

“[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily,

[to see] whether those things were so.” —Acts 17:11

Christ & Antichrist

Dave Hunt — First published in July 1990

ANTI IS A GREEK prefix that not only means “opposed to” but “in the place of.” Antichrist will indeed *oppose* Christ but in the most diabolically clever way possible: by pretending to *be* Christ. For the world to follow and worship him, a false Christianity must become the world religion—a “Christianity” that all religions can accept and that embraces all religions into “one faith.” Hence the necessity for today’s growing apostasy: to create an apostate church to be the Antichrist’s earthly bride, just as the true church is Christ’s heavenly bride. Such is the important role of the New Age movement and the many accelerating delusions and seductions in these “last days.”

Through a false gospel, false prophets, occultic religious practices and lying “signs and wonders,” today’s churches are being filled with millions who call themselves Christians, but who are not. Left behind at the Rapture, and happy that the “negative” influence of the vanished troublemakers has been removed, they will worship and follow the Antichrist, thinking he is the true Christ and that they have “never had it so good.” An ecumenized “Christianity,” in partnership with all religions, will carry on and prosper even more after the Rapture than before. The unifying factor will be concern for Mother Earth. Working for peace and ecological wholeness will have replaced truth as the basis of Christianity, as the World Council of Churches has already decreed.

Far from being a cop-out invented by those who desire to escape persecution (which could become very severe in America *before* the Rapture), a pretribulation Rapture is essential for a number of reasons: first of all, to remove the true Christians from earth. If they were present when Antichrist was revealed, they would oppose and expose him. Such opposition must be removed in order to give Satan and man, under Antichrist’s leadership, full freedom to prove that this earth can be turned back into a garden paradise without God. The Holy Spirit, who is omnipresent, will still convict and draw many to Christ during the Great Tribulation. The restraining influence, however, that He has wielded in this world through the millions of true Christians, will have suddenly been removed, leaving a moral and spiritual vacuum in homes, neighborhoods, businesses, and schools such as we cannot even imagine.

A pretrib Rapture is also necessary because the Antichrist will be given authority by God “to make war with the saints, and to overcome them” (Rv 13:7). Such a fate could not befall the church,

for Christ said that the “gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt 16:18). Moreover, true Christians have authority and power to “resist the devil” and “he will flee” (Jas 4:7), for “greater is he that is in [us], than he that is in the world” (1 Jn 4:4). So the fact that Antichrist is given power by God “to make war with the saints and to overcome [i.e., kill] them” is proof that the true church is no longer present.

The “saints” mentioned are those who have not heard and rejected the gospel prior to the Rapture and who believe in Christ during the Great Tribulation. They will pay for their faith with their lives. Those who take the mark of the beast suffer the wrath of the Lamb, while those who don’t are slain by Antichrist. Thus

a post-trib rapture would be a classic nonevent, for there would be very few if any surviving believers to be raptured at that time. And surely those Christians who were left alive, seeing the judgment of God poured out upon mankind and earth’s armies gathered for the battle of Armageddon in an attempt to destroy Israel, would know beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Second Coming was about to occur—and would be watching for their Lord to appear. Yet Christ declared that He would return at a time of such ease that even the “five wise virgins” would “slumber and sleep.” He warned, “[F]or in such an hour *as ye think not* the Son of man cometh” (Mt 24:44). Hardly likely in the midst of the greatest tribulation and destruction the world has ever seen or ever will see!

To understand how the stage is being set for the final conflict between Christ and Antichrist, it is helpful to consider some comparisons and contrasts between these two antagonists. First of all, the procession of events is in God’s hands. Although we cannot know the day or hour of our Lord’s return, the Bible does give us many clues as to the general timing of this great occurrence.

There is a precise time for Christ’s second coming just as there was for the first: “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son...” (Gal 4:4). The same is true of the Antichrist. Quite possibly already present in the world and waiting in the wings, this “man of sin” known as “that Wicked [one]” (2 Thes 2:3,8) can only take power when it is God’s time: “And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed *in his time*” (2:6).

Interestingly, the Roman Empire plays an integral part in the timing for the revelation both of God’s Messiah and Satan’s. Ancient Rome set the stage for Christ’s birth: “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed” (Lk 2:1). It was this decree that caused Joseph and Mary to be in Bethlehem so that Christ would be born there in fulfillment of Micah 5:2. And of course He also

AND EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSETH NOT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS NOT OF GOD: AND THIS IS THAT SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST, WHEREOF YE HAVE HEARD THAT IT SHOULD COME; AND EVEN NOW ALREADY IS IT IN THE WORLD.

YE ARE OF GOD, LITTLE CHILDREN, AND HAVE OVERCOME THEM: BECAUSE GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU, THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD.

—1 John 4:3-4

had to be executed during the time of the Roman Empire, which introduced crucifixion, in order to fulfill Psalm 22.

For Christ to return, the Roman Empire must be revived. This is clear from Daniel's interpretation that the distinct parts of the image seen by Nebuchadnezzar "...head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron" (Dn 2:32-33) represented four world kingdoms: the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian and Roman. That the "feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron" (2:41) represent the fourth world kingdom revived in the last days is clear from the statement, "And in the days of these kings [i.e., represented by the ten toes] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed...[and] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (2:44).

Christ did not establish His kingdom the first time He came, so He must come again to do so. When? "In the days of those kings"—i.e., when the Roman Empire has been revived, out of which the Antichrist will arise. No longer "as a lamb to the slaughter" (Isa 53:7), but now returning in power and glory to execute judgment upon those who crucified Him, Christ will destroy this evil empire in its revived form at His second coming. So although the date is not given, the *timing* of Christ's return is clearly indicated.

It is also essential for the Roman Empire to be revived in order for the Antichrist to appear. Daniel prophesied that "the people of the prince that shall come [i.e., Antichrist] shall destroy the city and the sanctuary..." (Dn 9:26). The Roman armies under the command of Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70. It is therefore from these people that the Antichrist must arise. That doesn't necessarily mean that he has to be Roman, since her legions came from many parts of the Empire. It does mean, however, that he must come from that world kingdom—and for that to happen, the Roman Empire must be revived. We are seeing the fulfillment of this most remarkable prophecy in our day.

Calling Antichrist "the prince that shall come" indicates that he, like the ancient Caesars, will rule the Empire when it is *revived*. Moreover, the ancient Roman Empire was not only a political, economic, and military entity but also a religious one with the god-emperor the head of the pagan priesthood. So in conjunction with a world *government*, a world *religion* headed by the new Caesar, the Antichrist, must be established in the last days, exactly as Revelation 13 indicates.

During the periodic waves of Roman persecution that the early Christians endured, all citizens of the Empire were required to bow down to an image of the current Caesar and worship him as god. Those who did not were killed. Such will also be the case under Antichrist in the *revived* Roman Empire: "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life...[and] as many as would not worship the image of the beast [Antichrist] should be killed" (Rv 13:8,15).

The contrasts between Christ and Antichrist are also instructive. Our Lord was despised and rejected by Israel and by the world: the Antichrist will be hailed and embraced. Christ was mocked and jeered: the Antichrist will be praised. The cry of those who rejected Christ was, "We'll not have this man to reign over us!" It is incredible to realize that in contrast the Antichrist will be accepted not only by the world but by Israel as well. Jesus told the Jewish leaders in His day, "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive" (Jn 5:43).

Christ's kingdom of light and truth is heavenly ("My kingdom is not of this world" - Jn 18:36); Antichrist's kingdom of darkness is built upon a lie and is totally of this world. It is sad to see so many evangelical Christians becoming increasingly entangled in this world, joining with Catholics, Mormons and other cultists

and occultists to pursue its political and social agendas—and in the process losing their hope of heaven. It was characteristic of the early church that they knew they were the *ekklesia*, the called-out ones, who were no longer of this world (Jn 17:6,14,16) but were eagerly waiting (1 Thes.1:10) and watching for Christ to return to take them to heaven (Heb 9:28; Jn 14:2-3). That hope must be awakened!

Mystery surrounds both Christ and Antichrist. Of Christ, Paul wrote, "great is the *mystery of godliness*: God was manifest in the flesh..." (1 Tm 3:16). And of Antichrist he wrote, "[T]he *mystery of iniquity* doth already work" (2 Thes 2:7). Each has a mysterious bride, one a virgin, the other a harlot. The mystery of godliness, which will be revealed in Christ's bride, the church, has been "kept secret since the world began" (Rom 16:25) and is "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col 1:27). It can only be fully revealed at the last time (1 Pt 1:5).

The mystery of iniquity, which could conversely be called "Satan in you, the hope of damnation," will also be revealed through a bride, the Antichrist's. She is called "mystery, babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth" (Rv 17:5). As Christ loves and preserves His bride, so Satan will "hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire" (Rv 17:16).

The fact that the second coming of Christ in power and glory to rescue Israel, destroy the armies that are about to destroy her, and to set up His kingdom upon the throne of His father David is a separate event from the rapture of His bride, the church, is very clear. Some try to make them one event by suggesting that we will be "caught up to meet the Lord in the air" on His way to earth and will immediately turn around and accompany Him to the Mount of Olives and His intervention at Armageddon. However, Revelation 19:7-14 tells of Christ's marriage to His bride *in heaven before* He comes to earth to execute judgment and set up His kingdom.

A major purpose of the Second Coming is to destroy Antichrist: "whom the Lord shall...destroy with the brightness of his coming" (2 Thes 2:8). Thus it is clear that the Second Coming cannot take place until the Antichrist has been revealed and has established his kingdom upon earth. If the Rapture were not a separate event from the Second Coming *before* the Antichrist is revealed, then Christians would not be watching, waiting, and looking for Christ, but for the Antichrist, which is unthinkable!

One of the growing delusions today is the belief that the church is not to be raptured at all but that when we have taken over the world (and not until then), Christ will return to reign over the kingdom we have established for Him. Yet Christ promised, "And if I go and prepare a place for you [in heaven], I will come again, *and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also*" (Jn 14:3). Paul wrote that "the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air [obviously to be taken home to His Father's house of many mansions]: and so shall we ever be with the Lord [in heaven, where He has gone to prepare a place for us]" (1 Thes 4:16-17).

Instead, many who claim to be Christians are looking forward to meeting a "Christ" with their feet planted firmly on planet earth—a "Christ" who has not arrived to take them to heaven but to reign over the kingdom they have established for him. What a delusion! Such have not been working for the true Christ, but for the counterfeit, the Antichrist. They have not been "lay[ing] up...treasures in heaven" (Mt 6:20), but have been building an earthly kingdom. May our Bridegroom reawaken our love for Him, and may our hearts, as it should be with a bride, long to see and be with Him!

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708

or e-mail: editorial@theberean.org

QUESTION: A while ago I read in the Bible that God does not answer prayers from those who are not saved [but] if you have accepted Him as your Lord and Savior, He will give you anything you ask. I have searched and cannot seem to find the “very clear” answer I found once before. I found a few other references, but not the exact statement I was looking for. Can you help me?

RESPONSE: Concerning the Lord answering prayers of unbelievers, we know that He inspired the writer of Psalm 66:18 to state, “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” After declaring that His power and ability has no limit, the Lord in Isaiah 59:2 declared to a sinful and disobedient Israel, “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

Nevertheless, Scripture does on occasion speak of God both hearing and answering the prayers of unbelievers. Concerning these passages, prayer was clearly involved. For some, God answered the heart cry of the individual. Hagar lifted up “her voice and wept” as she considered the imminent death of Ishmael (Genesis 21:14-19).

For others, the prayer is presented with an attitude of repentance. Those in Nineveh prayed that God might spare Nineveh (Jonah 3:5-10). God answered this prayer and did not destroy the city. But in other examples, the prayer or petition concerned an earthly need or blessing, and God responded out of compassion or in response either to the genuine seeking or the faith of the person. The Lord sent the apostle Peter to Cornelius, the Roman centurion, because Cornelius was an unsaved but “devout” man (Acts 10:2), who “prayed to God always.”

Jesus spoke of the prayer of a tax collector in contrast to that of a self-righteous Pharisee, saying “The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted” (Luke 18:11-14).

Although we can have confidence that God answers prayers, there clearly are points where the Lord exercises His sovereignty and wisdom: “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him” (1 John 5:14-15).

Our loving Father knows what’s best for us, and His answers to prayer are given for our best interest. In John 15:7, Jesus stated, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” The Lord is clearly concerned about our “abiding” in Him. Consequently, we cannot say that as believers “He will give you anything you ask....” We also need to remember that “no” or “not now” is also an answer.

In James 4:3, the inspired writer points out, “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” For example, the believer who is mishandling his finances cannot expect a prayer for material blessing to be answered. Rather, the Lord’s priority for believers is to be “conformed to the image of His son” (Romans 8:29). That priority will clearly affect how the Lord answers the prayers of a believer.

QUESTION: We are not called to social activism but to preach the gospel and convert sinners. That should have a major good effect on society—far more than social activism. The question is, what happened when there was far less social activism and far more “preaching of the gospel” by the likes of Billy Graham, etc.? It seems like things just got worse in society, just as they have when there is much less gospel and more social activism.

RESPONSE: Never does the Bible suggest that the gospel is going to convert the world or that the church will influence the world’s morals. The statement that “evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse” (2 Timothy 3:13) is not conditional but unequivocal. The question is not whether the gospel will have a greater impact upon the world than social and political action. We are told to preach the gospel, not to try to change the world. Christ has assured us that we will be hated by the world, not that we will influence it for good, much less convert it. And, sadly, very few heed the gospel and become saved (Matthew 7:14; Luke 13:23-25).

QUESTION: Was the Great Commission only for the original apostles? At that time there were very few nations. Did they go to them? Or, does “nations” imply or suggest something else?

RESPONSE: In Matthew 28:19, Jesus is speaking to the disciples, giving them what is called the Great Commission and specifically commanding them to teach all nations and baptize all who become converts throughout the nations. In verse 20, He instructs them to teach “all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” The word “nations” is the Greek word “ethnos” from which we get our word “ethnic.” Therefore, the reference is not to geographical nations but as Revelation 7:9 tells us, “of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues....”

Since the apostles were to teach the disciples who would follow them to observe “all things whatsoever I have commanded you,” we can conclude that the Commission was not meant only for the apostles.

Furthermore, in Acts 1:8, the Lord Jesus tells the apostles, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem... Judaea... Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” So now we know the geographical extent of the Great Commission—to the ends of the earth! This means that the Gospel is to be shared in every place on the earth where people may be found.

The rest of the book of Acts describes the progress of the Gospel, telling of its first being preached in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-47). Many Jews were gathered there, where more than 3,000 people received the Gospel and were baptized (Acts 2:41,47; 3:1-4:31). Despite persecution, the number of disciples continued to increase, with many men and women in Jerusalem being added to the church, including a sizeable number of the priests (Acts 5:14-15; 6:7; 8:9-31). The Gospel spread to Judea, Samaria (Acts 6:8-7:60), and ultimately, to the “uttermost parts of the earth.” As for the time frame, the Lord’s admonition in Matthew 28:20 was that He would be “with you always, even unto the end of the world,” referring to the end of the age. In Matthew 24:14, Jesus tells us, “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all the nations; and then shall the end come.”

No, the Great Commission was not for only the apostles.

LETTERS

To connect with TBC, write: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708
or e-mail: editorial@theberean.org

Dear Tom McMahon and Staff,

I have been receiving your newsletters for several years since before Dave Hunt's passing, and I look forward to reading them every month. You, along with Lighthouse Trails Publishing, are true "Watchmen on the Wall." I thank you for rightly dividing the Word of God and staying true to the narrow way—the old path—despite the opposition. LC (NY)

Dear Berean Call,

Your article "The Perfect Spiritual Storm Looming" was absolutely on target. And since it arrived a week or so ago, the signs are even more evident. It seems that every day, there is something in the news, whether national or local, that points to the return of our Lord.

The sad part is that unless people know their Bibles, they see nothing with spiritual eyes. These sorts of articles always catch my interest, as I was raised in one of the "lies," but Jesus called me out.

My gratitude is endless to Him for giving me a second chance. But as I look at our poor, deceived nation, I see that lies are rampant. People don't want the Truth. They parade the lies as truth. And Truth is treated as dirt, something to trample on, and it is not

TBC NOTES

The Universal[ism] Drift

I've been involved in observing trends and doctrinal influences among evangelical Christians for nearly four decades, and there have been only a few unbiblical developments that have surprised me. I've been grieved by them, but not shocked (mostly because I'm well versed in what the Scriptures say will take place as we draw near to the return of Jesus Christ). If you'll note the survey listed in this month's NewsWatch section, it describes the beliefs among those who profess to be "born again" Christians as a "hodgepodge," a mixture of true and false teachings. Critically related to salvation is the increasing belief of professing Christians that one can earn his or her way to heaven. This false doctrine has joined universalism (which claims that everyone ends up in heaven) as one that more and more evangelicals are embracing.

A major reason for this drift-verging-on-a-landslide into unbiblical beliefs is that fewer and fewer Christians are reading God's Word and are therefore not alerted to the warning given in Hebrews 2:1: "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." The church for the most part is not only slipping biblically—it isn't even *thinking*. The huge popularity of the universalism-endorsing book and recent movie *The Shack* is evidence that millions within Christendom have become enamored with that philosophy. As enlightened as they may see themselves, they appear to be oblivious to the fact that if everyone gets saved, there is no point to the gospel.

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

just the United States, but the world, that is turning away from everything God-related. For those of us who have lived in "other" times, it hurts, yet it leads to joy, knowing The Lord Jesus Christ is coming! SL (email)

Hello,

Thank you for your article about Celebrate Recovery, "A Way Which Seemeth Right," [available at your website - Oct 1, 2005]. I became concerned with this group after the first meeting I attended because of the wording of the Honesty Prayer alone. They recite every week "I am in bondage to sin...." Your articles have opened my eyes to several other red flags. Thanks again. SW (email)

Dear Brothers,

I read your article "Roadmap to Armageddon." I considered it superb, and an outstanding publication. It was in general acceptance of all the truth concerning what is happening nowadays. Furthermore, it was foretold to Israel what was going to happen.

There is no one to blame except our behavior. We are human and our heavenly Father acknowledged it well ahead of the times.

There is nothing we can do except put ourselves in our Lord's hands and pray for the best. "Thanks" are many, for keeping us worldwide informed of what is happening in a Christian's world. LC (CA, prisoner)

Dear Berean Call,

We are encouraged by your stand for the principles of the Word of God amidst an evermore infiltration of the enemy into the Church. He is subtle and wily and from the outset a deceiver who continues to be so.

We pray for you knowing that you're on the front lines of this battle, however, we know WHO wins the war.

Continue the work the Lord has set before you to do. FO (WA)

Dear Tom and Staff,

Thank you for your ministry. I know you don't do it for thanks, but it is truly a blessing.

The series on Mysticism and World Religion was excellent. May God bless you. JA (OR)

QUOTABLE

"...His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: Great is thy faithfulness." —Lamentations 3:22-23

God is faithful and true. He cannot lie or deceive. He cannot go back on His word. He is absolutely trustworthy. No promise of His can ever fail....

God wants His people to be faithful and true. He wants us to be true to our word. He wants us to be dependable in keeping appointments. We should not be given to lies, exaggeration, or half-truths. We should be faithful in keeping our promises. Christians, above all people, should be faithful to their marriage vows. They should be faithful in discharging their commitments in the assembly, in business, and in the home.

How we should praise and thank the Lord for His faithfulness. He is the God who cannot fail.

—WILLIAM MACDONALD

NEWSWATCH

News stories are selected for reader awareness and as an exercise
in discerning the times from a biblical perspective.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ALLOWED TO REMOVE KIDS

LIFESITENEWS.COM, 6/1/17, "ONTARIO PASSES 'TOTALITARIAN' BILL ALLOWING GOV'T TO TAKE KIDS FROM CHRISTIAN HOMES" [EXCERPTS]: The Kathleen Wynne Liberals of Ontario have passed what critics describe as "totalitarian" Bill 89 by a vote of 63 to 23....

Pro-family advocates warn Bill 89 gives the state more power to seize children from families that oppose the LGBTQI and gender ideology agenda, and allows government agencies to effectively ban couples who disagree with that agenda from fostering or adopting children.

Bill 89...repeals and replaces the former Child and Family Services Act that governs child protection services, and adoption and foster care services.

It adds "gender identity" and "gender expression" as factors to be considered "in the best interests of the child."

At the same time, it deletes the religious faith in which the parents are raising the child as a factor to be considered, and mandates child protection services consider only the child's own "creed" or "religion" when assessing the best interests of the child.

Statements by Minister of Child and Family Services Michael Coteau clearly signaled the pro-LGBTQ gender ideology Liberal agenda, critics warned.

(<https://goo.gl/Btp2og>)

'HODGE PODGE' OF BELIEFS AMONG BORN-AGAINS

ONENEWSNOW.COM, 5/30/17, "BARNA: 'HODGE PODGE' OF BELIEFS AMONG BORN-AGAINS" [EXCERPTS]: A recent survey by the American Culture & Faith Institute finds that only 30 percent of born-again adults have a biblical worldview. According to that survey, almost 90 percent of them describe God as the "all-knowing, all-powerful creator and ruler of the universe"—but only one in four believes "as sinners, people are not basically good." Sixty-three percent believe someone can earn their own way to heaven.

As Barna summarizes the findings: "The born-again population maintains a combination of biblically accurate and indefensible beliefs"—and based on previous research, he says that "hodge podge of beliefs" isn't unexpected.

[A] Christian apologist and educator [notes] that..."Even people within the

church who might have some biblical beliefs about Jesus, beneath the surface you find that they're almost Universalists—believing that all people go to heaven." According to the survey, only 40 percent of born-again believers think success is defined by obedience and commitment to Christ. The implication...is that the world's definition of success is dominant among Christ-followers.

He says the church needs a dose of frank preaching and biblical teaching. "Before you can get someone saved, sometimes you have to get them lost, in that you have to help people understand that they are a sinner in need of a Savior..." he explains.

(<https://goo.gl/9yjFDU>)

PLA FORCES CHRISTIANS TO FAST FOR RAMADAN

UNITEDWITHISRAEL.ORG, 6/2/17, "PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY FORCES CHRISTIANS TO FAST IN PUBLIC DURING RAMADAN" [EXCERPTS]: On May 21, the PA Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and the Palestinian Territories and Chairman of the [Palestinian] Supreme Fatwa Council Sheikh Muhammad Hussein called on the owners of restaurants and cafés to close them during the daytime hours of Ramadan in order to preserve the month's sanctity, Wafa, the official Palestinian news agency, reported.

The Grand Mufti, the highest PA religious official, ordered the PA police "to act against anyone who breaks the fast in public, in preparation for legal steps against them."

District Governor of Jenin, Ibrahim Ramadan, also issued a notice ahead of Ramadan, PNN, an independent Palestinian news agency, reported on May 25. "It is forbidden for all of the restaurants and cafés to serve food or drink during the period of the fast and not to show any sight that would harm the sanctity of this month," he declared.

Although it was not mentioned specifically, in previous years these PA religious restrictions against public eating were enforced against Christians as well.

Police said in the statement that they saw a man "breaking the fast" publicly and arrested him, and that he would face legal consequences for the act, the Palestinian Ma'an news agency reported.

(<https://goo.gl/P8vezT>)

THE BEREAN CALL

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TBC—The antithesis of the objective Word of God, mysticism is defined as "the belief that direct knowledge of God, spiritual truth, or ultimate reality can be attained through subjective experience such as intuition or insight, and is vague speculation, a belief without sound basis." Google gives this definition: "Belief characterized by self-delusion or dreamy confusion of thought, especially when based on the assumption of occult qualities or mysterious agencies." But in spite of the clear and present danger to all mankind, mysticism is overtaking both cultural, political, educational, and religious institutions at breakneck speed. Learn what you can do to protect yourself and those you love from the one "whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9). Includes study guide and audio CD—with additional discussion from Dave and Tom on the featured topic. Booklet 36 pp., Study Guide 16 pp., and CD 78 min.

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Eternal Productions—The Bible gives many signs to alert us that the Lord Jesus' return is near. This handy compendium of the Bible's prophecies concerning the Last Days is concise, easy to understand, and shows the precise and detailed information communicated through prophecy. 30 pp.

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Showers—This outstanding work by Dr. Renald E. Showers explains how anti-Semitism has infected the church, has altered its doctrine about Israel and the Jewish people, and is impacting a world that will welcome the Antichrist. “Replacement Theology has plagued the church since the second century....Here is a much-needed refutation of that teaching as well as....the biblical truth about the future....” —Dr. Charles C. Ryrie. Friends of Israel, 118 pp.

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Smith—Warren Smith's book is a wake-up call to a church that remains strangely silent and in deep denial about the very deception that Jesus warned would come in His name (Matthew 24:3-5). Read this book and then warn your friends and family (2 Corinthians 2:11). Mountain Stream Press, 159 pp.

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World of the Bible Productions—How do Muslims see the future unfolding? Do Muslims accept the Jewish and Christian Bible? Do Muslims believe in Christ's Second Coming? How does Islamic eschatology affect the way Muslim militants think about Israel and the West? Randall Price (Th.M., Ph.D.) looks at the way Islam views the Bible and in particular its beliefs concerning events leading to the End Time. Because the agenda of Islamic militants is rooted in their interpretation of the future, these facts are essential to understanding today's terrorism. 1 DVD, 57 min.

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TBC—Dr. Price is a research professor and biblical archaeologist. He was director of excavations on the Qumran Plateau from 2002-2012, and has been senior archaeologist for the ark search since 2009. 1 CD, 50 min.

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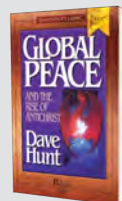
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