

Mid-East Prophecy Update – December 9th, 2012

- Once again we find ourselves sliding into a Sunday on the heels of a very, very busy week on the calendar of Bible prophecy geopolitically.
- Beginning with the situation in Egypt, which is starting to look a lot like Isaiah 19, almost verbatim, with the uproar over their new Pharaoh.
- Then if you thought things in Syria, which is starting to look a lot like Isaiah 17, couldn't get any worse, newsflash, it just got even worse.

- For the benefit of those who may not have been following the development in Syria, it's reported, Assad is going to use chemical weapons.
- To say that this is a game changer would be a gross understatement, as it would most likely end in Syria being brought to a ruinous heap.
- What's interesting about this is that it's believed to be none other than Sarin Gas, which, once mixed, has a shelf life of about sixty days.

Last Thursday, December 6th, Fox News posted this article with the headline reading; "Syria mixes chemical weapons for potential use in bombs, US source says" Here are a couple of excerpts from this report, "...sources confirmed to Fox News Syria's military has mixed chemical weapons and loaded them into bombs in preparation for possible use on President Assad's own people. ...A senior U.S. official told Fox News Wednesday that Syrian forces had loaded bombs with components of sarin gas, a deadly nerve gas. They have 60 days to use these bombs until the chemical mixture expires and has to be destroyed. ...The U.S. military is making contingency plans should Assad leave suddenly. Various Middle Eastern countries are trying to find a place to give Assad asylum, according to Middle Eastern diplomatic sources. ...Syria has been careful not to confirm it has chemical weapons while insisting it would never use such weapons against its own people "I repeat for the hundredth time that even if such weapons exist in Syria, they will not be used against the Syrian people," Mekkdad said in an interview with Lebanon's Al-Manar TV station. "We cannot possibly commit suicide, Syria is a responsible country." Violence in Syria, meanwhile, persisted. A booby-trapped car exploded outside the offices of the Red Crescent society in the al-Zahera neighborhood of Damascus, killing one person, according to state television. A video posted online purporting to show the blast site showed rubble strewn about a residential street and walls and windows blown out of nearby three-story buildings. ... It's the latest in a series of bombings that have hit Damascus in recent weeks amid fierce fighting in the capital's suburbs between Assad's forces and rebels seeking to topple him. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the explosion was followed by a heavy deployment of security troops in the area on the southern edge of Damascus. <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/12/05/syria-mixes-chemical-weapons-into-bombs/>

- Call me silly, but this sort of reads like Isaiah 17:1. The reason being is that these are virtually the same words that the prophet Isaiah used.

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

Joel Rosenberg this last Thursday posted an article on his blog beginning with the title of one of his latest books, "Damascus Countdown: Is Syria about to use weapons of mass destruction? Could this trigger Biblical prophecies?" Here are a couple of excerpts of what he had to say, "...is it possible that the Biblical prophecies regarding the future of Damascus come true in our lifetime? Are current events in Syria foreshadowing prophetic events? There are actually [two key Biblical prophecies](#) that explain that at unspecified time in the future, the city of Damascus will be completely destroyed - judged by God - and will not be inhabited again. [Isaiah 17:1-3](#) [and] [Jeremiah 49:23-27](#) [which says] Concerning Damascus, 'Hamath and Arpad are put to shame, for they have heard bad news; they are disheartened. There is anxiety by the sea, it cannot be calmed. Damascus has become helpless; she has turned away to flee, and panic has gripped her; distress and pangs have taken hold of her like a woman in childbirth. How the city of praise has not been deserted, the town of My joy! Therefore, her young men will fall in her streets, and all the men of war will be silenced in that day,' declares the Lord of hosts. 'I will set fire to the wall of Damascus, and it will devour the fortified towers of Ben-hadad.' These prophecies have not yet been fulfilled. Damascus is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities on earth. It has been attacked, besieged, and conquered. But Damascus has never been completely destroyed and left uninhabited. Yet that is exactly what the Bible says will happen. The context of Isaiah 17 and Jeremiah 49 are a series of End Times prophecies dealing with God's judgments on Israel's neighbors and enemies leading up to - and through - the Tribulation. How exactly will Damascus be destroyed? When will exactly it be destroyed? What will that look like, and what will be the implications for the rest of Syria, for Israel and for the region? The honest answer is that the Bible does not say. I'm currently writing a novel entitled, *Damascus Countdown*, that envisions how these prophecies could come to pass." <http://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/>

- Please keep in mind that all the while all this is happening, you still have the enemy's of Israel surrounding her, at the ready, to attack her.
- This is the prophecy in Zechariah 12, concerning Jerusalem, and the prophecy in Psalm 83, concerning the destroying of Israel as a nation.
- I'm of the belief that none of these prophecies can be "stand-alone" in that they all intersect and interconnect collectively one with the other.

- This begs the question of what's next by way of fulfilled prophecy, and what will be the time-line, or timing, of all these related prophecies.
- Many of you might remember the prophecy puzzle pieces we put together in our attempt to get a bigger picture of how it all fits together.
- However, what's conspicuously absent from the puzzle of prophecy is that there really isn't a puzzle piece that we can fit in for the rapture.

- I'm sure you've heard it said there's nothing that needs to happen before the rapture happens. In other words, it can happen at any time.
- It's for this reason that I believe, that we need to be as ready for the rapture if it were today as we would if it weren't for 5 years from today.
- If you're not, or if you're unsure, then indulge me in closing as I share with you, by way of the Gospel how it is that you can for sure be sure.

1. There is none righteous, not even one (Romans 3:10)
2. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)
3. Through one man, (Adam), sin entered the world separating us from God (Romans 5:12)
4. The judgment and wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life (Romans 6:23)
5. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)
6. If man will seek God, confess his sins, and believe in his heart, he will be saved (Romans 10:9-10)
7. All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13)