

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

- For today's update, it appears that I'll need to start with an explanation of why I gave you a homework assignment with two opposing views.  
- Actually, this was how I knew who did the homework and who didn't. The ones who did were quick to discover two different interpretations.  
- More specifically, that of Thomas Ice being that 2 Thessalonians 2:3 is speaking of the rapture, and that of Justin Alfred being an apostasy.

- Please know I didn't intend for anyone to be confused or upset by doing this. If you were, I hope you'll see the method behind the madness.  
- In order to do that, I first need to explain the "why" behind the "what," as it were, such that the situation in Syria requires us to know about it.  
- Let me explain, if we don't rightly divide these passages of scripture in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians, then Syria's prophecy won't be as urgent.

- Again, I'm hoping you'll see why here in a moment, but first, I think I would be grossly remiss were I not to update you on the Syria crisis.  
- I'll start by sharing with you something that I happened upon last week, which seems to be an article in a newspaper about the Middle East.  
- It's titled, "A short guide to the Middle East," and basically covers the "who's who" as it relates to Syria, and really clears up the confusion.

It was written by someone in London, whose name is KN Al-Sabah, and here's what he published, "Sir, Iran is backing Assad. Gulf states are against Assad! Assad is against Muslim Brotherhood. Muslim Brotherhood and Obama are against General Sisi. Which means they are against Muslim Brotherhood! Iran is pro-Hamas, but Hamas is backing Muslim Brotherhood! Obama is backing Muslim Brotherhood, yet Hamas is against the US! Gulf states are pro-US. But Turkey is with Gulf States against Assad; yet Turkey is pro-Muslim Brotherhood against General Sisi. And General Sisi is being backed by the Gulf States! Welcome to the Middle East and have a nice day.

"A Short Guide to the Middle East" KN Al-Sabah, London EC4, UK

- Now that we all know whose supporting "who," let's look at the timeline that brought us to this point starting with the hearings last Tuesday.  
- The Senate hearings commenced on Tuesday with Secretary of State John Kerry getting approval with a ten to seven vote on Wednesday.  
- Then, there was the awkward handshake between Putin and Obama at the G20 summit hosted by Russia in St. Petersburg on Thursday.

- By the way, while all this was happening last week, there were other significant prophetic events that were eclipsed by Syria also last week.

Here's an abbreviated list, in no particular order, of some news stories that very few are even talking about:

1. Major earthquakes in just one day over measuring 6.0 or higher
2. The upcoming US Debt Ceiling
3. The current catastrophic effects of Obama-Care on the US economy
4. Jews and Palestinians Peace Talks for a Two State Solution
5. Muslim Brotherhood burning churches and murdering Christian's in the Middle East, chiefly in Egypt
6. The anniversary of 9/11 and with it the Benghazi Libya cover up
7. The Federal Government has effectively legalized marijuana and gay marriage
8. The IRS scandal
9. The NSA scandal
10. The Fukushima radiation leak from the Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan
11. The President's executive actions concerning gun control

- Meanwhile back in Syria, in spite of the uphill climb that the congressional approval will face it does seem that someone will pull the trigger.  
- The problem with all of this is it's based on a faulty presupposition that there's forensic evidence Bashar Al Assad used chemical weapons.

Consider these headlines from last week:

- [Russia not convinced by US evidence on Syria](#)
- [Defiant Assad challenges west over chemical weapons evidence](#)
- [Rebels Admit Responsibility for Chemical Weapons Attack](#)
- [Syria minister: US strike on Syria 'would benefit al-Qaeda'](#)

- I'm of the belief, at best, the jury is still out on who actually used these chemical weapons, this because of what I see as the bigger picture.  
- When you peel back the layers of all the military maneuvering under the banner of the unthinkable use of chemical weapons you'll find gas.  
- It's this natural gas off the coast of Israel, which changes the whole complexion of Syria, by virtue of its strategic proximity geographically.

I want to read a quote from Amir Tsarfati who spoke at Bob Coy's church in Ft. Lauderdale Florida. If you're interested, you may want to visit his website [beholdisrael.com](http://beholdisrael.com) and download his App. The reason I recommend this is because he's privy to Israeli Intelligence that he has access to for a number of reasons not the least of which is that he's been involved in Israel's negotiations dating back to the days of one Yasser Arafat. Moreover, he's a Jewish believer in and follower of Jesus Christ who is also a Bible Prophecy teacher. If you're interested, you can download the PDF file of today's update from our website at [calvarychapelkaneoh.com](http://calvarychapelkaneoh.com), which has the URL's for his site, and this video from Calvary Chapel Ft. Lauderdale. [http://beholdisrael.com/app/index.php/c\\_main/entries/news](http://beholdisrael.com/app/index.php/c_main/entries/news)

Now, listen to what he had to say concerning what I see as Syria's bigger picture; "Russia is sitting there and ...watching what's going on. The Russian President came to Israel about a year ago and paid a visit to the Prime Minister's office, and talked for ten minutes about Syria, twenty minutes about Iran, and five hours about oil and gas, because that's what he's all about. Russia wants to dominate energy sources in the world, and Russia is the number one exporter of natural gas in the world and what they said behind closed doors was, 'we will abandon Iran our ally for a steak in your gas.' Would you do business with the Russian Mafia and the Russian KGB? An online commentator leaked that information, and we said no to the Russians, and the Russians was very, very angry. So the Russians are waiting around the corner to lead some kind of an invasion into Israel and to take that gas that they did not get from us by peaceful means.

[http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid2634943646001?bckey=AQ~~%2CAAACSUJrxDk~%2Cetz1No-xGRAtyC991k\\_FhD8kE8yySASr&bctid=2638699904001](http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid2634943646001?bckey=AQ~~%2CAAACSUJrxDk~%2Cetz1No-xGRAtyC991k_FhD8kE8yySASr&bctid=2638699904001)

- Be that as it may, and suffice it to say, this is precisely what we have recorded in Ezekiel 38, and this is also why I gave you the homework.
- A Russian Iranian led attack on Israel vis-à-vis the oil and gas hook can't happen until Israel is peaceful and dwells safely, (Ezekiel 38:11).
- Furthermore, Israel won't be peaceful and dwell safely, until the seven-year peace agreement of Daniel 9:27 is enforced with many nations.

- You probably already know where I'm going with this, but the seven-year peace agreement can't be enforced until the antichrist is revealed.
- And, the antichrist can't be revealed until the bride of Jesus Christ is removed. Enter, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7.
- Both of these passages speak of two events, the rapture of the church, and the second coming of Christ, being separated by seven years.

- At the risk of an oversimplification, the reason I gave you two opposing views is, with both interpretations the rapture has to happen first.
- In other words, whether it's Alfred's "falling away," or Ice's "taken away," the man of lawlessness cannot be revealed before we're removed.
- Let me hasten to say that I am of the same interpretation as Thomas Ice, understanding, both Alfred and Ice teach a pre-tribulation rapture.

Alfred of 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 says, "This passage is dealing with the rapture and the Second Coming of the Lord some seven years later. Verse 3 is saying this: those who refuse Christ, when the rapture comes and the Great Tribulation begins, these people "will in no way, under any circumstances, escape the hellish consequences that will follow." Alfred goes on to write, "...the word ἀποστασία (apostasia) as used in 2 Thessalonians has absolutely nothing to do with the rapture, but rather it is talking about people who once had a "professed belief in Jesus," but were persuaded by lies and false doctrines and eventually deserted Jesus, the Church, the Bible, and everything related to Christianity. After this occurs, at some point then the rapture will occur and the Anti-Christ will make his appearance.

- I'll take it a step further knowing full well that I may jam some gears, but while I'm not dogmatic about this, it doesn't have to be either or.
- By that I mean, it doesn't have to be either a falling away, or, a catching away, such that it could be both, as they're not mutually exclusive.
- Perhaps you'll indulge me as I read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7 from the King James Version, and in so doing, demonstrate this dual plausibility.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-7 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.

- Now, let me paraphrase this passage in the context of how the church of Jesus Christ is removed, before the antichrist can be revealed.

In regards to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him when we're raptured, we want to encourage you and ask you as brothers not to become so easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter that claims to have come from us, saying that the tribulation has already started and as such, you've missed the rapture. Please don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the falling away from the faith, and the catching away of those in the faith, comes first. Then, at that time, the man of lawlessness will be revealed, the man who is doomed to destruction. This man is the antichrist and he will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, at the midpoint of the seven-year tribulation proclaiming himself to be God. Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? Certainly you know what is holding the antichrist back from being revealed at the proper time. Even though the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; the restraining force of the Holy Spirit indwelling born again believers will continue holding the antichrist back until He's taken out of the way at the time the church is raptured away.

- I'll bring it to a close by simply saying that if Ezekiel 38 is beginning to come to pass by way of Isaiah 17 coming to pass first we're so close.
- It's for this reason that rightly dividing these passages is a must. Absent a correct understanding of this timing, implies his delayed coming.
- I'll leave you with the words of Jesus, as he teaches the disciples about the fate of the servant who says his master is delaying his coming.

Matthew 24:36-51 NKJV "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. (37) But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (38) For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, (39) and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (40) Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. (41) Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. (42) Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. (43) But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. (44) Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (45) "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? (46) Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. (47) Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. (48) But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' (49) and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, (50) the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, (51) and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<b>The Jewish Wedding</b>	<b>Our Wedding</b>	<b>Scriptures</b>
The groom's father makes the match (Shiddukhin) and chooses the bride, and the groom approves the choice.	The Father chooses us the bride, and Jesus approved the choice.	John 10:28, 15:16
A marriage covenant (Ketubah) is made in writing for the bride as a promise to the bride that it will be fulfilled.	A new covenant is made in the written Word of God, for us the bride. The Old Covenant Promise is fulfilled.	2 Corinthians 3:5-6
They would then break bread and drink from the cup to seal the betrothal (Kiddushin) and new covenant.	He breaks bread and drinks from the cup at the last supper sealing His New Covenant in His blood.	Matthew 26:27-29 Luke 22:14-20
The groom pays the price (Mohar) showing the bride his love for her.	Jesus paid the price for us on the cross. This shows us the bride how there's no greater loves for us.	1 Corinthians 6:20 John 15:23
The groom makes a speech of promise to his bride that he would come for her soon.	Jesus' speech is recorded as a promise to us His bride, that He will come again for us soon.	John 14:1-3
The groom prepares a place for His bride and builds a room addition on his father's house.	Jesus says He goes to prepare a place for us in His Father's house where there are many rooms.	John 14:1-3
The Father is the only one who knows the day or hour of the grooms return for his bride.	Jesus said that no one but the Father knows the day or hour of His return for us, as His bride.	Mark 13:32-33
The groom gives the bride love gifts (Mattan).	Jesus our groom gives us His bride gifts of love, eternal life, peace, etc.	John 10:22-28 John 14:13-14, 27
The Father gives the bride gifts (Shiluhim) to equip her for her new life, as an inheritance.	We are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit and our spiritual gifts are from the Father for us in our new life in Him, and with Him.	John 14:16-17 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Galatians 5:22
The bride would then take a purifying bath or Mikveh which is the Hebrew word for baptism.	We are baptized in the Holy Spirit Who cleanses and purifies us.	Acts 1:4
The bride's unmarried friends (bridesmaids) attend to the bride and provide light for the groom Who will come as a thief in the night.	We prepare the bride by letting our light shine so the bride is ready for the groom who will come as a thief in the night.	Matthew 25:1-13
The bridegroom comes, the grooms' men run ahead and shout that He is coming by blowing the Shofar.	When our bridegroom comes, it will be with a shout of the trumpet that Jesus is coming.	Rev. 4:1 / 1 Thes. 4:16-17 / 1 Cor. 15:51-52
The groom snatches away and abducts his bride.	Jesus, our groom will rapture us away as He abducts us as His bride.	Luke 17:34-36
The groom takes his bride to the chamber: they consummate (Nissuin), and celebrate for a period of seven (Shavuah) days.	Jesus will take us to His bridal chamber where we will consummate and celebrate for a period of seven (Shavuah) years.	Joel 2:15-16 Daniel 9:27
The party waits outside until the groom tells the best man that it is consummated. Then the guests rejoice for a period of seven days.	During our seven year celebration, the world goes through the seven year tribulation.	Revelation 19:7-8
There is a big feast, (the wedding feast), after the wedding celebration.	We too, after the seven year celebration, have the Marriage Feast of The Lamb.	Revelation 19:9
There were three groups present at the wedding: the groom, the bride, and the invited guests.	There will also be three groups of people involved in the marriage of the Lamb: The Groom –Jesus, The Bride-Church and the Guests- those saved after the Rapture, at the end of the seven year tribulation.	2 Corinthians. 11:2, Ephesians 5:23-27 Revelation 21:9-10 Rev 7:13-14
The new home of the bride was Jerusalem and it was the bridegroom who came to the bride to dwell with her.	It is from the new Jerusalem that the believers in the Messiah during the Messianic age, or Millennium, will reign with the Messiah.	Rev. 21:1-4 Ezekiel 43:1-2,7 Isaiah 2:2-4 Micah 4:1-5