

Westboro Baptist Church

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3701 S.W. 12th St. Topeka, Ks. 66604 785-273-0325 www.GodHatesFags.com @WBCSaysRepent
Religious Opinion & Bible Commentary on Current Events

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NEWS RELEASE

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Signs of the Times: Shining Bible Light on Current Events

The Lord has wrought many blessed judgments in the world this week which can be seen plainly by any who have been given eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to understand by the gracious hand of God. **“Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.” (Ezekiel 12:2)** This entire world is a rebellious house! Therefore, the Lord, the God of Israel, is punishing the people of it! Let’s view some of this week’s judgments from the proper perspective:

On Sunday, March 17th, Sydney Aiello, a survivor of the February 2018 school shooting in Parkland, Florida, committed suicide. Her family said she had "survivor's guilt" and had been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Her life was not her own to take. Scripture is clear. **“Thou shalt not kill.” (Exodus 20:13)**. And parents, don't leave your children in spiritual squalor in this world, so that their hope rests on earthly things and depends upon the goodness of the world and the flesh. God and His Word are where our hope should be. **“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.” (2 Corinthians 7 10)**. **“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)**.

On Thursday, March 21st, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, announced that the country would be pursuing a gun ban that includes military-style semiautomatic weapons, assault rifles, high-capacity ammunition magazines, and parts that allow firearms to be converted into military-style semiautomatic weapons. The announcement was made in the wake of last week's terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand, in which 50 people were killed at two mosques. The goal specifically was that "every semiautomatic weapon used in the terror attack on Friday will be banned in this country," according to Ardern. Trying to halt the judgment of omnipotent God is a fool’s errand and will not work. The only remedy is repentance. **“I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.” (Amos 4:10-12)**.

Also on Thursday, Tropical Cyclone Idai, which first formed as a tropical depression on March 4th, finally dissipated in southern Africa after causing much death and damage in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The storm has produced flooding in the area so severe that it has formed an inland ocean visible from space. The current death toll is over 500, but that number is expected to surpass 1,000 once the flooding recedes to reveal the dead previously hidden. The sheer amount of death and eye-witness descriptions of the storm are grievous, but do not forget that it is of God Almighty. **“Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind: it shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked. The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it.” (Jeremiah 30:23-24)**. Fear God and draw near unto Him.

This week saw continued coverage of the U.S. college admissions scandal and the fallout from it. On March 12th, it was revealed that 50 people, including college coaches, college prep executives, and parents, had been charged as the result of a year-long FBI investigation into fraud aimed at getting children of wealthy parents into high-profile colleges. The charges alleged that parents, which included Hollywood actresses, would either pay a college prep organization to take the SAT or ACT on their student's behalf or bribe college coaches to admit their student as a recruited athlete, regardless of athletic ability. Many have made comparisons of this case to colleges admitting the children of wealthy donors because of donations to the school. It is all bad and must be fought against. **“Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.” (Deuteronomy 16:19)**. **“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.” (1 Timothy 6:9-11)**.