



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 24 2012

JESUS WAS BORN YEARS EARLIER THAN THOUGHT, CLAIMS POPE

November 22, 2012 The Telegraph reported: "The entire Christian calendar is based on a miscalculation, the Pope has declared, as he claims in a new book that Jesus was born several years earlier than commonly believed.

The 'mistake' was made by a sixth century monk known as Dionysius Exiguus or in English Dennis the Small, the 85-year-old pontiff claims in the book 'Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives', published on Wednesday.

"The calculation of the beginning of our calendar – based on the birth of Jesus – was made by Dionysius Exiguus, who made a mistake in his calculations by several years," the Pope writes in the book, which went on sale around the world with an initial print run of a million copies. "The actual date of Jesus's birth was several years before."

The assertion that the Christian calendar is based on a false premise is not new – many historians believe that Christ was born sometime between 7BC and 2BC. But the fact that doubts over one of the keystones of Christian tradition have been raised by the leader of the world's one billion Catholics is striking."..."

John Barton, Professor of the Interpretation of the Holy Scripture at Oriel College, Oxford University, said most academics agreed with the Pope that the Christian calendar was wrong and that Jesus was born several years earlier than commonly thought, probably between 6BC and 4BC.

"There is no reference to when he was born in the Bible - all we know is that he was born in the reign of Herod the Great, who died before 1AD," he told The Daily Telegraph. "It's been surmised for a very long time that Jesus was born before 1AD - no one knows for sure."

The idea that Christ was born on Dec 25 also has no basis in historical fact. "We don't even know which season he was born in. The whole idea of celebrating his birth during the darkest part of the year is probably linked to pagan traditions and the winter solstice."

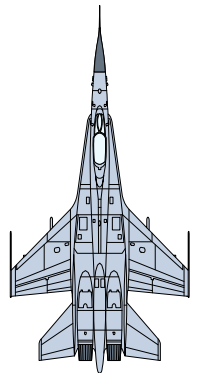
IRAN: WE'RE TAKING OUT ISRAEL'S WARPLANES

November 21, 2012 WND.com reported: "Iran is now claiming that it has armed Hamas with anti-aircraft missiles and that the militants have hit and damaged several sophisticated Israeli warplanes. Earlier it was reported Iranian surface-to-surface missiles capable of hitting Tel Aviv were in Hamas' hands. Such capability long has been a dream of Iranian missile designers, and now Hamas has that added threat.

Meanwhile, a bomb exploded on a bus in Tel Aviv Wednesday, injuring 22 people, just hours before a cease-fire was announced in Cairo between the Israelis and Hamas militants. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed "more forceful" action if the cease-fire didn't take hold.

Mashregh, a news media outlet run by Iran's Revolutionary Guards, reported Wednesday that the conflict in Gaza is quite different from the one in 2009 when Palestinian fighters were limited to Ghassam rockets with a range of only six miles and a warhead of just 22 pounds. Now the Hamas militants are equipped with Fajr-5 missiles, which have a range of 50 miles and a warhead of 385 pounds.

The biggest problem for the Palestinian fighters had been their complete vulnerability to Israeli airstrikes. That has changed, Mashregh wrote, with news within the past week that not only an Israeli drone was hit but Israeli helicopters and as many as 10 F16 fighters were targeted and damaged by anti-aircraft missiles."..."



IRAN NUCLEAR WORK UNAFFECTED BY SANCTIONS: IAEA CHIEF

November 21, 2012 SpaceDaily.com reported "Multiple rounds of international sanctions are failing to have any effect on Iran's controversial nuclear programme, the head of the UN atomic agency said on Tuesday.

'We are verifying the activities at the nuclear sites in Iran and we do not see any effect,' International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) head Yukiya Amano said in Paris.

'They are for example producing enriched uranium up to five percent and 20 percent with a quite constant pace.'

Uranium enrichment lies at the heart of the international community's concerns about Iran's nuclear programme, since the material produced can be used not only for peaceful purposes -- Iran's stated intention -- but also, when further treated, for a nuclear bomb.

Enriched to five-percent purities, uranium can be used for power generation, and to 20 percent for medical purposes. But when further enriched, a relatively easy process, it can go in a weapon..."

CRITICS OF JORDAN'S KING BEMOAN MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

November 20, 2012 VOA News reported: "In a changing Arab world, some question if monarchies are still relevant. For Jordanians, long accustomed to the untouchable status of their king, recent price hikes have brought the issue to the forefront.

In recent days, some Jordanians have broken a long-held taboo - chanting attacks on King Abdullah himself. The protests were sparked by a cut in subsidies, meant to forestall a fiscal crisis and comply with IMF loans. But it has unleashed resentment of what some call an absolute monarchy. Street activists are not the only ones taking on the king. Political analyst Labib Kamhawi questioned the monarch's

commitment to reform on Jordanian television, and now faces criminal charges.

"Here the regime has no intention of accepting people's demand for significant and serious reform because all powers are amassed in the hands of the king himself," said Kamhawi.

For a monarchy with roots in the arbitrary redrawing of the region's map by Western nations a century ago, Jordan has been, up to now, surprisingly stable. Jordanians may complain about the price hikes, but many still profess loyalty to the king.

IRAN IS OUT OF ITS MIND, SAYS PERES

November 20, 2012 Arutz Sheva reported: "Israel's President Shimon Peres accused Iran of encouraging the Palestinians to continue rocket attacks on Israel rather than negotiating a ceasefire, saying 'they are out of their mind.'

At the same time, Peres praised Egypt's President Mohammed Morsi for the constructive role he has played in the intensifying crisis.

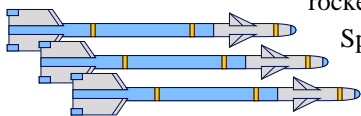
'The unpleasant one is the Iranians. They are trying again to encourage the Hamas to continue the shooting, the bombing, they trying to send them arms,' Peres said in interview on CNN. 'They are out of their mind,' he said. The President said Israel had no choice but to wage its offensive against Hamas in Gaza despite the rising civilian casualties, citing what he said were 1,200 missiles fired from the territory in the past six days.

'In one minute, if they stop shooting, there won't be any casualties,' he said. In singling out Iran, Peres said, 'We are not going to make a war with Iran. But we are trying to prevent the shipping of long range missiles which Iran is sending to Hamas.'

'But Iran is a problem, world problem, not only from the point of view of building a nuclear danger, but also from the point of being a center of world terror." They finance, they train, they send arms, they urge, no responsibility, no moral consideration," Peres said."..."

HAMAS LEADER DARES ISRAEL TO INVADE AMID GAZA AIRSTRIKES

November 20, 2012 The New York Times reported: "The top leader of Hamas dared Israel on Monday to launch a ground invasion of Gaza and dismissed diplomatic efforts to broker a cease-fire in the six-day-old conflict, as the Israeli military conducted a new wave of deadly airstrikes on the besieged Palestinian enclave, including a second hit on a 15-story building that houses media outlets. A volley of rockets fired from Gaza into southern Israel included one that hit a vacant school.



Speaking at a news conference in Cairo, where the diplomatic efforts were under way, the Hamas leader, Khaled Meshal, suggested that the Israeli infantry mobilization on the border with Gaza was a bluff on the part of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel.

'If you wanted to launch it, you would have done it,' Mr. Meshal told reporters. He accused Israel of using the invasion threat as an attempt to 'dictate its own terms and force us into silence.'

Rejecting Israel's contention that Hamas had precipitated the conflict, Mr. Meshal said the burden was on the Israelis."..."

FIVE EU COUNTRIES CALL FOR NEW MILITARY 'STRUCTURE'

November 19, 2012 The EU Observer reported: "Five leading EU countries, but not the UK, have said the Union needs a new military 'structure' to manage overseas operations.

The foreign and defence ministers of France, Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain issued the call in a joint communique after a meeting in Paris on Thursday (15 November). The paper says: 'We are convinced that the EU must set up, within a framework yet to-be-defined, true civilian-military structures to plan and conduct missions and operations.'

It adds: 'We should show preparedness to hold available, train, deploy and sustain in theatre the necessary civilian and military means.'

It lists a number of EU military priorities for the coming years: helping Somalia to fight Islamists and pirates; 'a possible training mission to support the Malian armed forces' in reconquering north Mali; 'assistance to support the new Libyan authorities' against Islamist militias; 'normalisation' of the Western Balkans; 'conflict resolution' in Georgia; and police training in Afghanistan.

The communique also calls for more 'pooling and sharing' of EU defence hardware in the context of crisis-related budget cuts..."

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