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## This Week: Five Events You Need to Know (November 2)

Baghdadi's death, Lebanese protests, South Korea's pursuit of nukes, and more

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Here are five of the most important news stories this week, as well as relevant links to the full articles and videos here on theTrumpet.com.

### [Baghdadi's Death and the 'Total Defeat' of the Islamic State](#)

The world's most wanted terrorist, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, died last Sunday when United States Army Delta Force commandos with eight attack helicopters conducted a raid against an Islamic State compound in northwestern Syria.

The death of Baghdadi and the defeat of the Islamic State is a victory for both the United States and the world. But the Islamic State is merely a distraction, just like Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda is.

Islamic terrorism continues to persist because the U.S. focuses on the distractions and fails to confront [the real terrorist threat](#) in the Middle East.

### [A Second 'Cedar Revolution' in Lebanon?](#)

Lebanon's largest antigovernment protests in 15 years continued this week.

The protests of 15 years ago led to the Cedar Revolution, which successfully removed Syrian influence from Lebanon. That Syrian influence was replaced by [Iranian influence](#) via its proxy Hezbollah.

Is history about to repeat itself?

### [Will South Korea Soon Develop Nuclear Weapons?](#)

On the Korean Peninsula, trends are aligning in a way that could prompt South Korea to develop nuclear weapons, according to a recently published analysis by Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

The Bulletin was careful to note that even if the South Korean people and leadership decided to go nuclear, they would be restrained by treaties the South has signed. "Global and bilateral nonproliferation instruments, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons," it wrote, "strictly prevent the Seoul government from going nuclear." And South Korea would also be restrained "by the International Atomic Energy Agency's watertight monitoring presence."

But both North Korea and Iran also signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. And though the International Atomic Energy Agency routinely sounds the alarms about both, its "watertight monitoring presence" has barely

slowed either nation's drive toward developing [nuclear weapons](#).

This crisis affirms what *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in his free booklet [Nuclear Armageddon Is 'At the Door'](#): "Only God can solve our number one problem: that of human survival."

## [Why Is California Once Again in Flames?](#)

"California is being impacted by this challenging moment in our history," Gov. Gavin Newsom said in an October 27 declaration of emergency sparked by wildfires blazing through the state.

Newsom called the winds "historic" and of "a scale and scope the likes of which we haven't seen in some time." A statewide emergency is warranted, he said, "because 43 counties now are impacted by red flag warnings and by the severe weather conditions."

[For decades](#), one disaster after another has slammed the Golden State. In 1993, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote: "These deadly disasters are repeatedly labeled the 'worst ever'! ... With all the disasters that have struck California the past few years, *it's as if the state is under a curse*." In an Oct. 24, 2007, piece titled [California Disasters Continue—Why?](#), he examined biblical teachings that show California is in fact being cursed.

## [U.S. Deficit Reaches Seven-Year High During 2019](#)

Record-high budget deficits are the defining characteristic of 2019, according to the United States Treasury's monthly statement released on October 25. The Federal deficit has reached a seven-year high, at a time when consumer debt is also skyrocketing. This combination has dangerous implications for the U.S. economy.

The U.S. borrowed a total of \$984 billion in fiscal year 2019, according to the Treasury statement. It is expected to exceed \$1 trillion for the next fiscal year. This is a 26 percent increase over last year. This is being driven by higher defense spending, Medicare and interest payments on the national debt.

When America's debt comes due, it will [cost the nation](#) more than just dollars.