

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

- For today's prophecy update I'd like to talk about what I see as a calm before another prophetic storm that seems to be coming.
- This because, today marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, which to me was a turning point for us in the United States of America.
- By turning point I mean that the America before, and even shortly after September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, is not the America of 9/11/2016.

On Tuesday, Todd Starnes wrote an interest Fox News Op Ed piece on how Muslims were complaining about a town's 9/11 memorial. Kindly allow me to share some of this must read article. "A group of New York Muslims has taken offense at a small town's new memorial honoring those who died in the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks. The Islamic Organization of the Southern Tier fired off a letter to city leaders in Owego – alleging that words engraved in the granite memorial would encourage hatred toward Muslims. ...The memorial, which will be dedicated on Saturday, identifies those responsible for the attacks as "Islamic terrorists." ..."They want us to change the word from 'Islamic Terrorist' to either 'terrorist' or 'Al Qaeda terrorist,'" City Manager Donald Castelluci told me. "I sent them back an email saying I disagreed with their premise 100 percent." The entire inscription reads: "On September 11, 2001 nineteen Islamic terrorists unsuspectingly boarded four airliners departing east coast airports to hijack the planes and carry out a series of coordinated attacks against the United States. This is a tribute to all the lives lost that day and to the heroic sacrifice of all who rushed to help. As Americans, we honor their memory by living our lives in freedom. We will never forget." Mr. Castelluci said they have no plans to change a single letter in the town's memorial. "I don't live in a politically correct world," he told Fox affiliate WICZ. "I live in a historical fact world... whether it's American, homegrown, Christianity, Islamic, you call it what it is. And we don't whitewash things, especially here." Amen, Mr. City Manager! ...I want to commend Mr. Castelluci and the good people of Owego for refusing to bow at the altar of political correctness. The facts surrounding 9/11 are very clear. Islamic radicals committed jihad on American soil. They were not shouting, "Jesus Saves" when they flew those jetliners in the buildings. On Saturday, the citizens of Owego will commemorate the 15th anniversary of that terrible day by dedicating their memorial park – a park that honors a local resident who died in one of the twin towers. His name was Derek Statkevics and he worked on the 89th floor of 2 World Trade Center. And his life was taken by an Islamic terrorist. That's a fact.

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2016/09/06/muslims-complain-about-towns-911-memorial.html>

This particular 9/11 anniversary is unique because it also happens to be the first time the Muslim festival known as Eid al-Adha falls on September 11<sup>th</sup>, since 2001. According to Breaking Israel News it's a ...very strange set of coincidences. This September 11th may see Muslim Americans celebrating their holiest sacrificial festival while the rest of the country mourns one of the most horrific days in United States history. Like all Muslim holidays, the festival of Eid al-Adha, known as Eid, is determined by the Muslim calendar, which varies greatly from year to year. The calendar is set in Mecca and based on the sighting of the new moon. If the moon is sighted on September first, then Eid, the Feast of the Sacrifice, will fall on the anniversary of one of America's worst terror attacks. ...This will be the first time since 9/11 that any Muslim holiday falls on the date, raising questions and concerns about how Muslims will celebrate on a day of mourning for all other Americans. The holiday of Eid also happens to represent a serious conflict between Islam and Judeo-Christian Biblical tradition. It honors Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, a well-established Biblical event, but revises Genesis, putting Ishmael in Isaac's place. The Koran mentions the sacrifice but does not specify which son was chosen. However, Muslim tradition claims it was Ishmael, the patriarch of Islam, that lay on the altar. This contradicts the Bible, which clearly states that Isaac, the patriarch of both Christianity and Judaism, was specified by God to be the sacrifice. ...In another significant difference in the narrative, Islam holds that the site of the altar was the Kaaba in Mecca, the holiest site in Islam and the destination for the hajj pilgrimage. According to Jewish tradition (and the Bible), the site of the sacrifice was Mount Moriah, which later became the location of the Temple Mount. The unfortunate confluence of September 11th and a public Muslim celebration dredges up an uncomfortable and contentious topic.

<http://www.breakingisraelnews.com/74967/muslims-may-celebrating-911-not-reason-think/#7cloObF5ABff3ug.99>

- I'm keenly aware of the "911 Truth Movement," as it's known, and their belief that 9/11 was perpetrated by the US government.
- The problem with this theory is that suggesting the US government either perpetrated or allowed 9/11 takes the onus off Islam.
- While I realize that this may be seen as an oversimplification, the fact remains, September 11<sup>th</sup>, is a significant date to Muslims.

Back on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the website Islam Watch, published an article titled, "Why 9/11 Occurred on September 11". Here are some excerpts, Very few people seem to be aware of why it was that Al-Qaeda chose September 11 for the date of a devastating, carefully planned attack on the United States, but the information is illuminating and worthy of discussion. A better understanding of what drives Islamic terrorism assists in helping to understand why most Westerners' lack of any sense of history is dangerous. Conversely, Islamic terrorists ...comprehend that Islam and Western Culture have been locked in mortal confrontation for approximately 1,400 years with a brief interlude that has caused Western culture to forget what is at stake and what is at risk. Part of the motivation ... is to reverse the trend of decline in the Islamic world ...that many trace as far back to September 11, 1683 when a large Turkish army was humiliatingly crushed by Europeans at the Battle of Vienna. ...The terrorists at least deserve some credit for having a sense of history. Conversely, even the horror of 9/11 seems to have been insufficient to permanently awaken Westerners from their decadent stupor and utter lack of any sense of history.

<http://www.islam-watch.org/stunich/why-9.11-occurred-on-september-11.htm>

I would suggest that this decadent stupor and utter lack of any sense of history or prophecy on the part of America, is one of the main reasons we may be experiencing this aforementioned calm before the storm. On Monday, The Jerusalem Post published a report about how the Islamic State was merely kilometers away from Israel's northern border. The jihadi organizations that have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State terror group have allegedly launched joint operations recently mere kilometers from Israel's border on the southern Golan Heights. ... There have also been multiple previous reports of ISIS using chemical weapons in the embattled region. <http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=466906>

I suppose it should come as no surprise that Israel is keeping a watchful eye on this recent development, so much so that according to The Telegraph on Friday, the Israeli military expects an Islamic State attack on its southern border 'within six months.' Quoting The Telegraph, Israel is bracing for an Islamic State terror attack along its southern border with Egypt within the next six months, a senior Israeli military officer has warned. ... "It could happen today, tomorrow, in a month but within the next six months we will come into an engagement with Wilayat Sinai," the officer said. "In the next six months they will try to carry out an attack and try to do something against Israel." [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/09/israeli-military-expects-islamic-state-attack-on-its-southern-bo/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/09/09/israeli-military-expects-islamic-state-attack-on-its-southern-bo/)

If this weren't bad enough, on Tuesday, BBC reported on the Syria conflict stating that Syrian government forces have been accused of dropping barrel bombs containing chlorine from helicopters on a suburb of Aleppo. ... Of course the Syrian government has always denied using chemical weapons. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37291182>

That was Tuesday, but then on Saturday, we awoke to the breaking news that US Secretary of State, John Kerry had announced that the US-Russia agreement on a ceasefire in Syria had been reached. Quoting a report from CNN, "Today we are announcing an arrangement that we think has the capability of sticking, but it's dependent on people's choices," Kerry said in Geneva, Switzerland, ... Kerry said the pact calls for the Syrian government and the opposition to respect a nationwide ceasefire scheduled to take effect at sundown Monday. <http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/09/politics/syria-ceasefire-kerry-lavrov/>

You'll forgive my sanctified cynicism, but the odds of this said ceasefire "sticking," as Kerry says, are slim and none, and none left town. This for a number of reasons not the least of which is Vladimir Putin's Russia, whom it seems we need to go to for when it comes to anything in the Middle-East. It's evidenced in this Jerusalem Post report on Thursday, about how Netanyahu and Abbas will hold their first official talks in years in of all places, Moscow Russia. According to the Post, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, noting that US mediation efforts of 2013-2014 failed, said that Moscow is convinced "of the need to resume the negotiation process" in order to normalize the situation, and "find a compromise solution on the basis of international law." What's interesting about this report is that, Avi Dichter, a former head of the Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency), related to documents revealed this week, indicated that Abbas was a KGB agent in Damascus in 1983. <http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=467198>

- Here's where I'm going with this, I believe that we're in that calm before the storm just like we were before September 11, 2001.  
- However, it's very different this time in that it won't just bring towers down it has the potential of bringing the whole world down.  
- More specifically that of bringing the whole world down economically, governmentally, and religiously, ushering in the antichrist.

- I believe Isaiah 17 is about to be fulfilled concerning Syria, and Ezekiel 38-39 is about to be fulfilled concerning Russia and Iran.  
- I'll take it a step further and suggest that America is about to fade into the backdrop of obscurity regardless of who's president.  
- The reason I believe this is chiefly that the United States of America is conspicuously absent from the pages of Bible prophecy.

- In closing, let me simply say that if you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior now is the time 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."