

# Eye on the World

## Jan. 1, 2022

This compilation of material for “Eye on the World” is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of Jan. 1, 2022.

**Compiled by Dave Havir**

**Luke 21:34-36**—“But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man” (Weymouth New Testament).



An article by Staff titled “In ‘Warning’ to Israel, Iran Says It Fired 16 Ballistic Missiles Able to Hit Country” was posted at timesofisrael.com on Dec. 24, 2021. Following is the article.



Iran fired multiple ballistic missiles Friday at the close of five days of military drills that generals said were a warning to Israel and included a mock strike on Israel’s nuclear facility.

“These exercises were designed to respond to threats made in recent days by the Zionist regime,” armed forces chief of staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri told state television.

“Sixteen missiles aimed and annihilated the chosen target. In this exercise, part of the hundreds of Iranian missiles capable of destroying a country that dared to attack Iran were deployed,” he added.

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps chief Major General Hossein Salami added: “The military exercise . . . is a serious warning to Zionist regime officials . . . Make the slightest mistake, we will cut off their hand.”

Iranian Revolutionary Guards forces finished the drill by blowing up a target set up to resemble Israel’s Dimona nuclear complex, Reuters reported. Iranian TV broadcast images of missiles striking the target structures and issued a threat to Israel.

“Through a simulation of the Dimona atomic facilities, the Revolutionary Guards successfully practiced attacking this critical center of the Zionist regime in its missile exercise,” Iran’s semi-official news agency Tasnim said.

According to the IRNA news agency, the missiles were of the models Emad, Ghadr, Sejjil, Zalzal, Dezful and Zolfaghar and that their range is from 350 to 2,000 kilometers (220 to 1,250 miles).

The short-range and medium-range missiles, Iran has said, can reach Israel as well as US bases in the region.

Iranian officials said the missiles fired during the drill successfully hit one target at the same time as 10 drones simultaneously hit their targets. State TV showed missiles launching in the desert.

During the second day of the drill on Tuesday, Iran launched cruise missiles, too.

In a statement issued in London, the British Foreign Office condemned Iran’s use of ballistic missiles, saying it was a “threat to regional and international security.”

“The launch is a clear breach of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which requires that Iran not undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons—including launches using ballistic missile technology,” it quoted a spokesperson as saying.

The five-day annual exercise that began on Monday comes amid troubled talks in Vienna to revive Tehran’s nuclear deal with world powers. Iran has accelerated its nuclear advances as negotiations to return to the accord struggle to make headway. The talks will resume on Monday.

Former president Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the nuclear deal and re-imposed crushing sanctions on Iran in 2018. Tehran has since started openly enriching uranium up to 60 percent purity—a short technical step from the 90% needed to make an atomic bomb.

Israel has long seen Iran’s nuclear program as a threat and seeks a harder line by the US and international community. Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful.

Israel is not a party to the Vienna talks but has threatened force if diplomacy fails, and the US has also said it is preparing “alternatives.” Earlier this month, Defense Minister Benny Gantz said he notified US officials that he had instructed the Israel Defense Forces to prepare for a strike against Iran.

A senior US official said earlier this month that Israeli and American military leaders are set to discuss possible military drills to practice destroying Iranian nuclear facilities in a potential worst-case scenario if nuclear talks fail.

Israel has reportedly approved a budget of some NIS 5 billion (\$1.5 billion) to be used to prepare the military for a potential strike against Iran’s nuclear program. It includes funds for various types of aircraft, intelligence-gathering drones and unique armaments needed for such an attack, which would have to target heavily fortified underground sites.



An article by Yaakov Katz titled “Israel’s Iran Question: To Strike or Not to Strike?” was posted at [jpost.com](http://jpost.com) on Dec. 24, 2021. Following is the article.

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The targets in Iran would vary.

The first would be Natanz, Iran’s main uranium enrichment facility. The complex consists of two large halls, roughly 300,000 square feet each dug somewhere between eight and 23 feet below ground and covered by several layers of concrete and metal. The walls of each hall are estimated to be approximately two feet thick. The facility is also surrounded by surface-to-air missiles.

The next facility would be the heavy-water plant under construction near the town of Arak, which could be used one day to produce plutonium. Iranians say the material will be used for medical and research isotope production, but in reality could have the ability to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons.

Next is Iran’s Uranium Conversion Facility (UCF), located at the Isfahan Nuclear Technology Center. Based on satellite imagery, the facility is above ground, although some reports have suggested tunneling near the complex.

And then there is Fordow, the uranium enrichment facility near the city of Qom, not far from the Caspian Sea. Officially revealed to the IAEA in 2009, the facility can hold thousands of centrifuges. Built into a mountain, it would be difficult to penetrate the hardened facility. Former defense minister Ehud Barak has noted more than once that the facility is “immune to standard bombs.”

Military planners would also likely feel compelled to attack Iran’s centrifuge fabrication sites, since their destruction would make it extremely difficult for Iran to reestablish its program—although the destruction of Natanz, Arak and Isfahan on their own would be enough to set back the ayatollah’s dream of obtaining the bomb.

In addition to these key targets, the attacker would also want to bomb Iranian radar stations, missile bases, silos and launchers as well as air bases, with the aim of knocking out Iran’s ability to strike back with its long-range missiles or combat aircraft.

This plan on how Israel might attack Iran was published in 2012, in a book entitled *Israel vs. Iran—The Shadow War*, authored by Yoaz Hendel, at the time a columnist with *Yediot Aharonot*, and me, at the time this paper’s defense analyst.

Back then, some Israeli officials also called for bombing Iran’s oil fields and energy infrastructure. Such strikes, they believed, could have a demoralizing effect on Iran and influence the regime’s decision-making process. Oil revenues provide a significant portion of Tehran’s government income. The oil facilities are also vulnerable and lack surface-to-air missile protection.

One former IDF general claimed at the time that in total, Israel would have to strike close to 100 primary targets, possibly in sorties lasting two days.

But, we asked then, can Israel do it?

The main problem Israel would encounter in attacking Iran's nuclear facilities, we pointed out, is the physical distance that is over 700 miles from Israel, with the main targets even further at distances ranging between 1,000 and 1,500 miles from Israel.

According to most estimates, Israel is capable of unilaterally attacking Iran's nuclear facilities with its F-16 and F-15 aircraft. Israel's vaunted 25 F-15Is—Ra'am (Thunder) in Hebrew—that are based in the Negev are believed to be capable of striking Iran in a non-stop operation like Operation Opera against Iraq in 1981, with a combat range of over 2,000 miles. Israel in 2010 also finished receiving 102 F-16Is—Sufa (Storm) in Hebrew—that it procured in the late 1990s. These too are capable of long-range missions, with a combat radius of over 1,000 miles.

There were three possible routes that we outlined in 2012 for Israel to fly to Iran.

- The northern route, which skirts along the Turkish-Syrian border into Iran.
- The central route, which is the most direct but entails serious diplomatic obstacles.
- The southern route, which would take Israeli planes over Saudi Arabia and into Iran.

Back then, the IAF had some of the munitions needed to destroy the Iranian facilities and penetrate the fortified bunker in Natanz, either developed domestically or purchased over the years from the United States, such as the GBU-27 and GBU-28 that can carry anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 pounds of explosives. While Natanz is one of the most difficult targets, even if the missiles on their own will not succeed in penetrating, Israeli pilots could glide them in.

Former Israeli Air Force commander Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu, who participated in the strike on Osirak in 1981, explained how this would happen. Even if one bomb would not suffice to penetrate a target, he explained in 2005, Israel could guide other bombs into the area of where it has attacked to eventually destroy the target.

Israel, according to foreign reports, could also—we noted at the time—potentially utilize its Jericho road-mobile, two-stage solid-propellant missile, which has a range varying from 1,200 to over 3,000 miles, and is capable of carrying a one-ton conventional or non-conventional warhead. The latest version of the missile called Jericho III and tested in early 2008 has enhanced accuracy, and puts every Arab capital, including Tehran, within striking distance of Israel.

NEEDLESS TO say, a lot has changed since that was written 10 years ago.

1. Israel has upgraded its weapons and platforms, like the F-35 that is capable of covertly flying into Iranian airspace and taking out radar stations, which would then enable non-stealth aircraft to enter with a fuselage loaded with bombs without risk.

2. There are new munitions the IAF has acquired, and as illustrated by recent covert operations, the country's intelligence on Iran is deep and extensive.
3. The route possibilities themselves have completely changed. Flying over Syria today is not like it was in 2012, when Bashar Assad still had an advanced military, and Israel rarely entered his airspace; America is no longer deployed in Iraq the way it was then; and the Abraham Accords have changed the dynamic between Israel and Saudi Arabia. El Al planes today openly fly over Saudi Arabia. Does that mean Riyadh would let IAF fighter jets do the same? Maybe.
4. But what has also changed is Iran, and the progress it has made in its nuclear program. What people often overlook when considering whether Jerusalem can go it alone against Tehran is that the technical know-how is Iranian. It is not from a foreign source, like was the case of the Syrian reactor destroyed by Israel in 2007 (North Korea), or the Iraq reactor destroyed by Israel in 1981 (French).
5. What this means is that even if Israel attacks and succeeds in causing extensive damage, Iran will not need help to rebuild it—Tehran will be able to do it all over again on its own. Now one could argue that due to domestic and international pressure, Iran might be slow to rebuild its nuclear infrastructure after a strike, but there is another case to make as well: that the ayatollahs will be emboldened by the Israeli strike as the world instead cracks down on Israel for acting unilaterally.

The other main difference is that in 2012, Israel's option was viable and real. The Air Force was sharp, and the pilots were trained and knew their targets. But they were never given the green light, and that capability instead fell to the side; and Israel missed its window of opportunity to act.

Is it too late now? I don't know. In the IDF, the generals are confident—as illustrated by the arrogance the incoming commander of the IAF exhibited in the media this week—that they can get the job done. And they are, God willing, probably right.

Israel's military is powerful, and could definitely deal Iran a blow that would set back and delay its nuclear progress. But there are questions that need to be asked: will an overt airstrike really achieve so much more in terms of a delay than continued covert operations? Is the war that will ensue worth just a few years delay? And is the diplomatic fallout something Israel can sustain for an undefined achievement?

Ten years have passed since Hendel and I wrote that plan. Parts of it are still relevant. Others are not. What is for certain is that in the time that has passed since then, Iran has not been stopped. It has grown stronger, more audacious, more advanced—and Israel failed to prevent that from happening.

How much longer?



An article by Joshua Klein titled "Israeli PM's Christmas Message: Israel 'Our Common Heritage,' Only Place in Region Protecting Christian Life" was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on Dec. 24, 2021. Following is the article.

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Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett issued Christmas greetings to Christians worldwide along with a message of brotherhood and unity, highlighting Israel's determination to protect Christian life and thanking Christian "brothers and sisters" who are "united in our love for Jerusalem" for "caring about us" and "fighting for the state of Israel."

In his public Christmas message in English posted on Thursday, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett wished all Christians in Israel and around the world a merry Christmas.

"From the holy city of Jerusalem, I want to wish all Christians in Israel and across the world a Merry Christmas," Bennett began.

He also highlighted what he described as the "common heritage" of both Jews and Christians.

"It's here in this ancient land where our forefathers lived the stories we all read in the Bible from the Galilee to the Holy City of Jerusalem, right here," he said. "You see, the land of Israel is the land of our common heritage, and it remains a beacon of religious freedom, tolerance, and prosperity."

Noting the increased persecution of Christians in the region, Bennett highlighted Israel's role in protecting Christian life there.

"In a region where Christians are routinely persecuted, there's only one place, one country, that protects Christian life—where the Christian community is growing, thriving, and prospering—and that's right here in the state of Israel," he said.

Stating, "We're brothers and sisters, and we're all united in our love for Jerusalem and our prayers for peace," the prime minister wished "warm greetings" from Israel's historic capital.

"So, as you celebrate the holidays in Israel and around the world, I would like to send you all warm greetings from Jerusalem," he said.

He concluded by expressing appreciation for Christians who support the Jewish state.

"I also want to thank you for caring about us; we know that you're out there fighting for the state of Israel," he said.

"I'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year," he added.

People gather by the giant hollow Christmas tree set up in Iraq's predominantly Christian town of Qaraqosh (Baghdada), in Nineveh province, some 30 kilometres from Mosul, on December 7, 2021. (Photo by ZAID AL-OBEIDI/AFP via Getty Images)

Also on Thursday, Israeli President Isaac Herzog spoke with Pope Francis, wishing him and Christians worldwide a merry Christmas on behalf of Israel.

“Israel is firmly committed to the wellbeing of Christian churches and communities in the Holy Land and the Middle East,” he said.

This year saw Christian populations persecuted in countries around the world despite a lack of significant media coverage, as the number of nations documenting such persecution has doubled in the past 15 years.

The Christian advocacy group Open Doors, whose ratings for Christian persecution track fairly well with the State Department’s annual Report on International Religious Freedom, revealed over 340 million Christians are facing “high levels of persecution” across the globe, equalling roughly one-eighth of the total Christian population.

In its latest annual religious freedom report, the Pew Research Center found that Christians are “the most persecuted religious group in the world,” with 153 nations reporting attacks or discrimination against them.



An article by Megan Basham titled “John MacArthur Calls on Pastors to Preach Biblical Sexuality in Defiance of New Canadian Law That Would ‘Criminalize Evangelism’ ” was posted at [dailywire.com](https://dailywire.com) on Dec. 29, 2021. Following is the article.

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Canadian pastors are warning that a new “conversion therapy” bill, just passed by parliament, will likely ban them from teaching that homosexuality and transgenderism are sins according to the Bible.

The bill in question, known as C-4, unanimously passed both the House of Commons and the Senate before receiving Royal Assent on December 8, meaning it will officially become Canadian law on Jan 8. On the surface, it’s meant to outlaw “conversion therapies”— that is, psychological treatments intended to re-train same-sex attracted people to prefer the opposite sex and individuals who believe they’re transgender to embrace their biological sex. When approached in a coercive or abusive manner, nearly all mainstream Christian denominations also condemn such therapy.

But critics say C-4’s language is so broad it also effectively bans preaching and teaching based on biblical sexual ethics. For instance, it could prevent counseling that references the many Old and New Testament passages that demonstrate God reserves sex for one man and one woman within the bond of marriage. It could also criminalize any instruction that confirms human beings are created as indelibly male or female from birth (the Bible has no category for transgender other than to condemn men dressing like women and vice versa in verses like Deuteronomy 22:5).

Even further, the bill makes it a crime for parents to provide Christian therapy to their children suffering from gender dysphoria and prevents pastors and other religious leaders from offering biblical counseling or advice to same-sex attracted individuals who desire to obey God’s commands to repent from the sin of homosexual practices. Violations carry a penalty of up to five years in prison.

In response, John MacArthur, longtime senior pastor of Grace Community Church in Los Angeles, is asking for ministers across the U.S. to join him in preaching about God's standard for sexuality on Jan 16. MacArthur's statement, issued Dec. 28, calls for a show of solidarity that will "put the Canadian and the U.S. governments on notice that they have attacked the Word of God."

In his appeal, MacArthur quoted Canadian minister James Coates (who was jailed earlier this year for keeping his church open in violation of government covid restrictions), saying the bill could be used to "criminalize evangelism."

"I am eager to support our Canadian brothers and to preach on biblical sexual morality on January 16, and I invite you as a faithful pastor to do the same," MacArthur wrote, later adding, "We are all well-aware of the evil power and destructive influence of the homosexual and transgender ideology. Our government is bent on not only normalizing this perversion, but also legalizing it, and furthermore criminalizing opposition to it."

He then went on to point out that similar laws have made their way through state legislatures in the U.S.

In 2012, California enacted a law that prohibited conversion therapy, though it's purview is much more limited than C-4's. New York, New Jersey, Oregon, Massachusetts, Nevada, and a number of other states passed similar bills soon after. On a national level, the Democratic Party included banning "harmful conversion therapy practices" in its platform at its convention this past August.

At the same time, as The Daily Wire has previously reported in numerous stories, school districts across the U.S. have grown much more aggressive in teaching students that they may be gay or transgender and that identifying as such is good for children's mental health. Countless videos posted on social media accounts like Libs of TikTok have gone viral in recent months for showing LGBT educators and their "allies" insisting they have a right to indoctrinate children with the idea that characterizing homosexuality or transgenderism as sin is hateful. To date, there are no laws that prohibit teachers, counselors, or clergy from proselytizing *for* homosexuality and transgenderism. C-4 is no different.

As Anna Nienhuis of Canada's Association for Reformed Political Action has pointed out, while the bill bans any attempts to help someone turn away from unwanted homosexuality or transgenderism, it imposes no limits on attempts to "counsel a cisgender or heterosexual individual to become transgender or homosexual."

In his open letter, MacArthur, whose daily Bible teaching program, "Grace to You," is one of the most popular radio ministries in the world, quoted Andrew DeBartolo, teaching elder at Encounter Church in Ontario. DeBartolo stressed the importance of pushing back against government authoritarianism on this issue and thanked his American brothers for their willingness to stand alongside him: *In the Preamble of the Bill, it says that the belief that **"heterosexuality, cisgender gender identity and gender expression that conforms to the sex assigned to a person at birth are to be preferred over other sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions"** is a "myth."*



*"According to Canadian law, as of January 8, 2022, the belief in God's design for marriage and sexuality will now be seen as a myth . . . On January 16, 2022, faithful men across this country (and many in the United States as well) will be preaching on God's design for marriage and a biblical ethic of sexuality. We will be doing so illegally, declaring to the State that there is one God and one Lord over His church, and that Christ alone gets to both define marriage and dictate what is required in the pulpit. We are honored that our American brothers will be joining us in this."*

Hours after MacArthur posted the letter to social media, hundreds of pastors affirmed that they had signed it and will be joining him in preaching about biblical sexuality in defiance of C-4 and similar U.S. laws on Jan. 16.

Nate Pickowicz, senior pastor of Harvest Bible Church in Gilmanston, New Hampshire, said, "I signed, and I'm committed to standing with our Canadian brothers and sisters in the Lord."

Corey Smith, senior pastor at Heritage Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, tweeted, "Let's stand with our brothers in Canada in proclaiming the saving and sovereign grace of God in the Lord Jesus to radically transform the lives of those enslaved to the sins of homosexuality [and] transgenderism."

"We need to stand with our Canadian pastors who will likely suffer for their unwillingness to compromise truth!" said Tom Buck, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Lindale, Texas.

Finally, Brandon Byler, pastor of Calvary Byler Church in Cortland, Ohio, commented, "Thanks for bringing this to my attention. Signed and thinking through how to pray for our faithful brothers and sisters in Canada, as well as how to continue to prepare my people for when it hits our shores."



An article by Star Parker titled "More Government, Less Religion—the Progressive Doctrine" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 29, 2021. Following is the article.

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One great mystery is the persistent refusal of those on the left to abandon what is clearly not true.

That is, that the means for reducing the burden of poverty is more government spending.

It all really started in the 1960s under President Lyndon B. Johnson. He declared in his State of the Union address in January 1964 an "unconditional war on poverty in America." Despite tens of trillions of spending since then, poverty remains, and so does the conviction of progressives that it can be wiped out with government spending.

Worth recalling is that the avalanche of government spending launched in the 1960s was followed in the 1970s by runaway inflation.

We now face the latest round of this misguided idea with the expansion of the Child Tax Credit in the Build Back Better Act—now derailed thanks to Sen. Joe Manchin.

Fellow Democrats are now all over the beleaguered senator for allegedly not caring about child poverty.

Build Back Better would have increased the credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000, or \$3,600 for children under 6.

In a particularly destructive move, they detached any work requirement from receiving the Child Tax Credit.

A team of University of Chicago economists estimates providing a new generous Child Tax Credit, with no work requirement, would result in 1.5 million parents leaving the workforce.

More government, less work. This is somehow the answer that Democratic Party leadership is serving up to us for how to build a better future for our nation.

Where does the passion of Democrats really lie—in improving lives of Americans or in dramatically expanding government?

Equally revealing is what does not interest progressives at all.

A little more than a decade ago, Ron Haskins and Isabel Sawhill at the Brookings Institution publicized what they called the “success sequence.”

The success sequence consists of three steps in behavior to avoid poverty. Complete at least a high school education, work full time, and wait until age 21 before getting married and then having children.

According to testimony of Haskins in the U.S. Senate in 2012, those following the “success sequence” have a 2% chance of being in poverty and a 75% chance of reaching the middle class.

But the success sequence doesn’t much interest progressives because the focus is about individuals taking personal responsibility for their lives in a free country. The “personal responsibility” part and the “free country” part have little standing in the Democratic Party.

Also of little interest to our progressive friends is that larding down our economy with massive amounts of government retards economic growth. Why would anyone think slow economic growth is good for the poor, let alone any American?

As Americans allow themselves to be convinced that government is the answer to their lives, they become more likely to abandon faith and religion, which provide the light and principles for individuals to take control of their own lives.

New data from the Pew Research Center shows the toll that secularization is taking on our country.

According to Pew, 63% of Americans in 2021 identify as Christians, compared with 78% in 2007. In 2021, 29% indicated they have no religion, compared with 16% in 2007. Whereas in 2007, 56% said religion was “very important” in their lives, in 2021 this was down to 41%.

Perhaps as we close out 2021, we should again recall the words of America's first president, George Washington, in his farewell address.

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. ... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."



An article by Oliver North titled "New Year's Resolutions for 2022" was posted at creators.com on Dec. 28, 2021. Following is the article.

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For many Americans—perhaps most—this week looks to a "Happy New Year" for our country, children and grandchildren.

Opportunity abounds in 2022. We see a resurgence of the character, strength and essential ideals for those of us who believe in the values of America's founders. Those seeking the destruction of our constitutional republic will howl if We the People reengage in governing our great nation at every level. We invite you to join us in taking full advantage of 2022's opportunities. Let us all resolve to do the following.

■ Restore the Sovereignty and Integrity of the Constitution

The U.S. Constitution is the law of the land in America. It has been undermined by leftist ideologues who reject everything America stands for, particularly our individual liberties in the Bill of Rights.

The far left favors what they call a "living Constitution." This is semantic subterfuge for anything leftist judges and legislators want it to mean. Resolve to support only candidates for public office who support "original intent" in our most important seminal document.

■ Choose Policies, Not Personalities

We must break free from electing personalities and look to reestablishing first-principle policies in every office from school boards to the White House. Many professing Christians openly opposed former President Donald Trump because they didn't like him, obviously overlooking his historic support of life, liberty, prosperity, Israel, national security, free and fair trade and so much more. They judged him by his flaws, not his policies; many now regret this mistake.

■ Eliminate the Covid Mandates

President Joe Biden campaigned and came to office promising to eliminate the covid-19 virus and unite Americans. He has done neither. We need to pray the Supreme Court determines his "vaccinate or get fired" mandates to be unconstitutional and therefore illegal.

## ■ Replace the Biden Administration's Socialist Agenda with Free-Market Policies

Big government is the mortal enemy of free enterprise. This is our fundamental opposition to socialism. Our founders were advocates of free markets, entrepreneurship, individual initiative, opportunity and personal responsibility.

America was never intended to be a nanny state where all in America, citizens or not, depend on the federal government for their welfare. Yet, the "Bidenistas" apparently want all who are here, legally or not, to be assured they can depend on our federal government to provide free housing, food, education, etc.

In our book, "We Didn't Fight for Socialism," we warned that the step from nanny state to socialist despotism is a small one. The Biden administration is fast taking a final, fatal step toward complete government control over our lives. It's time we recall our prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread," isn't a plea to a government agency.

## ■ Stop the Southern Border Atrocities

Within hours of taking office, Biden used executive orders to eliminate border control measures approved by Congress and signed into law by his predecessor. The Biden administration's "open borders" rhetoric served to invite nearly two million illegal immigrants, including tens of thousands of untested and unvaccinated virus-carriers, and undocumented human and drug traffickers. Even known terrorists have been apprehended, and we don't know how many got through.

## ■ Restore Military Preparedness and Morale

The Biden administration's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan this past summer resulted in immediate, long-term damage to U.S. global relationships and formal alliances.

Communist China, Russia, Iran and North Korea all pose serious threats to the U.S. and Israel, our closest Middle Eastern ally.

Biden's response to these congressional inquiries has been to ignore clear and present threats to our national security. Xi Jinping's Communist China already has more combatant vessels than the U.S. Navy and is building faster weapon systems. Meanwhile, the focus of our military is social-justice training.



An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Poll: Most Americans Agree With J.K. Rowling [Author of Harry Potter Series]—There Are Only Two Genders" was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://cnsnews.com) on Dec. 27, 2021. Following are excerpts of the article.

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J.K. Rowling, the best selling author of the hugely popular *Harry Potter* series, has criticized some aspects of transgenderism, which have sparked attacks against her on social media and in other venues. However, a new Rasmussen poll shows that 75% of American adults agree with Rowling that there are only two genders.

Rowling does not dismiss transgenderism as a real condition, but she has questioned how, politically, it is eroding the legal definitions of male and female, and is destroying girls' rights and women's sports.

In a June 2020 article, Rowling said, "It's been clear to me for a while that the new trans activism is having (or is likely to have, if all its demands are met) a significant impact on many of the causes I support, because it's pushing to erode the legal definition of sex and replace it with gender."

In June of 2020, she tweeted, "If sex isn't real, there's no same-sex attraction. If sex isn't real, the lived reality of women globally is erased. I know and love trans people, but erasing the concept of sex removes the ability of many to meaningfully discuss their lives. It isn't hate to speak the truth."

This month, Rowling jumped back into the fray because Scotland is considering labeling transgender females (biological males with penises) as "women," in incidents of rape.

In a Dec. 12 tweet linking to an article, "Absurdity of police logging rapists as women," Rowling—borrowing from George Orwell—wrote, "War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength. The Penis Individual Who Raped You Is a Woman."

According to Rasmussen on Dec. 27, "Transgender activists have accused J.K. Rowling of 'hate speech' for saying it, but most Americans agree with the *Harry Potter* author that there are only two genders."

"The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone and online survey finds that 75% of American Adults agree that there are only two genders, male and female," said the survey firm. "That total includes 63% who strongly agree. Eighteen percent (18%) disagree.



An article by Leah Barkoukis titled "Biden: 'There Is No Federal Solution' to Covid-19" was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 28, 2021. Following is the article.

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President Biden agreed with some Republican governors on Monday that there is no federal solution to the covid-19 pandemic, even though he ran on shutting down the virus and continues pushing his vaccine mandates and other federal mitigation measures.

The president's comment came after Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson warned against the White House's plan to distribute 500 million rapid tests.

"Make sure that we do not let federal solutions stand in the way of state solutions," he said in a phone call between Biden and governors. "The production of 500 million rapid tests that will be distributed by the federal government is great, but obviously that dries up the supply chain for the solutions that we might offer as governor."

“There is no federal solution. This gets solved at the state level,” Biden noted—a point he said New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu makes often. “And it ultimately gets down to where the rubber meets the road and that’s where the patient is in need of help, or preventing the need for help.”

Not only did Biden pledge to “shut down the virus,” he also has issued federal vaccine mandates on healthcare workers, federal employees and contractors, the military, and large private employers, though many are facing legal challenges. Additionally, he has required the use of masks for transit systems and has aggressively pushed back on states that have banned school mask mandates.



An article by Katie Pavlich titled “Biden Just Blew Up His Argument for Federal Mandates and People Are Noticing” was posted at townhall.com on Dec. 28, 2021. Following are excerpts of the article.

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As Leah reported earlier, yesterday President Joe Biden claimed there is no “federal solution” to the Wuhan coronavirus pandemic. He then jetted off to Delaware for the rest of the week. Today, he called a lid at 10:13 am.

■ Disclose.tv reported: “Biden departs to Delaware beach house after telling governors there is ‘no federal solution’ on covid and it should be ‘solved at the state level.’ ”

The admission has prompted calls from lawmakers on Capitol Hill and around the country to end federal vaccine mandates, which are destroying the economy.

■ Dan Crenshaw wrote: “Then end the Federal mandates.”

■ Rep. Darrell Issa wrote: “If there’s no federal covid solution, why is there a federal vaccine mandate?”

■ Greg Abbott wrote: “Biden says there’s no federal solution to covid and that this gets solved at a state level. He should immediately end his unconstitutional federal mandates. The Texas solution is no mandates and personal responsibility.”

■ Jane Timken wrote: “Then why is he still imposing unconstitutional federal mandates?”

■ Krisit Noem wrote: “After a year, we finally agree @potus. The federal government isn’t the solution. That’s why from the start, SD took a different approach by trusting our citizens to be responsible and make the right decisions for themselves & their families. Now rescind all the federal mandates.”

On January 7, 2022 the Department of Justice will be defending Biden’s vaccine mandates in front of the Supreme Court.



An article by Ian Haworth titled “CDC Drastically Walks Back Estimate of How Widespread Omicron Variant Was in U.S. Before Christmas” was posted at [dailywire.com](https://www.dailywire.com) on Dec. 28, 2021. Following is the article.

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Despite sparking widespread concern across the world, it appears that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) overestimated the earlier spread of the Omicron variant of covid-19 in the United States by more than 200%.

On December 20, the CDC reported that the vast majority (73%) of covid-19 cases in the United States were Omicron cases, which was up by 0.7% compared to the previous two weeks. But the CDC has now walked back this number to 22.5%, not 73%.

“The rapidly spreading omicron variant is now the dominant covid strain in the U.S., representing 73% of sequenced cases, according to data published Monday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,” CNBC reported on December 20. “Omicron has displaced the previously dominant delta variant, which the CDC says is now an estimated 26.6% of sequenced cases for the week ending December 18. Just one week earlier, delta made up 87% of cases to omicron’s 12.6%, the data shows.”

However, the CDC “significantly revised downward the estimate of the percentage of new Covid-19 infections in the U.S. caused by the omicron variant of the virus,” The Hill reported. As of Christmas, the CDC estimated that the number of new coronavirus cases attributable to Omicron was 58%.

“There was a wide predictive interval posted in last week’s chart, in part because of the speed at which Omicron was increasing,” a CDC spokesperson told POLITICO. “We had more data come in from that timeframe and there was a reduced proportion of Omicron.”

“According to agency data, omicron accounted for about 59 percent of all U.S. infections as of Dec. 25. Previously, the CDC said the omicron variant comprised 73 percent of all cases for the week ending Dec. 18. But that number has now been revised to 22.5 percent of all cases,” The Hill reported. “The omicron variant is highly transmissible and spreading rapidly, resulting in surges of infections even among people who are vaccinated. However, people who are vaccinated, and especially those who have received booster shots, are well protected against severe disease from the variant, experts say, meaning it poses the greatest risk to the unvaccinated.”

Former Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Scott Gottlieb argued that, even though the “initial estimate was so inaccurate,” the latest data indicates that “a good portion of the current hospitalizations we’re seeing from Covid may still be driven by Delta infections.”

According to the CDC, Omicron was first identified in South Africa, and “early evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people who become infected with the Omicron variant can spread the virus to others.”

"All FDA-approved or authorized vaccines are expected to be effective against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths," the CDC added. "The recent emergence of the Omicron variant further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters."

The highly contagious Omicron strain was first detected in the U.S. on December 1 in a fully vaccinated person who had traveled to South Africa.

As The Daily Wire noted, a recent study found the Omicron variant could infect some 140 million Americans by March, but the majority of people who contract the variant might remain asymptomatic.

"We are expecting an enormous surge in infections . . . so, an enormous spread of Omicron," said Dr. Chris Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, according to USA Today.



**Isaiah 55:6-11**—"Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not you thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."