

# Images of the Week...



Jan. 8, 2018. DeVonta Smith of the Alabama Crimson Tide catches a 41-yard touchdown pass to beat the Georgia Bulldogs in the CFP National Championship Game in Atlanta, Georgia.



Jan. 9, 2018. An observation point at the base of Niagara Falls in Niagara Falls, Ontario, is covered in ice as the falls are illuminated by colored light.



Jan. 9, 2018. Emergency personnel carry a woman rescued from a collapsed home after a mudslide in Montecito, California.



Jan. 11, 2018. With the lower Manhattan skyline as a background, ice floats in the Hudson River as seen from Jersey City, NJ.

## DAY OF DECISION

My friend, today is your day of decision. Are you saved? God loves you. The Bible tells us that because we're all born with a sinful fallen nature that separates us from God, Jesus Christ (God the Son) was sent into this world to die on the cross and shed His precious blood for your sins. Those who truly receive Christ into their heart by faith will be transformed spiritually and accepted by God into His heavenly kingdom. Those who reject Christ will be separated from God forever and tormented in Hell and the Lake of Fire. What will your decision be?

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16*

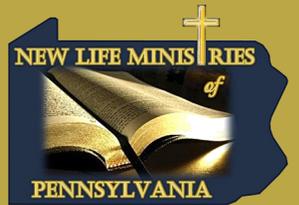
## Wonderful Words of Life

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*"Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature; old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17*



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DISPLAY AT THARPTOWN COMMUNITY PARK

### Inside This Week's Issue:

**Bible Study Lesson: MUDSLIDE MADNESS**

**Israel in the News**

**National Headlines**

**Global Headlines and Prophetic World Events**

**Images of the Week**

**Day of Decision**



# Bible Study Lesson: MUDSLIDE MADNESS

Key Bible Verse: **1 Corinthians 3:11** — *“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

Other Scriptures: **Matthew 7:24-27** — *“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”*

**Proverbs 10:25** — *“As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.”*

The recent California wildfires have paved the way for a new disaster, which unfolded this past week when the rains came — powerful mudslides! Entire communities were suddenly swept away without warning as torrents of mud and debris quickly swept down mountainsides like raging rivers, consuming everything in their path. Any homes that lacked a strong foundation were immediately consumed and destroyed. There have also been at least 18 confirmed fatalities with many more likely to follow. This real-life tragedy brings to mind Jesus’ story in the Bible about the importance for one’s life to have a strong foundation in the word of God. He likened the wise to those who build their lives upon the rock, living according to the Bible, fearing God and keeping His commandments. When the storms of life come, they’re able to endure and survive. Then there’s the other side. Those who choose to build the foundation of their lives upon the shifting sands of selfish, careless living, disregarding God and His word. When the storms of life come, they utterly fail and fall. Time and again, the word of God makes it clear that the foundation of our lives must be built upon the Rock of Ages—Jesus Christ and a willingness to keep His commandments — the commandments of God. What foundation is your life built upon today? Are you ready to face the storms?

Sincerely,  
*Mr. Chris J. Grego*

Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions that you may have.

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It is my sincere hope and prayer that you will find a new life in Christ and experience the joy of walking with Him each day.



## Israel in the News

**Israel to close seven diplomatic missions, embassies abroad:** Israel will close seven diplomatic offices abroad over the next three years, government officials decided Friday in their 2019 budget. Among the missions that will be closed include some in the United States, which currently has Israeli missions in Washington D.C., Atlanta, Boston, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco, Chicago and New York. It costs between \$3.4 and \$4.4 million dollars to operate each U.S. location. Other missions considered for removal are in Canada, which has offices in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa. Officials may also shutter missions in Brazil, Turkey and Germany. Elsewhere in Europe, they are considering the consolidation of missions in Latvia and Lithuania, as well as those in Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The Foreign Ministry said the closings will likely span three years. Any money the government saves on the deals will be used for real estate and defense expenses.



## National Headlines

**Hawaii gets false missile alert:** People in Hawaii woke up to emergency alerts on their phones today about an imminent ballistic missile attack which they later learned was a false alarm. The false emergency alert apparently happened because "the wrong button was pushed," Hawaii House Speaker Scott Saiki said in a statement Saturday. "This system we have been told to rely upon failed and failed miserably today," Saiki said. "I am deeply troubled by this misstep that could have had dire consequences."

**Deadly California mudslides:** At least 18 people are dead, including four children, when heavy rain unleashed flash floods, mudslides and debris flow in California this week, according to Santa Barbara County officials. Those killed were as young as 3 and as old as 84. At least 28 people were wounded in the storm, according to the Santa Barbara County Fire Department. Santa Barbara County officials said today that five people are missing, adding that the list is constantly fluctuating. An active search and rescue operation is ongoing, officials said.

**Suspect arrested for alleged murder of UPenn student:** A suspect was named in the alleged murder of 19-year-old University of Pennsylvania student Blaze Bernstein -- initially missing before he was found dead in a shallow grave on the fringe of a Southern California park this week, the police and prosecutors in Orange County said. Samuel Woodward, 20, a high school classmate of Bernstein's, was brought into custody Friday afternoon during a traffic stop and charged with suspicion of homicide in the death of the teenager.

**President Trump disputes reports of remarks on Haiti:** Amid a torrent of outraged criticism from around the country and the world, President Trump disputed multiple reports that he referred to Haiti as an (expletive) country during an Oval Office meeting with lawmakers on Thursday about U.S. immigration policy. "Never said anything derogatory about Haitians other than Haiti is, obviously, a very poor and troubled country," Trump tweeted early Friday morning. "Never said 'take them out.' Made up by Dems. I have a wonderful relationship with Haitians. Probably should record future meetings — unfortunately, no trust!"

**Keith Jackson passes away:** Keith Jackson, the sportscaster whose rich voice and distinctive phrasing endeared him to generations of college football fans, has died at age 89. The play-by-play man narrated a range of sporting events for ABC Sports for more than 40 years, starting in 1966. But college football was his forte, stamping the game with enduring expressions and nicknames.



## Global Headlines and Prophetic World Events

**Japan enters cooperation pact with Baltic nations:** Japan's prime minister said Saturday his country has entered into a pact with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to boost economic and political ties with the three former Soviet republics. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Latvian Prime Minister Maris Kucinskis said after meeting in Riga, Latvia's capital, that information technology, transportation and medicine are areas where Japan sees the most trade potential in the Baltic countries.

**Russia deploys more surface-to-air missiles in Crimean build-up:** Russia deployed a new division of S-400 surface-to-air missiles in Crimea on Saturday, Russian news agencies reported, in an escalation of military tensions on the Crimean peninsula. Russian annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, triggering economic sanctions by the European Union and United States and a tense stand-off in the region. The U.S. said in December it planned to provide Ukraine with "enhanced defensive capabilities", which officials said included Javelin anti-tank missiles.