



PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

March 31, 2018

Pope Francis: 'There Is No Hell'

March 29, 2018 cnsnews.com reported: "In another interview with his longtime atheist friend, Eugenio Scalfari, Pope Francis claims that Hell does not exist and that condemned souls just "disappear." This is a denial of the 2,000-year-old teaching of the Catholic Church about the reality of Hell and the eternal existence of the soul.

The interview between Scalfari and the Pope was published March 28, 2018 in La Repubblica. The relevant section on Hell was translated by the highly respected web log, Rorate Caeli.

The interview is headlined, "The Pope: It is an honor to be called revolutionary." (Il Papa: "È un onore essere chiamato rivoluzionario.")

Scalfari says to the Pope, "Your Holiness, in our previous meeting you told me that our species will disappear in a certain moment and that God, still out of his creative force, will create new species. You have never spoken to me about the souls who died in sin and will go to hell to suffer it for eternity. You have however spoken to me of good souls, admitted to the contemplation of God. But what about bad souls? Where are they punished?"

Pope Francis says, "They are not punished, those who repent obtain the forgiveness of God and enter the rank of souls who contemplate him, but those who do not repent and cannot therefore be forgiven disappear. There is no hell, there is the disappearance of sinful souls."

Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "The teaching of the Church affirms the existence of hell and its eternity. Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, 'eternal fire.' The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs."

The Catechism further states, "The affirmations of Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church on the subject of hell are a call to the responsibility incumbent upon man to make use of his freedom in view of his eternal destiny. They are at the same time an urgent call to conversion: 'Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few...'"

China Says Kim Jong Un Confirms Denuclearization Commitment

March 28, 2018 voanews.com reported: "China says North Korean leader Kim Jong Un confirmed during a secretive visit to Beijing his commitment to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and engage in talks with South Korea and the United States.

China's official Xinhua news agency, which posted photos of the North Korean leader with Chinese President Xi Jinping, reported that Kim and his wife Ri Sol Ju paid an unofficial visit to Beijing from Sunday to Wednesday, and attended a banquet in the Great Hall of the People with Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan.

During their meeting the two leaders reiterated the importance of maintaining the close China-North Korea alliance that had grown tense over Pyongyang's defiant nuclear and ballistic missile tests. Xi supported increasingly harsh U.S. led sanctions to pressure Kim to reenter talks to end his threatening nuclear program in exchange for ending economic restrictions, increasing assistance, and providing security guarantees..."

Hamas's 'defensive' drill seen as a warning to Israel, Abbas, and Trump

March 27, 2018 timesofisrael.com reported: "Hamas mounted a large-scale military exercise in the Gaza Strip on Sunday and Monday, the terror group's largest show of force in recent years.

Hamas says some 30,000 members of its armed wing, Izaddin al Qassam, participated in the drill, using live ammunition and various types of weapons, including rockets and missiles.

The timing of the maneuvers seemed to be more significant than the weapons on display, none of which came as a surprise to military experts. It was a message to several parties, including Israel, the Palestinian Authority and Palestinians living under Hamas rule in the Gaza Strip.

The exercise came days before mass protests that Hamas and several Palestinian factions are planning near the border with Israel. The protests, which are being held under the banner of 'March of Return,' are expected to attract thousands of Palestinians.

The large-scale drill is seen as a warning to Israel not to 'interfere' with the protests, especially in light of preparations by the IDF to prevent any Palestinian attempt to cross the border..."

Saudis intercept seven Yemen rebel missiles in deadly escalation

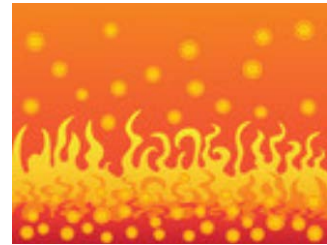
March 27, 2018 spacewar.com reported: "Saudi forces intercepted seven Yemeni rebel missiles on Sunday, including over the capital Riyadh, in a deadly escalation on the eve of the third anniversary of the Saudi-led coalition's intervention in Yemen.

One Egyptian was killed and two of his countrymen were wounded by falling shrapnel in Riyadh, authorities said, with residents reporting loud explosions and bright flashes in the sky shortly before midnight.

The Iran-aligned Huthi rebels fired three missiles at Riyadh and four others at the southern cities of Khamis Mushait, Jizan and Najran, with the coalition saying they all targeted populated areas.

"This aggressive and hostile action by the Iran-backed Huthi group proves that the Iranian regime continues to support the armed group with military capabilities," coalition spokesman Turki al-Malki said.

"The firing of multiple ballistic missiles towards cities is a serious development."



The Huthi-run Al-Masira television channel claimed the rebels had targeted Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport as well as other airstrips in the south of the kingdom.

The strikes come after the US defence secretary last week urged Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during his visit to Washington to pursue "urgent efforts" to end Yemen's wrenching conflict."..."

'PREPARING FOR WAR' China sends massive navy for South China Sea war games

March 27, 2018 thesun.co.uk reported: "Dozens of Chinese ships are exercising this week with an aircraft carrier in a show of force off Hainan Island in the South China Sea. The Chinese navy claims the movements are part of routine annual exercises, according to Reuters.



The Liaoning carrier group last week traversed the Taiwan Strait, according to the Taiwanese defence ministry. The photos, taken yesterday, show what appear to be at least 40 ships and submarines flanking the carrier Liaoning in what some analysts described as an unusually large display of the China's expanding fleet.

They have emerged less than a week after Chinese President Xi Jinping said his country is prepared to fight bloody battles to retain its right as a superpower.

Sailing in a line formation more suited to visual propaganda than military manoeuvres, the flotilla was headed by what appeared to be submarines, with aircraft soaring overhead.

Security expert at the California-based Middlebury Institute of Strategic Studies, Jeffrey Lewis, said the images showed the first confirmation that the carrier was joining the drills. He said: "That's the big news to me. Confirmation that, yes, the carrier participated in the exercise."

While the Liaoning has previously entered the South China Sea as part of drills in uncontested training grounds south of Hainan, its annual exercises are closely watched by regional and international powers eyeing Beijing's growing military might. It is unclear where the flotilla was headed, or how long operations will last."..."

Islam Poised to Pass Anglicans as Preferred Religion of Britain's Young Adults

March 26, 2018 Breitbart.com reported: "Islam has been gaining on Christianity for years in Great Britain and is now only one percentage point behind Anglicanism among the share of the population aged 16 to 29. An astonishing new report out of St. Mary's University in Twickenham has revealed that only seven percent of young adults in the UK self-identify as Anglicans, compared to six percent who say they are Muslims. If current trends continue, Islam will soon pass the Church of England, despite the latter's privileged status as the official religion of the state.

It will be a while longer before adherents of Islam exceed Christians outright among the younger generation, but the UK is headed for that as well. At present only 21 percent of British young adults self-identify as Christians.

The study, titled Europe's Young Adults and Religion, found a slight variation based on gender, with 7 percent of females aged 16-29 self-identifying as Muslims but only 4 percent of males in this group calling themselves followers of Islam. Similarly, only 5 percent of British males in the same age group identify as Anglicans, while nearly double that—nine percent—of females identify members of the Church of England..."

Normalizing ties with Israel is 'against Islam'

March 26, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The Council of Religious Scholars and Lecturers in Beit Al-Mukdas in Jerusalem warned against normalizing ties with the 'occupation.'

The Council is headed by Sheikh Ekrima Sabri, who also serves as an imam in Al-Aqsa Mosque. Appointed by arch-terrorist Yasser Arafat, Sabri legitimized suicide bombings and attacks on civilians during the Second Intifada.

In a statement, the council said that 'normalization with Israel deviates from the Arab and Islamic norm' and is considered 'loyalty to the occupation.'

They also said that 'Palestine' has always 'spat out the invaders,' just like a healthy body gets rid of an illness. The solution to the occupation, they said, is to remove it from the blessed and holy land.

Any kind of normalization with Israel is forbidden according to Sharia law, and anyone who has any kind of normalized relationship with Israel is considered a sinner..."

Netanyahu says Israel will prevent enemies from obtaining nuclear weapons

March 22, 2018 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday that Israel will prevent enemies from obtaining nuclear weapons after its military admitted it carried out a 2007 air raid against a suspected Syrian nuclear reactor.

'The Israeli government, the (Israeli military), and the Mossad (intelligence agency) have prevented Syria from developing nuclear capability, and they deserve every credit for this,' Netanyahu said on Twitter.

'Israel's policy has been and remains consistent — to prevent our enemies from acquiring nuclear weapons.'

It was Netanyahu's first comments related to Israel's admission early Wednesday that broke a more than 10-year official silence surrounding the raid, though it had always been widely assumed of being responsible for the strike. The admission along with the release of newly declassified material related to the raid comes as Israel intensifies its warnings over the presence of its main enemy Iran in neighbouring Syria..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Phoenix, Northern AZ, Show Low & Hawaii
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*