

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – October 16th, 2011

- Every week, since back in 2006, we have set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings so as to devote some time to studying Bible prophecy.
- The reason that we do this is because the Bible predicts certain specific events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies, and that the rapture could happen at any time.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- For today's update, I would like to draw your attention to the situation in Syria which is now, seemingly, past the point of no return, as it were.
- The reason I say this is because there really isn't a scenario whereby the imminent destruction of Damascus could be slowed, let alone stopped.
- I am of the belief that we may very well be on the cusp of seeing the fulfillment of the prophecy in the book of Isaiah, specifically in chapter 17:1.

**Isaiah 17:1 NIV** An oracle concerning Damascus: "See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins.

- Last Sunday October 9th Israel Today Magazine published a news article with the headline reading; "Israel ready to strike Syria, Lebanon, Gaza

**Israel Today Magazine - Sunday, October 9th, 2011 - Israel ready to strike Syria, Lebanon, Gaza** - Israeli officials have reportedly warned Syrian dictator Bashar Assad that if he uses the downfall of his regime as an excuse to launch missiles at Tel Aviv, Israel will respond with a massive assault against Syria, Lebanon and Gaza. ... The Israeli counter-threat came just days after Iran's Fars news agency quoted Assad telling Turkey's foreign minister that he would launch hundreds of ballistic missiles at Tel Aviv if the West interferes in his violent crackdown on pro-democracy protestors in Syria. "If a crazy measure is taken against Damascus, I will need not more than six hours to transfer hundreds of rockets and missiles to the Golan Heights to fire them at Tel Aviv," Assad reportedly said. Israel's threat included Lebanon and Gaza because Assad is said to have boasted that his own missile barrage on Tel Aviv would be complemented by Hizballah and Hamas attacks on Israel. Were that scenario to play out, Assad is also reportedly confident that Iran would launch an attack on US warships in the Persian Gulf. ... Israeli commentators have already stressed that if Assad feels he is going to be toppled, he will have nothing to lose by launching a last minute attack on Israel. In fact, by doing so he has much to gain, as a missile assault on Tel Aviv would solidify Assad's legacy as a dedicated enemy of the hated "Zionist entity."

<http://www.israeltoday.co.il/News/tabid/178/nid/22971/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

- The destruction of Damascus in the fulfillment of Isaiah 17:1 offers an explanation of Syria's conspicuous absence from subsequent prophecies.
- Syria is not mentioned in Psalm 83, nor is it mentioned in Ezekiel 38, both of which are prophecies concerning an allied attack against Israel.
- The motivation for Psalm 83's attack is to destroy the nation of Israel, while Ezekiel 38's attack is to take all of the wealth that is found in Israel.

- For those who are wondering what all of this has to do with us living here in Hawaii, one of the most beautiful places in the world, consider this;
- "The Arab Spring" which has led to the situation in Syria, and the burning of churches in Egypt, has reached the U.S. with "Occupy Wall Street."
- Am I saying the Occupy Wall Street protests in America are similar to the Arab Spring in the Middle-East? Maybe these headlines will answer it:

- Occupy Wall Street *Like an 'Arab Spring,' ...I think it's our Arab Spring.*"
- Occupy Wall Street uses Arab Spring model
- Wall Street action part of global "Arab Spring"?

Here's an excerpt from a Vanguard News article posted last Tuesday, on October 12th, titled; "'Occupy Wall Street': Cometh the Western Spring? ...In what might have sounded then like an instance of scare-mongering, I had sought to draw a link between the riots and the Arab Spring that was nearing climax in Libya even as the authorities in Syria continued their brutal suppression of the sovereign will of their people. ...After the close shave in his mansion that took him to Saudi Arabia for medical attention, Bashar al-Assad is yet to buckle. ...The jury is yet out on how the Syrian crisis might finally end. But there can be no doubt that Syria will never remain the same nor would Assad go scot free. Although still far from clear, there are signs that Europe and America might be experiencing their version of the mass discontent that impelled the Arab Spring. ...The social media are once more alive and in these age and time, the youths may not need more than these to effect what could redefine the face of capitalism in a manner [Karl] Marx never imagined. And what is the inspiration for this current movement? The Arab Spring!"

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/10/%E2%80%98occupy-wall-street%E2%80%99-cometh-the-western-spring/>

- I don't often do this, but in light of recent events, I find myself compelled to recommend a very powerful DVD documentary titled; "Agenda."
- It's subtitled; "Grinding Down America." This video is not for the faint at heart, and I must warn you that it will be an astonishing "eye opener."
- Curtis Bowers does a masterful job of documenting, from his research, the Marxist agenda to bring about the collapse of America from within.

"...the question seems inevitable: Is this leaderless crusade against the powers that be the start of America's own Arab Spring? Yes. This is the start of something big..."

"...I will give them [Occupy Wall Street] one thing...they've reminded us all just how far Manhattan's financial district is from downtown Damascus."

- While Manhattan's financial district, downtown Damascus, and downtown Honolulu, are far away geographically they're very close prophetically.
- Be that as it may, the clarion call for us today, is that we would understand the times that we are living in, and know that Christ's return is near.
- These are all signs of the times, and we would do well to be like the men of Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12:32 who knew and understood the times.

- I find it interesting that it was because of their understanding of the times, that they knew what to do about the times in which they were living in.
- This is the "why" behind the "what" of these weekly prophecy updates. The understanding will lead to the knowing which will lead to the doing.
- This is what the Apostle Paul echoed in the thirteenth chapter of his epistle to the Romans which we'll get to in about two years if we're still here.

**Romans 13:11-12 NIV** And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (12) The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.