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RUPTURE # 2

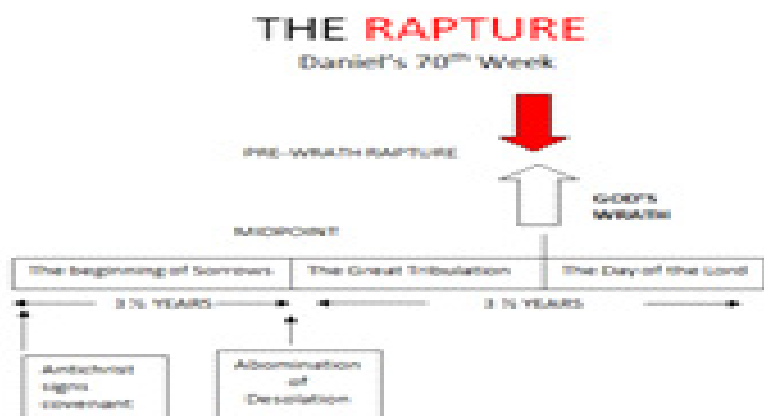
LOUIS PALIVOS



Conspicuously, St. John does not write about the Olivet Discourse but he does write what the Lord Jesus Christ revealed to him in Revelation, chapters 6, 7 and 8. See the correlation of these Revelation Chapters with the Olivet Discourse below.

When will the Rapture happen?

“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the apostasy, Gk. ἀποστασία, apostasia, comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts



himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the Temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” 2 Thes. 2:1-4 “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the *last trumpet*. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” 1 Cor. 15:51-52 Clearly, St. Paul revealed when the Rapture will happen, at “*the last trumpet*.” The last trumpet is revealed to St. John in Revelations, as the 7th Seal, which contains the 7 Trumpets. See Convergence diagram and trumpet judgments below.

Trumpet #1, is hail, fire and blood, and It burns the earth, 1/3 of trees

(Continued p.2)

Mitsotakis, Merkel agree on ‘green investment plan’



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Thursday discussed the prospects for investments in Greece and Europe’s migration problem in their first meeting since the latter was elected, reportedly seeing eye-to-eye on both issues.

During the closely watched meeting in Berlin, the two leaders agreed to devise a “green investment plan” for 2020-2030 and to hold a joint investment forum in the first quarter of next year. Mitsotakis expressed to Merkel his government’s “sincere appetite for deep, structural changes” that would go beyond the austerity measures imposed on Greece by its foreign bailouts, and said he looked forward to a “paradigm shift” in bilateral relations.

Merkel, for her part, said that “much progress has been achieved” and pointed to an improved climate which, she said, would make it easier for Greece to honor its commitments. According to sources, Merkel congratulated Mitsotakis for the swiftness with which his government adopted tough changes in the first 50 days after his election.

Mitsotakis, who has emphasized the need for Greek “ownership” of reforms, told reporters that his government has “a major advantage.” “We don’t need to flip-flop,” he said, in a dig at his predecessor’s change in stance after clashing with Greece’s creditors. “It is very nice to tell everyone that you will enforce your program, the one for which citizens elected you.”

As for his pledge to lower Greece’s high primary budget surpluses, Mitsotakis said his government first wants to restore Greece’s credibility and then broach the issue with creditors. The targets for 2019 and 2020 agreed by the previous government would be honored, he said.

Mitsotakis stressed that he did not want discussions to focus purely on debt repayments and fiscal targets but also on “growth challenges.”

A key aim of the joint forum next year is to tap German interest in “green” projects such as renewable energy sources and environmentally friendly waste management. In her statements, Merkel referred to the changes that Greece needs to make to encourage investments, something that the government aims to tackle with its growth bill. In comments to reporters, Mitsotakis said his government’s interest was not limited to investments from Germany or even Europe, noting that he is to attend a trade fair in Shanghai in November where Greece is an honored country.

On migration, Merkel noted that both sides backed the agreement between Turkey and the European Union and encouraged the new Greek government to enforce the deal.

As regards the Prespes Agreement – the name deal between the previous SYRIZA administration and what is now North Macedonia, Mitsotakis noted that it has “serious flaws,” which however can be remedied through the EU’s policy towards the Balkans.

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PUBLISHER
SOTIRIS REKOUMIS
EDITOR
DENISE REKOUMIS
LAYOUTS
JOHN REKOUMIS
CONTRIBUTORS

**DR. STAVROS BASSEAS, JOHN REKOUMIS,
DENISE REKOUMIS, DR JORDAN TSOLAKIDIS,
CHRIS MERENTITIS DR. LOUIS PALIVOS**

THE PLATFORM OF THE GREEK PRESS

- 1.To applaud the achievements of our ethnic group
- 2.To support the ideas of the Hellenic-Christian tradition
- 3.To promote the preservation of the Greek language
- 4.To encourage all worthy Community causes
- 5 To assist all the Greek-American fraternal, cultural patriotic and religious organizations
- 6.To install Americanism in the Greek-American community
- 7.To advance the just causes of Hellenism.
8. To promote the ideals Greece has given to humanity.

AKE G. BEHRAKIS

What’s next: A cultural revolution



Greek-American students visit the Parthenon, in a file photo. ‘The renewed growth in exchange and immersion programs and trans-Atlantic partnerships has created a much needed foundation for future generations,’ says Behrakis.

The positive news and trends in Greek-US relations led by diaspora grassroots efforts and the enthronement of a new archbishop of America, give us hope that the evolution of this renewed friendship will extend beyond geopolitical and foreign policy.

One of the never-ending debates is the role and relationship between the Greek diaspora and the Greek state. We all have Greek roots but a Greek growing up in Athens is light years away from a fourth generation Greek American growing up in Boston. We may share the same rich culture and faith and appreciate the same delicacies; we may dance the same steps and occasionally speak the same language, but for decades we have been on different pages, even chapters (some would say books.)

Yes, the crisis has brought us closer and there are newer organizations with some great and impactful initiatives (with more in the works), but for sustainable success it will truly require a relationship across all levels and spectrums. The renewed growth in exchange and immersion programs and trans-Atlantic partnerships has created a much-needed foundation for future generations.

Now more than ever we need our organizational leaders to put their differences (and egos) aside and build better bridges together. The same holds true for our “patrida”: Allowing the diaspora to play a more active role to help shape the future of the modern Greek state while at the same time reciprocating its support of our shared heritage from coast to coast. The announcement of Antonis Diamataris as deputy minister of foreign affairs for diaspora Greeks is another positive step.

Change won’t happen overnight and trust takes a long time to be built, but there are positive signs especially among our younger generations that we need to nurture, encourage and empower.

Drake G. Behrakis is a second generation Greek American from Boston who currently serves as the volunteer Chairperson of the National Hellenic Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation, protection and perpetuation of the Hellenic heritage.

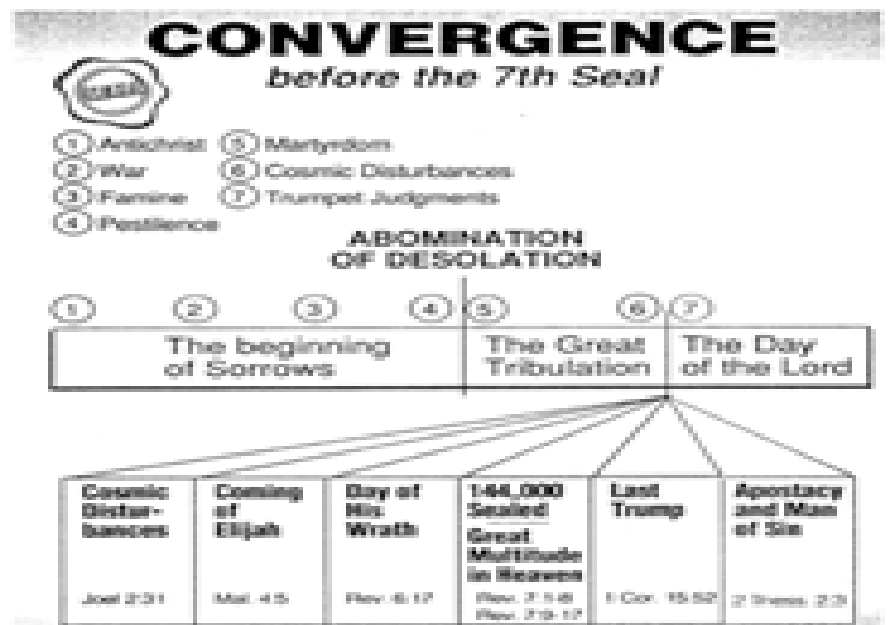
RUPTURE # 2

LOUIS PALIVOS

(From p.1)

and all grass. Rev. 8:7

Trumpet #2, is something like a great mountain thrown into The sea and 1/3 of the sea became blood, 1/3 of living creatures died and 1/3



of ships were destroyed. Rev. 8:8

Trumpet #3, a great star fell... and many men died; because the water was wormwood. Rev. 8:10

Trumpet #4, darkening of the 1/3 of sun, 1/3 of moon and 1/3 of stars. Rev. 8:12

Trumpet #5, locusts hurt men who do not have the seal of God for 5 months, which are led by Appolyon. Woe #1, Rev. 9:1-12

Trumpet #6, release 4 angels bound at River Euphrates and horse-men kill 1/3 of mankind. Rev.9:13-21

Trumpet #7, the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God as he declared to His servants and Prophets, should be fulfilled. Rev. 10:7

Comparative Accounts	
The Olivet Discourse and Revelation 4-8	
The Olivet Discourse	The Revelation of Christ
24:4 WARNING TO GOD'S ELECT (Mt. 24:13-14, 25:1-13)	3:1-2 WARNING
24:5 FIRST SIGNS (Mt. 24:29-30)	6:1-2 THE FIRST SEAL
24:6 WAR (Mt. 24:31)	6:3-4 THE SECOND SEAL
24:7 Famine (Mt. 24:32)	6:5-6 THE THIRD SEAL
24:8-10 THE GREAT TRIBULATION (Mt. 24:33, 34)	6:7-8 THE FOURTH SEAL
24:9 Death (Mt. 24:35)	6:9-11 THE FIFTH SEAL
24:10, 14 Apostasy (Mt. 24:36-38)	6:12-17 THE SIXTH SEAL
24:11 SIGN OF THE END OF THE AGE (Mt. 24:39-40)	
24:12 SIGN OF CHRIST'S COMING (Mt. 24:41-42)	
24:13 THE COMING OF CHRIST (Mt. 24:43-44)	
24:14 THE DELIVERANCE OF CHRIST'S ELECT (Mt. 24:45-46)	7:1-4 THE GREAT MULTITUDE OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION
24:14, 25-26 THE WRATH OF GOD (Mt. 24:47-48)	8:1 THE SEVENTH SEAL

Woe #2, is the two witnesses, Enoch and Elias, and a great earthquake that will kill seven thousand men. Rev. 11:1-14

Woe #3, is the Wrath of God. Rev. 16:1-21

Immediately, after the Rapture, the Bowl judgments begin unto the unrepentant humanity, as follows:

Bowl #1, sores on men who worshipped the beast or image. Rev. 16:2 Bowl #2, the sea became like the blood of a dead man and fish died. Rev. 16:3 Bowl #3, rivers and fountains became like blood. Rev.16:4-7 Bowl #4, men were scorched by sun but men did not repent. Rev. 16:8-9 Bowl #5, poured on the throne of the beast and men did not repent. Rev.16:10-11 Bowl #6, Satan's, Anti Christ's and the false Prophet's demonic spirits perform signs for Armagedon. Rev.16:12-16 Bowl #7, a great earthquake and Jerusalem splits in three. Rev. 16:17-21

The Holy Fathers, Justin Martyr, The Pastor of Hermas, Irenaeus, Hippolytus, Tertullian and The Didache, reveal that the church shall enter Daniel's 70th week and have intense persecution.

In closing, both Holy Scripture and the Holy Fathers revealed that the Faithful Church shall enter the last week of 7 years and be persecuted, but the persecution shall be cut-off by the Rapture. The lord Jesus Christ shall honor His promise that, "I will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell upon the Earth." Rev. 3:10

Why don't we always reward children?



Alternative ways to encourage them to new knowledge and good behavior

We know that punishment is not the right tool for our children to hear or adopt a good habit. However, enduring rewards do not seem to be the solution either. You may have already noticed this. The first time the child was persuaded to eat a little broccoli in exchange for a sticker, but five days later he was completely indifferent. Before you despair - and especially before you raise the "equivalent" of good behavior - see the possible causes of your method's failure, as well as a number of alternatives.

Wrong motives

When a child learns that his or her behavior behaves like a candy bar, it is perfectly normal for him or her to eat sweet. This means two things: First, if at some point we are unable or unwilling to give it, it will probably rebel. Secondly, we are accustomed to deriving pleasure from consideration rather than the act itself or its effect on the people around us. Many children feel proud when they do well at school or manage to make their room shine. So why show them that this is not enough?

Little egotists

One of the big problems with enduring symbolic gifts is that they cannot remain symbolic over a long period of time. At first your daughter may be happy with five minutes of mobile play each time she picks up her room, but gradually more and more things will be needed to convince her that she is worth it. At the same time, the moral aspect of her compliance with the rules of the house will subside: Her aim will be to get the payback and not the satisfaction of doing the right thing or thanking a loved one.

So what else to do, then?

Rewards are not always inappropriate or harmful. By carefully selecting the times you offer them and your alternative strategies, you will be able to optimize their results.

Focus on the essence Instead of promising gifts that are not related to what your child wants you to do, explain to them how the act itself will do them good. For example, if he washes his teeth he would keep them white and not hurt and if he learned to use his potty he would be able to go to kindergarten with his big brother.

Say "goodbye" - but in moderation

The reward need not be identified with material goods. Your pride or pleasure is often greater gifts for the child than a toy or a sweet treat. However, you should not use them so often that they lose their meaning. A child who is constantly listening to the thumbs up will no longer believe or care about it. Keep the verbal reward for special occasions, and for the rest of the time be sure to show the child that you appreciate what he or she does for you by saying "thank you".

Ask yourself the reasons

Something that may seem simple to you may not put too much pressure on your child. For example, if he doesn't want to go to school or kindergarten, maybe something happening there causes him stress. Solving the problem may come with an unexpectedly cooperative child.

Are you sure he can do it?

The appropriate ages for each activity are only average. Even so, and if your best friend's peer kid cuts the diaper completely, maybe your son is not ready yet.

Find the right time

Imagine this scenario: You have just taken a relaxing bath and are getting ready to lie down on your fluffy sheets when someone tells you to wash the dishes immediately. Even if this person is absolutely right, the chances of doing so (and even willingly) are extremely limited. Similarly, try not to ask the child to pack his or her room while he or she is already tired, eager or anxious to read the last pages of a book.

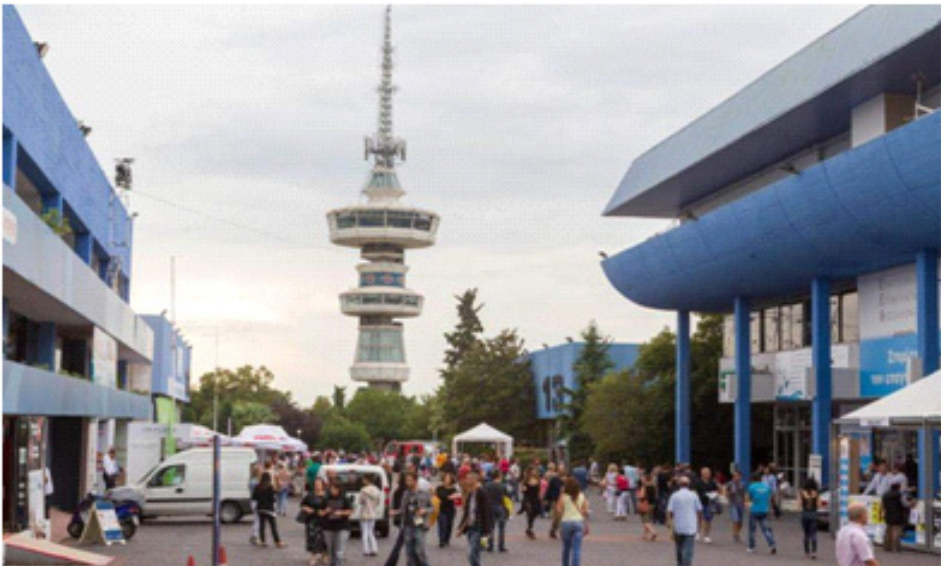
Put a hand

Sometimes children perceive the crap they have to do as some kind of punishment - or at least something boring and tiring enough to want to postpone it forever. But if you propose to put his books back on the shelves, not only will the process take less time, but it will be much more fun.

Evaluate your requirements

The child may have read as much as he or she could and failed to answer the math test correctly. If the 'excellent' is treated with gifts, while the 'B' is criticized, it is likely that not only will she not be motivated to try harder, but will feel inadequate and give up. Instead, try to help him improve where needed and show him that you value not only the outcome but also his efforts.

Mitsotakis to present growth plan for economy at TIF



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis will seek to present his vision for economic growth in his keynote speech at the annual Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF), government sources said Tuesday.

Mitsotakis will present his plan to unblock major investments that have stalled for years - such as the investment project in Elliniko, Cosco's investment plan in Piraeus port and Eldorado's gold mine in northern Greece - create jobs and introduce reforms to support the middle and lower middle class (tax cuts), according to the sources.

It is customary for the country's premier to set out his government's policies for each coming year at TIF. Following his speech at the opening of the trade fair, Mitsotakis will hold a press conference on Sunday.

Banks slash bad-loan stock by over 15 billion euros in a year



Greece's four systemic banks have reduced their stock of nonperforming exposures (NPEs) by 15.3 billion euros in the last year, as their financial reports at the end of June showed that their total NPEs stood at 78.8 billion, compared to 94.1 billion a year earlier. This reduction is the outcome of loan restructurings and settlements as well as the extensive sales of loan portfolios.

According to the second-quarter results issued by banks last week, Eurobank considerably reduced its NPE stock from 18.9 billion euros a year earlier to 14.3 billion, bringing down its share of NPEs from 40.7 percent to 32.8 percent of all loans issued.

Alpha Bank cut its NPEs from 28.8 billion euros in June 2018 to 24.7 billion last June, reducing the NPE share from 51.9 to 48.1 percent.

National also significantly contained its NPEs, from 17 billion to 13.7 billion euros within a year, pruning the share of NPEs from 42.4 percent at end-June last year to 36.5 percent just over two months ago.

Piraeus Bank lightened its load of NPEs from 29.4 billion to 26.1 billion euros by end-June, but it still has the largest sum, as well as the biggest NPE share, which came to 51.4 percent, from 54.7 percent in June 2018. Within this month the lender is expected to complete an agreement with Swedish group Intrum for the concession of the management of Piraeus Bank's entire NPE portfolio. Next year Piraeus is targeting the sale of NPE portfolios totaling 4.5 billion euros.

Eurobank is also in the process of conceding NPE portfolios, aiming to bring its NPE index below 16 percent by the end of this year and to less than 10 percent by the end of 2021. National aims to contain its NPE stock by another 1.8 billion euros, mainly via portfolio sales, while Alpha is eyeing the sale of 5.5 billion euros of loans in total this year.

Tsipras dismisses Mitsotakis' request for loan of Parthenon sculptures as 'naive'



Opposition leader and former prime minister Alexis Tsipras on Tuesday accused his successor, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, of naivete following the Greek premier's announcement that the government plans to ask the British Museum to temporarily return the Parthenon sculptures for Greece's 2021 independence anniversary celebrations.

In a post on Facebook, Tsipras said that Mitsotakis' "naive initiative... allows the British Museum to appear as the rightful owner" of the splendid marble sculptures that once graced the ancient Athenian citadel.

"Instead of letters to the museum asking for a loan, [the government] should ask for the permanent return of the Parthenon Marbles, on the occasion of the 200 years since the Greek War of Independence and with the support of all of us," the leader of leftist SYRIZA, the main opposition, said.

Government sources responded to Tsipras' post by accusing the former premier of having done nothing tangible in four years in power for the sculptures' return to Greece.

"Mr. Tsipras is not a current affairs commentator. He is a former prime minister. Over four years, what initiatives did he adopt, apart from some generalized comments on the issue? None," they said in a statement.

Anarchist attacks seen as response to squat evictions



Firebomb attacks against police targets early on Wednesday in Exarchia are believed to be a retaliation by members of anti-establishment groups to a spate of evictions from anarchist-run squats in the area on Monday.

A group of self-styled anarchists lobbed Molotov cocktails at a riot police unit on the corner of Spyrou Mercouri and Tositsa streets, close to one of the squats that was closed down by police on Monday. That raid occurred at 1.30 a.m., five minutes before another group attacked police on Harilaou Trikoupi Street, pelting them with stones.

Meanwhile, a group calling itself Cell of Anarchist Witches claimed responsibility for using spray paint to vandalize a chapel in the Athens suburb of Sepolia on Monday night.

In a statement on an anarchist website, the group said the move was a protest against the Church's decision last month to establish the first Sunday after Christmas as the "Day of the Unborn Child."



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NEWS FROM GREECE

Prosecutor shoots down claims against bank governor in alleged Novartis scandal



The shelving Thursday of a legal suit against him involving Swiss drugmaker Novartis, officially ended a “brazen procedure of slander and character assassination... after a 20-month delay,” Bank of Greece Governor Yannis Stournaras said.

“It is now up to the competent institutions (Parliament, the judiciary) to reveal the real culprits behind this miserable plot, as well as their accomplices,” he said after Greece’s top corruption prosecutor, Eleni Touloupaki, shut the case.

Stournaras is the seventh high-ranking official to be cleared out of an initial 10 who had been implicated in the case, including former prime ministers Antonis Samaras and Panagiotis Pikrammenos, and ex-socialist minister Evangelos Venizelos.

Despite the absence of evidence to back claims of illegal money transfers after an investigation that dragged on for more than three years, it took several months to shelve those cases.

However, the case still remains open for Development Minister Adonis Georgiadis, European Union commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos and former PASOK minister Andreas Loverdos.

With regard to the latter, Touloupaki sent his case file to Parliament Thursday so as to receive approval to conduct a probe into bribery charges against him.

In response, Loverdos issued a scathing statement that the move by the prosecutor was an “obvious attempt to justify, after the fact, the illegal actions committed over three years in the context of the Novartis conspiracy.”

“I have the truth, honesty and the support of the people on my side, desperate and atrocious actions cannot touch me,” he said.

Greece’s SYRIZA administration had sought to portray the case as the “biggest scandal since the establishment of the Greek state.” New Democracy, which unseated SYRIZA in July, has deplored it as the biggest frame-up ever concocted by a Greek government against its political opponents.

Dendias insists on name deal’s full implementation



Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias asked his North Macedonian counterpart Nikola Dimitrov Thursday to ensure that Skopje fully implements the Prespes accord that was ratified earlier this year.

The two men met on the sidelines of an informal meeting of European Union foreign ministers in Helsinki Thursday.

“I made it absolutely clear to Mr Dimitrov that Greece will insist on the agreement’s strict implementation,” Dendias said, adding that he also had the chance to brief his EU colleagues about “the problems caused by Turkey’s provocations in the Aegean and its aggression against Cyprus.”

Man who dragged dog with car arrested in Crete



A 73-year-old man was arrested in the town of Rethymno on the island of Crete for tying a dog to the back of his car and dragging it along a road.

The man, who faces charges of animal cruelty, was tracked down by police after a witness posted a photo of the incident, showing the vehicle’s license plate, on social media.

According to unconfirmed reports the dog survived the ordeal.

The man reportedly told police that the dog was a stray that he found in his field.

He claimed he decided to drag it over a distance of around 100 meters so as to prevent it from eating sheep in the area and getting shot by angry farmers.

Businesses, gov’t to discuss investments at Athens roundtable



Forty major foreign investment firms and 30 Greek business groups will be meeting in Athens on September 20 in a roundtable to discuss investment projects that could be implemented in the near term.

The government will be represented by 10 ministers and deputy ministers, led by Development and Investments Minister Adonis Georgiadis, and will make its case that it is more investor-friendly than its predecessor and has taken concrete measures to make Greece a more attractive investment destination.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has been invited to attend. The event, called the Foreign Direct Investments Roundtable and organized for the first time by the Delphi Economic Forum, will take place at the Grande Bretagne hotel.

A partial list of Greek and foreign participants includes BC Partners, Bain Capital Credit, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Credit Suisse International, Enagas, Groupe Tranchant, Iberdrola, Milbank - Tweed - Hadley & McCloy, Mohegan Gaming Entertainment, Panaxia Limited, Rothschild Global Advisory, Siemens Gamesa Renewables Energy – SGRE, UBS Investment Bank, Alantra Greece, Axia Ventures Group Ltd, Chipita, Eldorado Gold, Fraport Greece, GE Power Services and Papastratos SA.

Gov’t council decides on seven measures to respond to migration crisis

Responding to a spike in migrant arrivals from neighboring Turkey, the government’s Council for Foreign Affairs and Defense (KYSEA) has de-



cided on seven measures to ease the pressure on the Aegean islands and curb the influx.

Saturday’s session was called after more than 500 migrants reached Lesbos on Thursday – the largest mass arrivals since the peak of Europe’s refugee crisis in early 2016.

Following the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, government spokesman Stelios Petsas said that the gradual increase in migration flows in recent months necessitates a “new, robust policy.”

The measures decided include the transfer of migrants from cramped camps on the islands to facilities on the mainland, the immediate relocation of 116 unaccompanied minors from the islands ahead of their reunification with relatives in other European Union countries, and the transfer of another 250 minors to the mainland in the coming weeks.

Additionally, authorities are to boost the monitoring of Greece’s borders, with the help of the European Union’s Frontex border agency and NATO.

There are also plans to change the institutional framework for the issuing of asylum with the abolition of reviews of rejected applications.

Also on the cards is an increase in police patrols to locate migrants whose asylum applications were rejected but are still in the country.

The efforts of the coast guard in the Aegean will be bolstered with the procurement of 10 speedboats that will be dispatched to intercept suspected smuggling vessels heading towards Greece from neighboring Turkey.

Finally, additional support will be provided to local authorities that are bearing the brunt of hosting undocumented migrants, in particular on the islands.

The spike in arrivals has further strained ties between Athens and Ankara. On Friday, Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias summoned Turkey’s ambassador to Athens and urged the neighboring country to honor a deal for migrant returns signed with the EU in March 2016.

Athens views Ankara’s stance as an attempt to exert pressure on the European Union for more funding to tackle the refugee crisis and a milder stance opposite Turkey vis-a-vis its drilling for oil in the Eastern Mediterranean

Stick to procedure

The excuse that the government had resorted to in early August when it deviated from the norm in the way it legislated in Parliament did initially carry some water.

At the time, the government sought to justify its 11th hour amendments to legislation concerning labor relations on the grounds that the issue had to be resolved before Parliament closed for the summer recess.

It also provided reassurances that this unconstitutional way of legislating would not be repeated.

However, the debate and vote on a bill in Parliament on Friday that was tabled by the Transport and Infrastructure Ministry sparked an outcry from opposition parties over the procedure. Last-minute amendments were again included, essentially rendering the bill a multi-bill.

As a result, the government and Parliament will be exposed again to accusations that they are continuing the practices of their predecessors.

Deviating from normality does nothing to establish a return to normalcy.

Expert rebuffs WHO, says Greek measles epidemic has been contained

The Greek Health Ministry’s Immunization Committee is planning to send the World Health Organization (WHO) a letter asking that it clarify its decision last week to list Greece among four European nations – including the Czech Republic, Albania and the United Kingdom – where measles is no longer considered eradicated.

The WHO’s decision was based on data from 2018, “leading to the misapprehension that we have an active epidemic,” committee president and Athens University pediatrics professor Maria Theodoridou told the Athens-Macedonian News Agency on Saturday.

There have been only 28 recorded cases of measles in Greece since the start of the year and all concerned individuals who contracted the highly contagious and potentially fatal disease abroad, Theodoridou said. “The cases were imported and do not concern measles contracted in Greece,” she stressed.

Theodoridou added that while the measles outbreak had indeed reached epidemic proportions in 2017 and 2018 – with 3,259 cases recorded by the National Public Health Organization, mainly among children belonging to the Roma community – numbers are clearly on the wane this year thanks to the ministry’s immunization program.

“We are making very good progress,” she said, adding that “we haven’t reached a point where we are entirely satisfied yet, especially with regards to vaccination coverage of vulnerable social groups like the Roma.”

She also said that the migration crisis has presented an additional challenge in containing the spread of the diseases.

Tensions rise in Exarchia

Tensions simmered in the downtown Athens district of Exarchia over the weekend with several skirmishes between police and self-styled anarchists in the wake of a crackdown on squats and the Vox cafe, a hangout for members of the Rouvikonas anarchist group.

On Saturday afternoon a group of around 40 people lobbed homemade firebombs and stones at a riot police unit on Tositsa Street, just hours after a smaller group attacked another police unit on Harilaou Trikoupi Street.

No injuries were reported in either incident but police are on standby for possible revenge attacks by anarchists for evictions from four squats last week and the Vox raid which, Rouvikonas claims, caused injuries.

Greta Thunberg, climate change activist, sails into New York City

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Media captionGreta Thunberg sails into New York City

Teenage environmental activist Greta Thunberg has arrived in New York after a 15-day, 3,000-mile (4,800km) voyage across the Atlantic.

She will be participating in UN climate summits in New York City and Chile.

The 16-year-old Swede sailed from Plymouth in the UK on a zero-emissions yacht in order to minimise the carbon footprint of her travel.

"Our war on nature must end," she told reporters shortly after arriving on Wednesday.

"I want to thank everyone... who is involved in this climate fight, because this is a fight across borders, across continents," she said.

When asked about the fires that have ravaged the Amazon rainforest in recent weeks, she said they were a "clear sign we need to stop destroying nature".

Skip Twitter post by @GretaThunberg Report

End of Twitter post by @GretaThunberg

Ms Thunberg was expected to arrive sooner, but rough seas slowed her progress. She has been documenting the voyage on social media.

As she departed the UK two weeks ago, she told the BBC that travelling by boat sends a signal that "the climate change crisis is a real thing".

Why are young activists attracting so much hate?
Greta Thunberg: 'Listen to climate scientists'
'Climate fight will never stop'

When asked if she could make US President Donald Trump listen she answered with a simple "no".

"I'm not that special. I can't convince everyone," she said. "I'm just going to do what I want to do and what will have most impact."

On arrival in New York she had another message for Mr Trump: "My message for him is listen to the science and he obviously doesn't do that."

She will be present at the UN climate summit on 23 September and the COP25 climate conference in Chile in December.
Media captionThe Swedish teen behind the climate strikes

The teenager has made headlines for her "school strikes" which have inspired a worldwide climate change protest movement.

Her first "strike for climate" took place outside the Swedish parliament in August last year.

Ms Thunberg travelled on the Malizia II, a high-speed, 60ft (18m) racing yacht with underwater turbines and no carbon emissions.

She made the journey with her father Svante, captain Boris Herrmann, Monaco royal family member Pierre Casiraghi and a Swedish documentary maker, Nathan Grossman.

Media captionInside a training camp teaching climate activists how to protest effectively

Her boat had no shower or toilet, according to Reuters, and the sailing party ate freeze-dried food.

The teenager was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize earlier this year.

Ms Thunberg has been diagnosed with Asperger's, a form of autism, which she told the BBC allowed her to "see things from outside the box".

"If I would've been like everyone else, I wouldn't have started this school strike for instance," she sai

Fosun buys Thomas Cook, eyes Greek market



Chinese company Fosun has agreed to acquire 75 percent of UK group Thomas Cook’s tour operations and 25 percent of its airline business for 450 million pounds (497 million euros) while the group’s creditors – banks and bondholders – will put up a similar amount to buy 25 percent of the tour business and 75 percent of the airline business.

Fosun, well-known in Greece through its ownership of Club Med, partnership with Lamda Development in the Elliniko project and as a minority shareholder in jewelry and fashion accessories firm Folli Follie, has said it wants to develop the Mediterranean tourist market, including Greece, by attracting Chinese tourists into the area.

To this effect, it wants to create local firms for the marketing of tourist destinations that would employ tour guides and translators, and work closely with suppliers to upgrade services.

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Moody’s keeps out-look for Greece stable, rating at B1



Despite expectations that Moody’s would declare Greece’s debt outlook positive, the credit rating agency has kept it stable. As expected, Moody’s kept Greece’s debt rating at B1, four notches below investment grade.

The rating agency explained its decision on the outlook by noting the reduced danger of the government backing off its policy for reducing the country’s high debt with prospects of rather moderate growth and the need for deep changes in the civil service.

Moody’s said in its report that, despite making significant progress in the past few years, Greece’s debt is likely to remain in the B category for the next several years. Of course, the highest reaches of this category include investment grade ratings BBB+, BBB and BBB-.

For growth to accelerate, investments must speed up significantly and bad loans must be cut, it said. While Greece has managed to implement many reforms over the past few years, those that require institutional and cultural changes, as in, for example, civil service restructuring and a culture of paying one’s bills, will take years to show results, Moody’s added.



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TOMELLIS

From Tirana to Skopje



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has funded the construction in a central Tirana park of a memorial commemorating “the martyrs of July 15,” a reference to the Turkish citizens who lost their lives in the failed coup of 2016.

The memorial is part of Ankara’s wider effort to infiltrate the Balkans. Erdogan is also using religion as a critical instrument in this effort, a fact demonstrated by Turkey’s funding of “the largest mosque in the Balkans” currently under construction in Tirana.

As Turkey was handing over the memorial to the citizens of Tirana (amid a fair amount of controversy), authorities in nearby North Macedonia were putting a plaque on the Alexander the Great statue in the central square of Skopje, which explained that the ancient warrior king belongs to the history and civilization of the ancient Greeks.

Similar plaques were attached to the monument of Alexander’s father, Philip of Macedon, and his mother, Olympia.

These two unrelated albeit concurring developments highlight the dynamics evolving in Greece’s wider region, the nascent power equilibrium, the lurking risks and the opportunities on offer.

Turkey’s efforts to increase its diplomatic leverage in the Balkans and the expansion of Muslim influence in the region, both of which are currently gaining momentum, are raising eyebrows in Athens, which has reasons of its own to want to upgrade its own influence and role by, among other moves, building on its new relationship with Skopje.

Economic and commercial benefits for both nations aside, a geostrategic axis is emerging in the heart of the Balkans which is also actively backed by the European Union and the NATO alliance.

In this context, Greek radar systems screen North Macedonia’s air space all the way to the Serbia border and Greek aircraft are patrolling the area – much to the disappointment of Turkey, which was eyeing this role for itself.

Having left behind the domestic friction generated by the Prespes name accord, Athens has every reason to try and reap geopolitical benefits from the full normalization of its ties with Skopje.

Tax inspectors attacked after crashing wedding party



Two tax inspectors were set upon by the enraged members of a wedding party in Serres, northern Greece, with one of the officials having to be treated for concussion, their local union said on Tuesday.

According to media reports, the incident occurred on Saturday when the inspectors visited an events venue in the northern Greek town and asked to see its books, unaware that a wedding party was in progress in the main hall.

The venue's owner reportedly announced their presence on the wedding band's microphone, telling guests that the service of food and beverages would be suspended until the tax inspectors had left the building. His announcement prompted some 40 to 50 guests to join the owner in attacking the tax inspectors, who were in the kitchen at the time of the assault.

Other media reports said the attack was prompted by the inspectors' refusal to leave on the request of the groom's father. The spokesman for Serres tax officers, Dimitris Saitanoudis, told the Eleftheros Typos newspaper on Tuesday that the injured inspector has photographs showing how his shirt and trousers was torn to tatters in the attack. The venue's owner has been arrested.

Tax inspectors have come under attack on several occasions when conducting checks on firms' books.

Brexit and suspending Parliament: What just happened?



In a dramatic move on Wednesday morning, Britain's new Prime Minister Boris Johnson set in motion the suspension of the UK Parliament - which means MPs have much less time to debate Brexit, the process of the UK leaving the European Union.

Parliament is to be suspended for five weeks ahead of 31 October, the day the UK is due to leave the EU. That's just nine weeks away. People who want the UK to remain in the EU are calling it a coup - and even some in favour of Brexit have criticised the move. Mr Johnson wants to start a new parliamentary session, with a fresh programme, from 14 October. Instead of a normal three-week autumn recess, parliament will now wrap up some time around 10 September.

With so little time, MPs would find it difficult to stop the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

Wait, what just happened?

Parliament always stops work for a few weeks in the autumn. But this isn't a normal recess: Mr Johnson is cutting short the current parliamentary session at a critical time.

The UK was originally scheduled to leave the EU on 29 March. After Parliament rejected the deal negotiated with the EU three times, that deadline was extended. Departure day is now 31 October.

Mr Johnson, who was one of the key figures in the Leave campaign, has promised to complete Brexit "do or die" - with or without a deal.

However, most opposition members of Parliament (MPs) and many from the governing Conservative Party don't want to leave the EU without a deal. They fear it would damage the British economy, putting up prices and limiting access to the UK's biggest market.

They've threatened to bring legislation ruling out a no-deal Brexit. Failing that, they could also call a vote of no-confidence in the government.

Do MPs have the power to stop a no-deal Brexit?

Is it legal to suspend Parliament?

Yes. It's what normally happens between the end of one session and the beginning of the next. However, the circumstances are unusual.

A legal challenge would be difficult, since the government isn't breaking any law. It's just using parliamentary procedure, as Mr Johnson tries to fulfil his campaign promise to get the UK out of the EU.

MPs could either go along with the suspension, with the risk of a no-deal Brexit, or they could trigger an election with a vote of no confidence in the government. The Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, has called the suspension a "constitutional outrage" designed to prevent MPs from debating Brexit.

What about the Queen?

She does have a say, but it's limited. Technically, the government had to ask her for permission to suspend Parliament. This is normally a formality: the Queen keeps out of politics. If she had refused, that would have been unprecedented.

She did not refuse.

Parliament will go back to work next Tuesday 3 September, but will then go into recess. If Mr Johnson gets his way, Parliament returns on 14 October, two-and-a-half weeks before the UK leaves the EU. However, if MPs pass a vote of no-confidence before 10 September, there could be a general election in October.

If there's an election, will Brexit still happen?

That depends. If the Conservatives win, then yes. They're ahead in the opinion polls, at about 31% last week, after Mr Johnson took over from the previous Prime Minister, Theresa May, in July.

The main opposition Labour Party is trailing by 10 to 12 points, on about 21%. Labour is divided between traditional working-class areas, which tend to support Brexit, and voters in cities like London who are more in favour of remaining in the EU.

But a Conservative win is not necessarily in the bag. Other parties, including the centre-left Liberal Democrats and the Scottish Nationalists, are all staunchly opposed to Brexit on any terms. And then there's the Brexit Party under Nigel Farage, whose central policy is to get the UK out of the EU.

The fluid political situation and tight opinion polls make it difficult to say who might get a majority, if anyone. This makes any election difficult to predict. Just ask Mrs May: she called an early election in 2017 but returned with a reduced majority, dependent on 10 MPs from Northern Ireland.

As a result, she had to agree to a deal which would keep the UK aligned with EU rules for longer than Brexit supporters would accept.

And so here we are.