

## **MRC ALERTS NO 47. APRIL**

**(There is so much “news” going on that it is hard to keep up.  
These headlines may give some idea of what is happening)**

**Headlines supplied by *Worthy News Israel***

### **ISRAEL**

**Sanhedrin petitions Israeli government to perform a Passover sacrifice on the temple mount.** It was considered by the P M but was finally denied.

### **President gives Gantz and Netanyahu 24 hours for power-sharing deal**

April 12. President Reuven Rivlin rejected Kahol-Lavan leader Benny Gantz’s request for more time to form a government after his allotted 21 days were up.

Rivlin also refused to pass the mandate to Likud leader PM Binyamin Netanyahu. He warned them that unless they clinched a power-sharing deal for dealing with the coronavirus crisis as a team by Monday night (13th), the decision would revert to the Knesset in 22 days.

### **THE CORONA-19 EPIDEMIC**

#### **European leaders say EU at risk of breaking up over the coronavirus**

A former European Commission president has said the coronavirus crisis may result in the break-up of the European Union. In a rare statement last weekend, Jacques Delors said the lack of European solidarity in dealing with the crisis presented “a mortal danger” to the EU. Others have expressed similar concerns.

#### **EU ‘Deeply Concerned’ Over Hungary's Coronavirus Measures**

Thirteen European Union nations say they fear that emergency measures to contain the new coronavirus pandemic and could threaten "democracy and fundamental rights." Their statement came after EU-member Hungary introduced coronavirus legislation that allows the increasingly authoritarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to rule by decree without parliamentary approval.

#### **AFRICA bracing for ‘complete collapse of economies’ as corona takes its toll**

African leaders are warning of an economic collapse if financial assistance isn’t provided to the millions of people out of work because of the novel coronavirus.

#### **World risks permanent surveillance with coronavirus controls**

More than 100 civil society groups urged governments not to use the global coronavirus pandemic as a cover for future pervasive electronic snooping, but instead, make sure data is erased once the health crisis is over.

#### **Countries Fight Over Medical Supplies Amid Coronavirus Pandemic**

As countries struggle to contain the new coronavirus outbreak, a global fight has emerged over dwindling medical supplies. The tensions even led to growing competition for medical goods between the United States and its traditional European allies. Take Germany. The local government in the German state and capital, Berlin, claims that 200,000 U.S.-made protective masks bound for Germany never arrived. Authorities say the shipment was 'confiscated' in Bangkok, Thailand.

#### **Iran Frees Christian Converts Over Coronavirus Concerns**

Iran has released a Christian woman who was jailed after refusing to reconvert to Islam, activists confirmed to Worthy News. Rokhsareh (Mahrokh) Ghanbari, 62, is among

some **85,000** prisoners freed in recent weeks amid concerns about the spread of the new coronavirus COVID-19.

### **Hezbollah accused of bringing coronavirus to Lebanon**

The Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorist organization in Lebanon has been accused of helping to bring coronavirus to the nation. Opponents of the powerful group point out that Lebanon took three weeks to block flights from Iran, after a woman who had just returned from there tested coronavirus positive on Feb. 20. Hezbollah is accused of causing the delay to ensure its supporters could return home. Denying the claims, Hezbollah is trying to show the Lebanon Shiite community that it is working to protect them from the outbreak.

### **Pastor Charged for Holding Services Amid Coronavirus Lockdown**

The pastor of a Louisiana church has been charged with defying state efforts to curtail the coronavirus outbreak. Tony Spell of the Life Tabernacle Church near Baton Rouge faces six counts of misdemeanor for holding services in violation of state-wide orders to stay home and to limit essential gatherings to 10 persons. Spell has said the government is infringing on the right to religion and that he will continue to hold services.

### **Britain's Johnson now out of hospital, and says staff saved his life**

British PM Boris Johnson was rushed to the intensive care unit at a London hospital after his condition worsened in a battle with COVID-19. "Over the course of this afternoon, the condition of the Prime Minister has worsened, and, on the advice of his medical team, he has been moved to the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital," said his Downing Street office in a statement. "The PM has asked Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who is the First Secretary of State, to deputize for him where necessary."

Premier's office says he will now continue his recovery at his country house, and not immediately returning to work after a week in hospital including 3 days in intensive care.

### **Brexit trade deal gets tougher as coronavirus strikes officials on both sides**

The Brexit trade deal will face greater challenges ahead as British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is now in intensive care because of the coronavirus, while other key negotiators have either been infected or are in self-isolation.

### **Google launches 'mobility' project that traces human activities worldwide**

Americans are going to transit stations, retail and recreation locations and workplaces much less frequently now than they were just a month ago, according to a new mobility project from Google that traces human movements worldwide.

### **Morgan Stanley: "World Facing Deep Global Recession"**

The world's largest investment bank and financial services company warns of a "deep global recession" due to the new coronavirus pandemic. New York-based Morgan Stanley says worldwide economic growth could slow by as much as 0.9 percent this year. "COVID-19 is at once a human tragedy and unparalleled synchronous shock, affecting both the demand and supply sides of the global economy," writes Morgan Stanley chief economist Chetan Ahya in a note.

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government is infringing on the right to religion and that he will continue to hold services.

### **Japan declares state of emergency, nearly \$1 trillion stimulus for coronavirus**

Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, has declared a state of emergency to fight coronavirus infections in major population centres. He has now rolled out a nearly \$1 trillion stimulus package to soften the economic blow.

## **CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THE EPIDEMIC**

### **Poll finds almost half of Americans see coronavirus crisis as wake-call to return to God.**

According to a recent survey, **43.4%** of American adults believe the coronavirus crisis is a **wake-up call** for the US to return to God. Nearly three-in-ten respondents (29.4%) said they think the outbreak and subsequent financial devastation are signs of the Biblical “Last Days.” The poll was conducted for the Joshua Fund (JF), a major US Christian charity.

### **Study Shows Even Non-Religious Americans Are Turning to Prayer as a Result of COVID-19**

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### **Federal Appeals Court upholds Texas ban on most abortions during coronavirus pandemic**

A federal Court of Appeals has allowed Texas to **continue its ban on most abortions** during the coronavirus pandemic. Tuesday’s ruling overturns a lower court’s decision to block the state’s ban on non-essential abortions. The ban remains in place while the case moves on to be heard by a federal court in Austin next week.

### **'Hope is Rising, Even in the Midst of Tragedy': NYC Churches Pray God Will Bring Many to Jesus in This Crisis**

As the coronavirus hammers New York, churches continue to serve the needs of the community and pray for an end to the outbreak.

### **INCREASED SALES OF THE BIBLE during coronavirus pandemic**

Major Christian publishing companies have reported increased sales of the Bible during the coronavirus pandemic. The increase is reportedly similar to that observed after the September 11 terror attacks in 2001.

### **Online US church services have attracted fewer viewers than expected**

A study has found that only 28% of Americans have watched on-line church services since coronavirus stay-at-home orders shut the majority of church doors. Conducted by the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), the study also found the low level of viewership was despite a majority of Americans reporting they have become more religious since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

## **PERSECUTION**

### **Government, police, radical Hindus in cahoots against Christians in India**

Police, state governments, and radical Hindu nationalist groups are joining together against Christians in India, marshalling the accusation that Christians are forcing people to convert to faith in Jesus.

### **Pastor in Nepal punished in spite of following quarantine orders**

A pastor in Nepal who made sure to fastidiously follow government regulations forbidding worship services was attacked by police anyway while at home with his family, the officers taunting him and Jesus.

### **Continued harassment for Christians during coronavirus outbreak**

Christians in China have reported ongoing harassment from government authorities during the coronavirus crisis. China is ranked as one of the world's worst countries in the persecution of Christians, according to the open doors USA's world watch list.

### **Christian father and husband in India beaten in front of family, refuses to renounce Jesus**

A young Christian family in India once considered cursed by their village was attacked by a mob wielding sticks, the husband beaten unconscious before his wife and two children.

## **THE ECONOMY**

### **Record 6.6 million Americans file unemployment claims, nearly doubling prior week's total**

More than 6.6 million Americans filed unemployment claims last week as more businesses were forced to lay off and furlough workers because of the coronavirus pandemic.

### **World faces potential new 'Great Depression' as virus toll mounts**

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### **U.S. Debt Reaches "Unsustainable" 24 Trillion Dollars**

The federal government debt of the United States has reached a record \$24 trillion despite warnings by the nation's leading watchdog that it is unsustainable for the world's largest economy

### **Saudi Arabia and Russia Signal Readiness to Cooperate on Oil**

Saudi Arabia and Russia signalled they were ready to cooperate to help stabilize the oil market after calls with U.S. President Donald Trump to discuss the slump in prices triggered by the end of a deal to curb output and a collapse in demand.

### **CYCLONE DISASTER**

#### **Powerful Cyclone Harold tears through South Pacific island nations including of Vanuatu and Fiji.**

Cyclone Harold tore through the South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu for the second day on Tuesday. Buildings collapsed and communications were cut off in some parts of the island. As of Tuesday afternoon, no casualties had been reported.

### **THE UNITED STATES**

#### **Record low number of Americans hold biblical worldview**

Only 6% of Americans possess a biblical worldview, according to a new survey.

#### **American companies moving away from China as main supplier**

A new report shows the “dramatic reversal” of a five-year trend as US companies commanded a considerably larger share of manufacturing in 2019 than the 14 Asian exporters that were tracked for the study. According to the seventh annual Reshoring Index report by global manufacturing consulting firm Kearney, Chinese exporters suffered the greatest losses.

#### **Google launches 'mobility' project that traces human activities worldwide !!!!**

Americans are going to transit stations, retail and recreation locations and workplaces much less frequently now than they were just a month ago, according to a new mobility project from Google that traces human movements worldwide.

### **THE MIDDLE EAST**

#### **Saudi-led Coalition Announces Cease-fire in Yemen War**

The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said Wednesday that it was halting military operations nationwide in support of U.N. efforts to end a five-year war that has killed over 100,000 people and spread hunger and disease.

#### **Top Hezbollah leader assassinated in Lebanon**

A top Hezbollah commander close to Qassem Soleimani was assassinated in Lebanon Saturday night, following several months of seeming détente between the US and Iran.

#### **US military moves air defence systems into Iraq following attacks on American troops**

The U.S. military says that air defence systems are 'moving' into Iraq following attacks on American and coalition forces in recent weeks.

**Y'shua our Redeemer says:**

**“Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be mighty and violent earthquakes in various places, and plagues, (*pestilences, malignant, contagious or infectious diseases, and deadly, devastating epidemics*), and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.’ But before all this, they will lay their hands on you and persecute *you*, handing *you* over to the synagogues and prisons, and bringing you before kings and governors for My Name's sake. It will provide an opportunity for you to witness.” (Luke 21:10-13)**

**LOOK UP!**