

Bible Prophecy Update – August 1st, 2021

Update Links

“NEW” MOBILE APPS/TV - <https://subsplash.com/calvarychapelkaneohe/app>

- Tracking Bible Prophecy, July 2021 Headlines:

http://www.trackingbibleprophecy.org/birthpangs_jul2021.php

- California is moving towards vaccine passports. In Hawaii, it was a mess, SFG:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/california-is-moving-towards-vaccine-passports-in-hawaii-it-was-a-mess/ar-AAMBM57>

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Do Not Be Afraid

JD Farag

Good morning and welcome to our weekly Bible Prophecy Update. On Sunday mornings we have two services, the first of which is devoted to Bible prophecy and the Second Service is our verse-by-verse teaching, really the sermon, and we're currently in the Book of Hebrews in our verse-by-verse study. And today it is going to be Chapter 7, Lord willing. I want to emphasize Lord willing, and I have titled today's teaching, "Only Jesus." Only Jesus.

We just got done singing that, right? Only Jesus is the answer to everything and anything we face in our lives today, and that's what we're going to talk about. That will be live streamed at 11:15 a.m. Hawaii time.

Also, for those of you that are on Facebook or YouTube, we do want to encourage you to go directly to JDFarag.org because there you'll be able to watch the uncensored entirety of the update as it will only be available for viewing on the site. Okay, today's update is a message of hope. And I want to share with you a promise from God's Word as to why it is that we should not be afraid. We should never fear.

We should never be discouraged. We continue to receive voluminous prayer requests from people both locally and online as well who are really struggling, very fearful, full of fear and riddled with anxiety concerning all that is happening and all that is now coming against us. It seems that with each passing day, it is getting worse and worse.

That's almost not hyperbole; I wish it was, but it is having this effect of filling many people with anxiety and fear. And this need not be. It's my hope and my prayer that all of us, myself included by the way, I know I've shared very candidly, very openly with you how I do struggle with anxiety and fear, and I am walking in victory. But it's still a struggle for me. This is kind of my default.

I am very prone to worry. I am a worrier. God has done a profound work in my life, but actually, I have a PhD - I don't know if you knew that or not. Don't call me Dr. Farag, but I have a Ph.D. in worry. So I know what I am talking about when it comes to worry.

But today's update is a message of encouragement. And I pray that it brings with it renewed hope in the face of this threatening uncertainty, and certainly, it is threatening and certainly, it is an uncertainty. You can be certain of the uncertainty. In order to do that I will kindly ask that you join me in the Book of 2nd Chronicles and the 20th chapter.

This chapter in God's Word, God has used in my life over the years through some very difficult times and has used it in a powerful way during those times, and I really would like to share with you that which I believe the Lord has for us today. Let me give you a real quick back story of what's happening and what's going down here.

So King Jehoshaphat, a good king, one of only eight in Judah that did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. All the other kings particularly in the northern tribes of Israel all did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord. There were only eight good kings of which it was said they did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and King Jehoshaphat is one of them.

So he has just received word of this threat of a vast army that is coming against them in great numbers from all sides and in every direction. So we pick it up in verse 3. "Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah" [stop right there].

You know there's something to be said about those times where it is not just prayer, but prayer and fasting. I think about Jesus when He was asked by the disciples about why they were unable to cast

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this demon out of this boy. He very explicitly said, "This only comes out by prayer and fasting." And sometimes it takes both. Both prayer and fasting are a humbling of one's self before the Lord, surrendering oneself to the Lord, completely relying upon the Lord. That is what praying and fasting is and does.

So verse 4, "The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed they came from every town in Judah to seek Him.

Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard and said: "Lord, [this is his prayer now as he's crying out to the Lord] Lord, the God of our ancestors, are You not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can withstand You.

Our God [verse 7] did You not drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham Your friend? They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for Your Name saying, "If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment or plague or famine, we will stand in Your presence before this temple that bears Your Name and will cry out to You in our distress, and You will hear us and save us."

But now here are men from Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, whose territory You would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt, so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession You gave us as an inheritance?

Our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

Wow! That's the best way to pray. Lord, You know the threat against us. You know what's coming against us. We don't know what to do, Lord. But our eyes are on You.

Dare I say this is music to the ears of Almighty God. He longs to hear that. I almost, and you'll forgive the silliness with which I illustrate this, but I almost picture God in Heaven saying wait, stop. Did you really just say that and pray that?

Yeah.

Did you just say you don't know what to do?

Yeah.

Did you just pray that your eyes are on Me?

Yeah.

Watch Me now.

It's a scary place to be, but it's the best place to be. This is what Jehoshaphat prays, and then after he cries out to the Lord, this is important, he has all the men along with their wives and even their children to stand before the Lord, to hear the word of the Lord.

Listen, parents, it is so important. I think we do err greatly when we do not involve our children during those times when we're seeking the Lord so that they can witness firsthand what God will do. They need to see it. I mean we can try to teach them and certainly, we need to teach them and train

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them in the ways of the Lord, the fear and the admonition of the Lord, but here's the thing as one so aptly put it: It's not so much what's taught as much as it is what caught. I think it is so important for children to watch their parents pray.

Let me say it this way; I hope this doesn't jam anybody's gears, but I think our kids need to catch us in the act of praying. Don't look at me like that; you know what I was going to say. They need to walk in on us on our face praying to the Lord because see, this is what that teaches them.

This is what you do when adversity strikes. This is what you do when you don't know what to do. You cry out to the Lord. This is how mom and dad deal with conflict and adversity and problems and trials and pain and suffering. That's what you teach them.

So all of the children, all of the families; imagine this scene now. They're all there waiting with bated breath to hear what the Lord is going to say to them concerning this vast army that is coming against them.

And here is what is interesting. This Spirit of the Lord comes upon a Levite by the name of Jahaziel. The Spirit of the Lord does not come upon a prophet which you would think He would, but He doesn't. Why is that important? Because sometimes God will speak into your life through someone you don't think He will speak into your life through.

Let me try that again; I'll say the same thing in a different way. Here you're looking for the Levite, the priestly service in the temple, the tabernacle prior, and you fully expect that it's going to come from either a Levite or a prophet, pardon me, a prophet and not a Levite, but instead it comes through this guy by the name of Jahaziel? He's got a word from the Lord and the Spirit of the Lord, him?

No way!

Way!

Maybe what I'm trying to say is be very careful when it comes to this because God may use a Jahaziel, someone that you would never think to have the Spirit of the Lord come upon to speak into your life. Don't dismiss it and don't dismiss them.

So what does he say? Verse 15, "He said, "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army [and here's why]. For the battle is not yours, but God's.'"

Really?

Yeah.

Well, then I've got nothing to worry about.

Exactly.

I don't need to be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army, this threat against me because God is going to fight the battle for me. Where do I sign?

You don't need to sign. He already signed it in His blood.

"Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up

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your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.”

I believe that this is what the Spirit is saying to the church today: This battle belongs to the Lord! Now that's not to say that there aren't those times when God will have us to fight the battle in order to gain the victory. There are numerous accounts of the Israelites having to go into battle in order to possess the Promised Land that God had given them.

However, the victory will always come as a result of crying out to the Lord and even beginning to sing and praise the Lord in advance. Stay with me because that's what they do.

We pick it up in verse 21. "After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise Him for the splendor of His holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever.”

[wait a minute, they haven't got the victory yet]

They're already thanking God? They're already giving God the glory? They haven't been delivered yet. They haven't been given the victory yet.

No, that is the whole point. Listen to verse 22.

"As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. When? When they began to sing and praise the Lord in advance.

Again, you'll forgive the illustration. It's the best I got; if you've got a better one, let me know afterwards. But I just imagine God in Heaven when we do this going, wait, ssh, you guys, quiet.

Are they really singing and praising and thanking Me for the victory that I haven't even given them yet? Yeah. Oh, watch Me now. Watch Me now.

See that's called faith. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen. They haven't seen it. They have not yet been given it, but they believed by faith, and they have evidence; that's a very strong word. Can I add forensic evidence by faith that God will do what He said He will do?

And so they praise Him before the victory, and I'll add when they began to sing and praise Him, that is when the victory came. I want to bring up the Red Sea experience. I think there is another takeaway here from that experience.

So you've got the Israelites, right? They have just been delivered miraculously times 10 out of slavery in Egypt. And that tenth plague was particularly intense because it involved the death of the firstborn son unless you have the blood of an innocent lamb found to be without spot or blemish after inspecting it for four days, the number of days that Jesus, the Lamb of God, the Passover lamb was on trial and found to be without sin, without blemish.

And then the Israelites were told to slay that lamb at a particular and specific hour and time, which was the exact hour and time that Jesus was crucified. And they were to take the blood of that lamb and they were to put it on the doorpost of their house, and they would put it on the top. There was a basin down below, and on each side in the shape of a cross, by the way, so that when the angel of death came, it would pass over them.

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Why? Because they had the blood of the Lamb. Do you see that picture, you see that prophecy, you connect those dots, right? Okay, now they have just experienced that and all of the other things that God did prior, all of the nine plagues. They saw that. They witnessed that.

And then here is the tenth plague and then they're able to leave the slavery there in Egypt because God delivered them out of Egypt. And I mean they're rejoicing and praising God and oh, it is easy to praise God after. And then all of a sudden, they find themselves at this place called the Red Sea, not the Reed Sea.

I love it when the so-called experts, critics, Bible critics say well, that was a phenomenon known in that day and at that time and at that area where high winds would come up, it's very shallow there, there's a land crossing, and that's how they were able to cross.

There's no miracle here; to which I would say really? That's even a bigger miracle because we're told that God drowned the Egyptians in that shallow water you were saying wasn't a miracle. I love it when God does that that way so there is no mistaking.

I have a point here; just hang in there with me.

So here they are; they have just been delivered out of Egypt and now they come to the Red Sea and what do they do? Don't be too hard on them because they did what you and I would do if we were there. I think it is so easy for us to think and fancy ourselves as, I would never do that. Man, if I was delivered out of slavery in Egypt the way God delivered them, and I got to the Red Sea, I wouldn't complain and murmur.

Oh, yes, you would. You'd be right at the front of the line behind me because I'd be right there. And it's the murmuring and the complaining is like this: oh, were there not enough graves in Egypt that God had to bring us out here to kill us?

Now at that point if I'm God, and this is just the beginning by the way, well, that's why I'm not God and I'm not even going to bother because I would have just said okay, have it your way. You really think of Me like that, that I would go through all of that, deliver you, and then kill you? You really think that? Apparently, they did.

So God says to Moses, I want you to take your rod and I am going to part this Red Sea, and there's going to be walls on each side and there's going to be dry ground. And if I'm one of the Israelites, I am thinking to myself I think God wants us to go this way.

This is pretty clear, I call it Red Sea clear. Because see, the problem is I have got the Egyptians right behind me, and God is keeping them away by way of a pillar of fire, and I got the Red Sea in front of me, and I'm looking at the situation, this scenario, and I don't know what to do because this way I'm killed by the Egyptians. This way I am drowned in the Red Sea.

Well, maybe God has a different way. What a novel idea. God's ways are not our ways. I mean, here we are thinking it's got to be either/or and God's like how about neither? Lord, open this door. I don't want to use a door. I want to use a window. In fact, I don't even need a window; I'll come to the wall if I want.

So they walk across dry ground and the Egyptians in hot pursuit. Once every Israelite had crossed and then He brings the water down and He drowns them. Now they're on the other side of the Red Sea having just witnessed yet another miracle to add to their miracles.

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And now, they start singing. Oh, praise the Lord!

Oh, you weren't saying that on the other side! You were accusing Him of wanting to kill you. You weren't singing then. Oh, it is easy to sing on the other side.

You know a while back I heard a teaching titled 'Right Song, Wrong Side'. That speaks to this. Oh, they were singing the right song praising the Lord, but they sang that song on the wrong side of that trial, that Red Sea before them.

Not here. They're singing the right song on the right side.

See, we can sing and praise the Lord after He delivers us sometimes in a miraculous way; I get that. I've been on the receiving end of that so many times, and I praise the Lord.

But those praising of the Lord times are more out of relief than they are of faith. And as we're going to see in Hebrews coming up, without faith, it is impossible to please God. That means that with faith, it is possible to please God. I don't think there is a one of us here that doesn't want to please God. I want to please God.

How do I please God?

Oh, faith.

Throughout the Gospels so many times there is this emphasis in the record, in the account that Jesus takes notice of someone who has faith. I mean He stops everything and points it out. "I've never seen faith like this in all of Israel." And the healing would take place, the deliverance would take place, the miracle would take place.

Here's the point. You're in a situation right now; you've got the Egyptians behind you, and you got the Red Sea in front of you.

No, God did not bring you here to kill you. There were plenty of graves in Egypt, by the way, just so you know. Egypt, a type of the world incidentally. God has delivered you out of the world, slavery to sin, and you're free in Christ and whom the Son sets free is free indeed.

But now you've got some trials. You've got some battles; you got a situation that's looking pretty threatening. What are you going to do? May I humbly suggest that you begin to praise the Lord in advance.

Now this is one of those times where I can hear the voice, not from you, actually my wife: Preacher, practice what you preach.

Okay. I've done this. I tried this. I was facing a very difficult situation that by any stretch of the imagination was absolutely impossible. And I honestly did not know how God was going to do it. And I even took the liberty of instructing God, giving Him some suggestions and ideas on how He should resolve the situation.

Do you do that?

It's called directional prayers when you pray and give God directions on how to answer the prayer. Thankfully, He doesn't take my instructions because His ways are so much better.

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So here I am facing the situation and I just said okay, Lord, I don't know how You're going to do it. By the way, I didn't sing it. That would be horrible. But I was praising Him. And I said thank you, Lord. I praise You, Lord in advance for what You're going to do.

I don't know - I don't know what to do, but my eyes are on You because You know what to do. And I don't know what You're going to do or how You're going to do it or when You're going to do it; right now would be good. Please don't take too long. Something about that 11th hour that God seems to be attracted to. You're like man, I am just barely keeping my head above water.

And it's like the Lord's saying, I want to do a miracle. I want you to breathe underwater. How about that?

And I just started praising Him. And you know the most interesting thing happened. I began to change from the inside out. And I did this, and I know there are people who might think this is - I try to do it when I'm by myself, but I do it out loud.

You know if you're in the car in you're talking to the Lord, and you pull up to a stop light, people are going to think you're one of them. Look at this guy. He's talking to himself; he shouldn't be on the road.

No, I am talking to the Lord, and I do it audibly, audibly. I praise you, Lord; I thank you, Lord. I know the victory is mine, the battle is Yours. And I thank you so much Lord for what you're going to do, and I cannot wait to see how You are going to do this because this is going to be good. This is going to be good.

And that is when He responds with okay, watch Me now. And He does it. He does it.

And it's kind of interesting because when He does it, even after He does it, you're like I can't believe He did that! It is kind of like - what is this - reverse un-faith?

You had the faith before, and then I did it and it's like you can't believe it. Really?

This is a miracle.

I know!

This was impossible!

I know; I'm the God of the impossible!

Okay, Pastor, where are you going with this?

Well, I want to start out this way because of the similarities between what they faced then and what we're facing now. And like with them then, so too can we now turn our eyes on the Lord, cry out to the Lord. And in advance, praise and thank the Lord this side of the Red Sea that you're facing.

If and when we do this, the Lord will hearken unto the voice of our cry. He will be with us. This is His promise to us as we take our position and stand firm, we can face tomorrow. Do not worry about tomorrow, Jesus said. Sufficient unto the day are the worries therein. I wish He didn't say it like that.

Some of the translations render it like that because especially for worriers, and you know who you are, don't worry about tomorrow; I wish He would stop right there. I wish there was a period, but

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there's not; there's like a comma. Because tomorrow has enough worries to worry about. They'll be there for you tomorrow.

Like I was okay when You said don't worry about tomorrow, but now You just got done telling me that tomorrow my worries will be waiting for me when I wake up. Yeah. I love how one said it: Today is the tomorrow that you worried about yesterday. I'll give you some time. I know it's early.

Today is the tomorrow that you worried about yesterday. See I told you I had a Ph.D. in worry. I know what I'm talking about. I am a professional, man. I was so good at worrying if I ran out of things to worry about, I would ask you if there was something I could worry about for you.

It's been said that worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but you don't get anywhere. It accomplishes absolutely nothing, and that's what Jesus said in Matthew 6.

How are you going to add a cubit to your stature or any more hair to your head - never mind on that one - by worrying? It's not going to accomplish anything. In fact, not only will it not accomplish anything, it can have a very destructive effect physiologically.

Research has shown that it affects your digestive system, your teeth, your hair. That explains it right there. Certainly, your cardiovascular system, nervous system.

When we praise the Lord and look to the Lord and cry out to the Lord, what will ensue is what always ensues: The anxiety and fear will be replaced with a peace that surpasses all understanding. We're going to talk a little bit more about this peace in our study in Hebrews Chapter 7 today, but I want to draw your attention to Philippians Chapter 4, 2 verses, verses 6-7.

The Apostle Paul is writing, and I am going to paraphrase it. You know this verse well. He basically says here's how to worry about no thing. Pray about everything and thank God for anything.

That's how you'll worry about no thing because when you do that, the peace of God which transcends human understanding, kind of goes over your head, that supernatural peace that surpasses human understanding, and it will guard your heart and your mind through Christ Jesus. See, there's a dynamic that takes place. This is how God designed us, by the way. He made us this way.

I always get a kick out of when secular scientists and researchers spend all of this money on research and say, you know people who meditate don't have as much stress. I'm like dude, that is Philippians 4:6-7. Get your own material man. How many millions of dollars did you spend on that research? It is right here.

Laughter is medicine. People who laugh are healthier. Dude, that's Proverbs. Stop already!

See, God knows that we're all prone to this, and as our loving Heavenly Father, He doesn't want us to live like this because of who He is.

Again, Jesus in Matthew 6, and I don't want to take too much more time on this; I've got more I've got to get to, but He said you're created in God's image, and you have a Father in Heaven who loves you, a Father in Heaven that will feed the birds and clothe these flowers that were not made in His image.

Why are you worrying so much? You have a Father that will take care of you. He loves you.

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And He doesn't want you - how about you as a parent or even a grandparent, you want to see your kids or grandkids live like that? Can you imagine - again, it's just an illustration.

If you have a better one, I'm very open to it, see me after, but I was just thinking to myself if when my children were little, I cannot even imagine what it would be like for them to come home after school one day just, I mean, biting their nails down to the nubs, looking at me with just a look of stress and fear and anxiety and worry, Baba, are we going to be able to pay this month's rent? I can't sleep. I can't think. I can't concentrate. I can't do my schoolwork, my homework. I'm so worried!

I want my child to live like that? No. I'm going to provide for you.

How much more our Heavenly Father? Well, this brings me to what I wanted to share with you. It's kind of preemptive in a way. We need to stand on the promises of God, and in advance, lift up our praises to God if we're to have any hope with the days that lie ahead with what's coming.

So I want to expound on this further, but at this time, we'll end the live stream on YouTube and Facebook and direct you to JDFarag.org, if you're not already there.

So I usually start on Tuesday preparing the Prophecy Update. Wednesday I have a better idea of what direction I'm going. I want to finish the first draft, then I end up revising it. It takes about four days to do one Prophecy Update now with everything that's happening as fast as it's happening.

So you know Monday's are usually the midweek. We're in the Book of Isaiah. And then Tuesday mornings are the prep for the Hebrews teaching Second Service on Sunday, and then usually the rest of the week is devoted to the Prophecy Update.

So I go through the newsfeed, see what's going on. And I started doing what I usually do, and I was just stopped dead in my tracks because there was no way. I thought well, maybe I'll quote this, refer to that, link to that, and get here, and it was like man, if you do that, it will take you until next Tuesday because there is just that much.

So just the headlines tell the story. So I want to just share with you just the headlines from just the last few days this last week.

- DOJ declares vaccine mandates legal.
- The floodgates have opened for vaccine mandates.
- 'A tipping point': Government officials, health groups move to require coronavirus vaccines for workers.
- De Blasio proclaims 'voluntary phase is over' on COVID-19 vaccines.
- NYC Mayor de Blasio Pushes for Vaccine Mandates - 'We Have to Put Pressure on This Situation'.
- CNN's Lemon: Unvaccinated Should Not Be Allowed in Supermarkets, Ball Games, or Work.
- Behar: Next Step Is 'Threats' for Unvaccinated - They Are Taking Away My 'Freedom to Not Get Sick'.
- Vaccines Passports and Health Social Credit Score [did you catch that] a 'Slippery Slope' to Tyranny, says Baker.
- Montclair city employees who go maskless will have to wear stickers declaring vaccination.

[Is it going to be on the arm? Is it going to be yellow?]

- Leading medical groups urge mandatory vaccinations for all health care workers.

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- V.A. Issues Vaccine Mandate for Health Care Workers, a First for a Federal Agency.
- This is interesting: CDC Seems To Tacitly Admit PCR Tests Can't Differentiate Between COVID and the Flu. [We've talked about that before]

By the way, the guy who discovered this test and patented it died under mysterious circumstances shortly after this whole thing started, just so you know.

- Rahm Emanuel: We Must Make COVID Vaccinations 'Reward-Punishment System'.
- Georgia restaurant will refuse service for unvaccinated people after breakthrough infections among fully vaccinated staff.

[Just a minute; I will have to get back to you on that one]

- Merkel aide says unvaccinated may face restrictions in Germany.
- French parliament approves restaurant COVID pass and vaccine rules despite protests.
- COVID pass will be required for access to Italy's museums, movie theaters and other venues.
- 'Draghi [if I'm pronouncing it his name correctly] Like Hitler': Protesters slam Italian PM for introducing COVID health pass, call it discriminatory.
- Protesters Rage Across Europe As Lockdown, Vaccination Mandates Begin.
- Restaurants tell customers, 'No vax, no service' as delta variant spreads.
- Celebs, Pundits, Politicians Shame Unvaccinated Americans: 'Selfish'.
- CDC Demands 'Vaccinated Americans Help Save the Unvaccinated from Themselves'. [Really?]
- Dershowitz: Courts Will Likely Back Mandatory COVID Shots.
- Google postpones return to work until October, will require vaccinations.
- Facebook requiring U.S. employees to be vaccinated to return to work.
- Netflix Mandates Vaccinations for All Actors on US Productions.
- Bioethicist: Emergency Use Authorization Vaccine Mandate 'Crossing Lines' [you'll be hearing a lot more about this, by the way].
- CDC Director: Vaccine Passports 'May Very Well Be a Path Forward' in US.
- [And this was an OP-ED piece] Coming Soon: America's 'Social Credit' System?
- Vaccine passports may have to be consistent so that all countries can recognize them, expert says.
- Newsom vows California will have the 'strongest vaccine verification system in the US as mandate is announced.

Well, this brings me to one that I need to quote from. It is from the SF Gate on Tuesday with the headline, "California is moving towards vaccine passports. In Hawaii, it was a mess." [can I get an amen?]

- Quoting, "California Governor Gavin Newsom has refused to call the state's digital COVID-19 vaccination verification system a "vaccine passport," but as more and more businesses across the state require customers to show proof of vaccination for entry, several health experts believe the state is headed for a "soft" vaccine passport system. The one state where a version of "vaccine passports" has been implemented on a relatively wide scale is Hawaii, a major tourism hub that sees millions of visitors per year from the mainland. It did not go well. [that's an understatement]

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In early July, Hawaii launched its "Safe Travels Program," which allows incoming travelers to skip a quarantine period or get a negative test in favor of showing proof of vaccination. According to local TV reports, the program's first day at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport was a mess.

Under the program, travelers were required to submit images of their vaccination cards to the Safe Travels website ahead of time. Once travelers arrived at the airport, the wait time for screening lines was reported to last more than an hour, and finger-pointing ensued.

"They said about 90% of the cards that were submitted through Safe Travels had not been reviewed by Hawaii yet," a traveler told KHON2.

Meanwhile, the state said that 70% of travelers did not follow instructions properly when uploading their cards. Originally, Hawaii only allowed images of the official CDC cards to be uploaded but later allowed vaccination records from any health care provider or hospital.

"Uploading the vaccine card is not easy. And unless you're tech savvy, regardless, seniors are having a hard time uploading the carry card, or the phone features don't have that feature to upload the card or vaccine card," Bob Burr, the operations manager for the agency behind the Safe Travels, told KITV4. [you know where this is going, right?]

California has no imminent plans to implement vaccine passports for travel, but Hawaii's challenges with the Safe Travels system raise some questions about California's digital system.

If restaurants, bars, sports venues, and other businesses considering vaccine passports opt to use the state's digital system, it seems highly unlikely the state will be able to quickly and efficiently process the influx of vaccinated individuals seeking their digital cards, thus creating another Hawaii airport situation. [how does that make you feel being the poster child for the nation of what not to do and how it shouldn't work?]

The other major lesson for California relates to how unvaccinated individuals may react to businesses requiring proof of vaccination for entry. Oahu bars and restaurants operating at full capacity were ordered to ask customers to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result within the prior 48 hours for entry, and Hawaii News Now reported that establishments were subsequently "eaten alive" by customers unhappy with the policy.

The one development that could possibly make California's vaccine passport foray different from Hawaii's is [listen to this] full FDA approval of the COVID-19 vaccines, which would theoretically remove remaining excuses for not being vaccinated.

Rutherford expects full approval sometime in the fall. [did you hear that?] "Once it's not only an emergency use approval, certain people who have been hesitant can then move forward, and the vaccine is more easily mandated.

"The reason places like the United States military haven't mandated the vaccine is because it's not fully approved. Once it is, people can start pushing buttons and making it happen."

It's only a matter of time before said buttons are pushed making all of this happen, and it's really already happening. But God will deliver us. That is His promise to us. He will do this for us. We, like Jehoshaphat, do not have any power to face this in and of ourselves, and if you're anything like me and I suspect that you are, you too don't know what you're going to do, but our eyes are on the Lord.

And not only are our eyes on the Lord, but we cry out to the Lord, and perhaps more importantly, in advance we can thank the Lord for the victory that is ours as His people, as He promised in His Word. You be encouraged. Do not be afraid. God's got this. Let Him. Let Him. Look to Him. Wait for Him. Praise Him. Thank Him. And then watch what He's going to do.

Bible Prophecy Update - August 1, 2021

Do Not Be Afraid

JD Farag

I can assure you on the authority of God's Word and I can also testify personally from my own experiences God will see you through this. God will deliver you from this. This battle belongs to the Lord.

Now everything I've shared only applies to those who have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. And if you're here today or watching online and you have never trusted the Lord and come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, all of these promises, everything I've shared, all of the encouragement, it doesn't apply unless and until you come to the Lord, come to Jesus.

This is why we do these updates weekly and have for many years. That's the purpose. It's to get Jesus to people and people to Jesus as fast as we can because there is no more time. We're in the last moments of world history as we know it and the next event on God's prophetic clock is the rapture of the church, and it can happen at any time. It is imminent.

This is why we end with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news of salvation found in the person of Jesus Christ. And a simple, childlike explanation of salvation by way of the ABC's of Salvation. It's just a simple way to explain how to be saved.

First, the A is for admit or acknowledge that you've sinned against God. You're a sinner and you need a savior. Romans 3:10 says "There is no one righteous, not even one." You might be a good person, you might have a good heart, but you can never be good enough.

And Romans 3:23 tells us why. It's because "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We were all born sinners which is why we must be born-again, Jesus said, to see and enter the kingdom of Heaven.

Romans 6:23 sort of packages the bad news first with the good news, the Gospel. The bad news is that there is a penalty for the sin, and it is the death penalty, "For the wages of sin is death." That's the bad news.

So we've all sinned, and we all had the death penalty pronounced. We are guilty as charged and we've been sentenced to death. That's the bad news.

Here's the good news. The good news is the gift of God, gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. A gift is something that you are given. If you pay for it, it's not a gift; it's a purchase. He purchased that gift and it cost Him everything, and He paid in full with His blood shed in our stead. And that's the good news. He paid the death penalty for us instead of us.

That is the A; here's the B, very simply. In fact, it's even simpler than ABC. It's as simple as B, believe. Believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord.

And as Romans 10:9-10 says, if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. Will be saved. The jury is no longer out. The verdict is in.

And the C lastly is for call upon the name of the Lord or as Romans 10:9-10 also says, "If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, and here's why. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

And lastly, Romans 10:13 seals the deal. This was me 39 years ago. It says all because I am an all because all means all. I know that's deeply profound. "All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

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I called upon the name of the Lord believing in Him, putting my trust in Him for the forgiveness of sins, and I fell asleep praying, and I woke up the next morning and I was a new creation in Christ. The old things had passed away, and I never looked back.

Maybe that's you today. Today is the day of salvation, and I implore you do not put off or delay the most important decision of your life for eternal life.

Okay, lastly, today's ABC's story comes from two sisters in Christ, Jody and Debbie from Montana. "We were so excited to learn about the ABC's of Salvation that we too got on billboard - on board/billboard, play on words. I'll get back to you on that.

They got on board on the billboard.

To share the life-giving good news. The billboard will be displayed in 6 different locations along Highway 93 in the Bitterroot Valley, Montana. But we didn't stop there.

We make up these packets chock full of Good News, and it is our mission to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our community and beyond as the Spirit leads. In each packet is a Gospel of John from the Pocket Testament League and the ABC's of Salvation along with scriptures. We were also led to have magnets made for our vehicles.

I love this!

Whatever it takes and however He leads us, we are His ambassadors. God's blessings to you all!
Your Sisters-in-Christ, Jody and Debbie.

You just never know! We continue to receive e-mails and comments from people that say, you know I was driving along the side of the highway and I saw this billboard with your name on it. Or I have this flyer on my windshield wiper, and I just pulled over and I prayed, and I gave my life to Christ. We will get to meet these people in Heaven. I can't wait.

Why don't you stand, and we will have the worship team come up and we will close in song and prayer. I hope you're encouraged today. Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Fear not. Neither let your heart be troubled.

Maybe for someone that needs to hear this. The Lord is about to do something that you could have never imagined. He is going to do something that is exceedingly abundantly above and beyond anything you could have ever thought of, let alone asked. You just wait on Him and look to Him. And in advance thank Him and see what He will do for you. He loves you so much.

Loving Heavenly Father, we're simply incapable, unable to thank You enough this side of glory. Our only consolation is that we have all of eternity to worship You, praise You, thank You.

But until that time and we believe it's very soon, soon and very soon, we just want to say to you, Lord, thank you. Thank you that we can come to You. Thank you that we can look to you. Thank you that we can rely on You, and thank you Lord that this battle belongs to You. In Jesus' name, amen.