

Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 28th, 2016

- For today's prophecy update I would like to address two very significant developments that took place since our last update.
- The first of which has to do with Turkey moving into Syria and the second has to do with the US related to both Iran and Russia.
- It's important to note that all this is happening amidst the backdrop of terrorist attacks, earthquakes and everything in between.

- As I watched the breaking news unfold about the earthquake in Italy, it once again reminded me of the increasing birth pains.
- One of my go to websites on this is trackingnibleprophecy.org, which lists all the prophetically significant news events each day.
- I mention this because it seems like the birth pains of earthquakes we're also seeing increasing birth pains of terrorist attacks.

Not only are terrorist attacks increasing in frequency and intensity, they too are taking place in various and diverse places throughout the world, including our beloved United States of America. On Tuesday, Fox News reported on an FBI investigation into whether the Virginia stabbings were ISIS-inspired. A Muslim terrorist by the name of Wasil Farooqui, ...attacked a man and woman at an apartment complex and both victims were seriously injured in the attack. Witnesses told authorities that Farooqui was yelling "Allah Akbar." Authorities believe that Farooqui may have been trying to behead the male victim...

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/08/23/fbi-reportedly-investigating-whether-virginia-stabbing-was-isis-inspired.html>

Again, this is just the backdrop, as it were, to the stunning and unprecedented development concerning Turkey's ground operation into Syria. While Turkey claims this is to fight against ISIS, the truth of the matter is it's the Kurds that they're threatened by and fighting against. You'll forgive me for quoting the anti-Israel anti-Christian CNN, but on Wednesday, they published an article about the Turkish state media report about Turkey sending tanks into Syria. In it they quote Erdogan, Turkey's president as saying that Turkey's incursion into Syrian territory is part of a larger effort to battle not only ISIS, but also Kurdish fighters in northern Syria...

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/08/24/middleeast/turkish-troops-isis-syria-operation/>

Before my father died in August of 1994, he told me to keep my eyes on Syria, and he said this in the context of the September 1993 Oslo Peace Accord signing on the White House lawn between Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin. I mention this because Syria was, is and will continue to be the catalyst specifically related to the fulfillment of Bible prophecy concerning Israel. As such, I would argue that the prophecy in Isaiah 17 about Damascus becoming a ruinous heap, so much so, that it becomes uninhabitable, is about to be fulfilled. When it does, I believe it will swiftly set in motion the fulfillment of other prophecies, chief of which is Ezekiel 38 and 39, and it will either be subsequently or possibly even simultaneously.

I found this Times of Israel report on Tuesday, very interesting. In it they quote the UN humanitarian chief as saying that "Syria has become 'greatest crisis of our time.'"

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/un-warns-aleppo-has-become-greatest-crisis-of-our-time/#>

I found this BBC report yesterday even more interesting for two reasons, the first of which is that the headline reads as if the United States has to ask Russia for permission before doing anything in the Middle East. The second reason is that they report on the situation in the town of Darayya, which is about a 21-minute drive from Damascus. Here's what they had to say, "For years those living in Darayya have endured constant shelling, as well as suffering shortages of food, water and electricity. Some of those leaving said the town had become uninhabitable."

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37202043>

This brings us to the developments concerning Iran, who according to The Washington Times has not changed their behavior on the world stage since Obama's nuclear deal. Quoting The Times, "A pair of dangerously close encounters between the Iranian and U.S. navies in the Persian Gulf this week have raised fresh questions about Tehran's intentions, a year after Obama administration officials hoped the much-touted nuclear deal would moderate the behavior of the Islamic republic and its military."

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/aug/25/iran-confrontations-reveal-obama-nuclear-deal-havi/>

To say that this is disconcerting would be a gross understatement as evidenced by this Fox News Report on Friday, which according to a Defense official, Iran's confrontations with our US Navy is up 50 percent this year.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/08/26/defense-official-iran-confrontations-with-us-navy-up-50-percent-this-year.html>

If this weren't bad enough, to add insult to injury we learned that the US paid \$1.3 billion to Iran just two days after the cash delivery of \$400 million back in January. According to Ynet News, "The US says it paid \$1.3 billion to Iran in January from a little-known fund for resolving international disputes, two days after allowing a planeload of cash to fly to Tehran. State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau says the US can't say more about the Jan. 19 payments because of diplomatic sensitivities. They involved 13 separate payments of \$99,999,999.99 and a final payment of about \$10 million.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4845836,00.html>

All of this begs the question of what in the world is going on with the United States of America. Perhaps we need look no further to The Washington Examiner, who on Wednesday, published a Pew Report about how Americans are giving up on God and miracles. According to The Examiner, Half of Americans who have left their church no longer believe in God, leading a surge of nearly one quarter of the nation who have no affiliation with any religion, according to a new survey. Pew Research Center said Wednesday that 49 percent of what they term "nones" left their church and religion because they "don't believe." Another 20 percent said they don't like organized religion. Other reasons included "common sense" and a lack of belief in miracles. The survey is the latest from Pew that demonstrates a growing trend in America: more and more people are junking religion and many are giving up on God.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/pew-huge-surge-in-americans-who-no-longer-believe-in-god-miracles/article/2600066>

- I am keenly aware that I run the risk of sounding too blunt when I say this, but it would appear that evil is prevailing in America.
- This because America hasn't only turned its back on God America has turned its back on God's people, Christians and Jews.
- I suppose it shouldn't come as any surprise that God is seemingly removing His hand of blessing from this nation, as we speak.
- But God! Like with Joseph in Genesis 50:20, God can take that which is meant for evil and make it good to save many people.
- However, it may not happen in the way we might think. By that I mean - persecution in America may bring revival to America.
- Would you believe me if I told you Muslims are coming to Christ by the multitudes in Iran, by virtue of the persecution in Iran?

In March of this year, One News Now published an article about how a record number of Muslims are coming to Christ in Iran. According to some estimates, more than 1 million Christians are secretly practicing their faith in Iran, where the house church movement is thriving ... "However, (the article goes on to say), turning to Christianity in the Islamic Republic can come at a great cost, as its government is one of the worst persecutors of Christians on the planet. Even though there could be around a million Christians worshipping in house churches across Iran, the gatherings are purposely limited to four or five members each to avoid a government crackdown. To make sure they are not detected or reported, it is a standard procedure there to alternate their meeting places every time they gather — and not do anything to attract attention. If they want to sing, they have to sing very quietly or not sing at all..."

<http://www.onenewsnw.com/missions/2016/03/06/record-number-of-muslims-coming-to-christ-in-iran>

- If you're anything like me, and I believe you are hearing this about our Iranian brothers and sisters is humbling and convicting.
- Please know that I don't share this to in any way bring about condemnation, rather, I share it in order to bring about motivation.
- Specifically, that of our motivation for the salvation of many, in what I believe is the greatest opportunity in all of human history.

Recently, a Frank Kessler me a book, by Herbert Lockyer titled, "All the Promises of the Bible," and I'd like to share what he had to say. "When we speak about the necessity of the revival of the Church, we must not forget that what God promises to revive is not churches as buildings, but those who gather in them. Without a company of born-again men and women within any church, it is only a mere building. Therefore, as the visible Church is made up of individuals, there cannot be a collective revival apart from personal revival. Each and all within the Church must come under the sway of God's quickening power. What a mighty, spiritual upheaval there would be if only every Christian would pray 'O Lord, send a revival, And let it begin in me,'"

- If you were to ask me what I thought stood in the way of the aforementioned revival my answer would be, none other than me.
- In other words, revival first needs to begin with me and in me, and if it takes a persecution to accomplish revival, then so be it.
- Lest you think I really want persecution let me hasten to say that I want revival so bad that I'm willing to suffer persecution for it.

I happened upon this Jerusalem Post article from Thursday about an Arab Christian woman who tells church goers "NOT" to pray for the persecution to end. Here's what the article had to say, Despite Islamic State's persecution of Christians, one Middle Eastern woman of the faith said that God's plan in the region was "working perfectly." A woman, going by the pseudonym of "Maryam" and only identified as a resident of the Middle East in order to protect her and her family, spoke to a group of churchgoers earlier this week, telling them to "pray a different prayer." "Don't pray for the persecution to be stopped," she said ... "But pray for the Christians there, for their boldness, their encouragement, for their faith and that they can all be witnesses for God's work and for God." She spoke at the Meadow Brook Baptist Church in Gadsden, Alabama, at the behest of a group of six pastors and ministry leaders. Maryam told the worshipers about the treatment of Christians in the Middle East even before the Syrian civil war and the rise of Islamic State. ... "We are not afraid or worried that the persecution will increase. We are just feeling that this is God's time," Maryam said. "God is working perfectly now in the Middle East. Even with all these crazy stuff happening, God is really working now." Also, the Middle Eastern Christian woman told the Alabaman churchgoers that the persecution of their fellow members of the faith only caused them to grow stronger, as she took out her Arabic Bible and read out the verse in Exodus 1:12: "But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad."

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=463945>

- Here's the bottom line in closing, given the increase of birth pains it's truly only a matter of time before the rapture of the church.
- Even if there is no persecution that's coming to America like the rest of the world, Jesus is coming to take us out of this world.
- Let me simply say that if you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I would implore you to call upon him today!

Romans 3:10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned-

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9-10 ...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."