country at an estimated 15 percent and as investors charge the government with prohibiting the central bank from raising interest rates, perceived as further evidence of creeping authoritarianism.

According to Dr. Christopher Phillips, Associate Fellow at the London-based Chatham House think-tank and an expert on Turkish foreign policy, Erdogan has for years used confrontations with external actors as a means of deflecting blame away from his own internal failings.

"Erdogan clearly has a loyal base," he related to The Media Line, "which has stuck with him even during

a clampdown on civil liberties. The Turkish economy has been struggling for some time, but this also has not detracted from his support. One suspects that Erdogan's followers will continue to take him at his word when he pins the crisis on Trump, who has shown hostility."

As such, Dr. Philips deems it unlikely that Erdogan will reverse course. "An economist would tell him to make amends regarding the American pastor so that the financial penalties go away. This would [mitigate] the immediate shocks and Ankara could then focus on the harder-to-fix problems such as high inflation and deep debt. But this is what happens when power is concentrated in the hands of one person. It would require a huge climb down on Erdogan's part."

The question, then, is how far both sides might be willing to go.

"Many leaders are sometimes ready to endure pain in order to achieve something more important to them," Dr. Alon Liel, formerly the head of Israel's mission in Turkey and thereafter director general of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, explained to The Media Line. "In this case, Erdogan is willing to damage the economy in order to have Fethullah Gulen extradited, as he views this movement as a threat to Turkey's future. This extends well beyond the row with the U.S., as Erdogan has arrested tens of thousands of 'Gulenists' involved not only in the economy but all aspects of society."

While Dr. Liel noted that the "US is in every way much stronger than Turkey," he nevertheless suggests that President Trump may, somewhat paradoxically, be more constrained than his counterpart. "Erdogan is a populist whose regime is stable and there are no elections upcoming. So he can afford politically to have some damage to the economy and he can take things much further. Trump is in a different situation as he has strong democratic opposition and a lot of turmoil surrounding his administration. He also has partial conflicts with Europe, China and a big one with Iran. So I do not know if Trump can afford to lose Turkey."

Still others believe that this eventuality is, in fact, an inevitability, as Erdogan increasingly transforms Turkey in his own image. Notably, after the U.S. last week imposed sanctions on Ankara, Erdogan's first call was to Moscow. In fact, Turkey's long-discussed ascension to the European Union is, in the eyes of many, a less likely outcome today than the country being kicked out of NATO for purchasing Russian air defense systems.

As such, while relations with the US may ultimately superficially improve, it appears that Erdogan's break from the West is liable to accelerate.

Archaeologists Find 2,200-Year-Old Gold Earring in Jerusalem Parking Lot

by ISRAEL21c | 08.14.18

Did you ever find a shiny penny in a public parking lot and think "this is my lucky day?" That must have been how archaeologists digging in the Givati parking lot outside Jerusalem's Old City felt when they discovered a rare golden earring dating back to the second or third century BCE.

The 2,200-year-old earring – a tiny gold filigree piece from Jerusalem's Hellenistic era – was discovered during an archeological dig in the lot next to the City of David National Park.

The hoop earring bears the head of a horned animal, possibly an antelope or deer. Excavators also found nearby a gold bead with intricate embroidered ornamentation resembling a thin rope pattern.



While the earring's owner and gender are a mystery, archaeologists are sure that it "definitely belonged to Jerusalem's upper class. This can be determined by the proximity to the Temple Mount and the Temple, which was functional at the time, as well as the quality of the gold piece of jewelry."

Filigree is a jewelry-making technique in which threads and tiny metal beads are used to create

delicate and complex patterns. Ariel Polokoff and Adi Erlich from the archeological department at the University of Haifa explained that this type of earring first appeared in Greece during the early Hellenistic period. Similar earrings have been found across the Mediterranean basin but rarely in Israel.

"Up until now, only a few such earrings have been found in Israel, many of them in the coastal region," said Prof. Yuval Gadot of Tel Aviv University, who led the excavation along with Yiftah Shalev of the Israel Antiquities Authority. "This is the first time such an earring has been found in Jerusalem inside of archeological ruins from that time."

During the second and third centuries BCE, the City of David was part of a Hellenistic vassal state under semi-autonomous Jewish rule. That rule ended with the Maccabean Revolt in 167 BCE. The era was described in detail by historian Flavius Josephus in his book *Antiquities of the Jews* but until now there has been little physical evidence in Jerusalem.

The earring was found underneath the parking lot, inside a building unearthed during the excavation. That too was an important discovery. "Hardly any remains of buildings [can] be accurately dated to [the Hellenistic] period," Shalev said. The excavation findings "open a window to what Jerusalem was like during the early Hellenistic period."

The jewelry will be on display at the City of David's annual archeological conference at the beginning of September.