

## Mid-East Prophecy Update - November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

- For today's prophecy update, I think I'd be grossly remiss were I not to offer some commentary on the elections from a Biblical perspective.
- We won't get to our study in the Book of Romans today this because I sense the Lord would have me share what He has put on my heart.
- I think the last time I sensed the Lord was directing me to preempt our expositional study of His word was when Egypt was in an uprising.

- Be that as it may, I think it necessary to take a reasoned approach to the results of this year's election, and not for reasons one might think.
- I don't know how else to say this, but, personally, I've never been as excited as I am today because I believe the rapture is now at the door.
- I'll come back to this in a moment, but for now, let me hasten to say, that everything we see in America, lines up with what the Bible says.

- I, like you, have read all the blogs and commentary's concerning the election results and how it points to the judgment of God on America.
- Add to that all the tweets on Twitter, and the posts on Facebook, and you're forced to conclude that there are a lot of disappointed people.
- This is certainly understandable given that the re-elected US president is pro-abortion, pro gay marriage, pro Islam, and even anti-Israel.

- Please know that I concur with those commentaries, and share in that grief, so much so, that for many, it's akin to the death of a loved one.
- This is evidenced in the five stages of bereavement with first, denial, then anger, then negotiation, then depression then, finally acceptance.
- I'm of the belief, the sooner a Christian finally accepts that this world, nay, even this great nation, will be against Christ, the better it will be.

- While I know saying this may come off as tossing in the towel of the electoral process I believe God wants our hope in Him not a candidate.
- What will it take for Christians to finally realize that getting "our man" in office, as it were, will not turn this nation to the true and living God?
- That's not to say God hasn't called a constituency of Christians into the political arena, or we shouldn't participate in the political process.

- However, the battle for the souls in America, (not of America), won't be won in the booth where we vote, it's in the closet where we pray.
- Even if we do, I'm not so sure our prayers are compatible with the Word of God by virtue of our conspicuous absence from Bible prophecy.
- Furthermore, praying the wrong way for this great nation may in fact bring one dangerously close to what's called "kingdom now theology."

- By that I mean, we may inadvertently pray accordingly to this deceptive doctrine of demons, which says that we can have heaven on earth.
- By the way, this is the satanic seduction within the emergent church, which started with a demon possessed rock star by the name of Bono.
- You may be shocked to know, that Bono, is seen as a prophet, even a god, by the likes of Rob Bell, Brian McLaren, Tony Campolo, et al.

- The common denominator in this doctrine is God's Kingdom can come on earth as it is in heaven, which is a mantra of sorts amongst them.
- In order to achieve this illusive quest for a global utopia they must question everything related to damnation in hell, and salvation in heaven.
- As I mentioned last week, I'm seeking the Lord about a prophecy update on how the emergent church is the catalyst for the global religion.

- Be that as it may, I would like to come back to the reasons this years elections may in fact be perfectly in line with what the Bible predicts.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest that understanding how everything is perfectly according to God's prophetic schedule will give us hope.
- The first reason I believe the Lord's return to rapture His bride is at the door, is because of His teaching to never give up until He returns.

**Luke 18:2-8 NIV (2) He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. (3) And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' (4) "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, (5) yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'" (6) And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. (7) And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? (8) I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"**

- This parable paints a striking contrast between an unjust judge and a just God in asking if Jesus will find faith on the earth when He comes.
- To me, this speaks to the importance of the prayer closet, as opposed to the voting booth, in that we remain tenacious until Jesus comes.
- Here's what I'm thinking, if a widow gets justice against her adversary from an unjust judge, then how much more will we also as His bride.

- In other words, we as His bride will receive justice against our adversary, the devil from our just Judge, if a widow does from an unjust one.
- However, Jesus asks this question in verse eight, "when the Son of Man comes will He find this tenacious faith from His bride on earth?"
- The answer to this question will depend on whether or not our faith is in a man that we elect, or the Son of Man, in whom we are His elect.

- The reason I point this out is the parable seems to imply the jury is still out on whether or not His bride will have little faith when He returns.
- It would certainly stand to reason that for Jesus to teach the parable in the context of His return indicates what the condition of His bride is.
- Not only is it plausible that when Jesus returns for us He finds only little faith it's also that when Jesus returns for us, He finds little strength.

**Revelation 3:7-13 NIV "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. (8) I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. (9) I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. (10) Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. (11) I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. (12) Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. (13) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**

- It's interesting to note how that there were only two of the seven churches that were not the recipients of a scathing rebuke from the Lord.
- Both Smyrna, and Philadelphia were commended for their enduring to the end, knowing that they would be kept from the tribulation period.
- It's not so much "that" they were commended, it's more "why" they were commended. The name is the nature, and the answer as to why.

- First, Smyrna, the persecuted church. The name comes from the word myrrh, which is an herb that becomes fragrant when it's crushed.
- The typology is most fascinating in the sense that the Bible says our prayers are fragrant to God, as they rise before the throne of God.
- Here's the thing, we're more likely to pray when we're persecuted, and crushed, and after this election, we, like Smyrna, can be fragrant.

- Second, Philadelphia, the evangelical church. Their name comes from the word Phileo, which is the Greek word meaning "brotherly love."
- God had placed before this church an open door that no man could shut, not even a king, a prime minister, nor a president for that matter.
- What we know from history about this city is they opened the door for the distribution of the Greek language throughout all of Asia Minor.

- When the church was planted some three centuries later, they were perfectly positioned to spread the gospel through that same open door.
- By now, you may be asking yourself where I'm going with all this, and what all of this has to do with the election results. So glad you asked.
- Here's why, the picture we're given in scripture as to what the church will look like at the time of the end, resembles these two churches.

- Here's how I get there, like Smyrna, we may yet be persecuted as we are even now crushed, and like Philadelphia, we have little strength.
- However, being crushed is the catalyst to tenacious and fragrant faith in prayer, and having little strength is the catalyst to that open door.
- Now, like never before, I believe with all my heart, that vis-à-vis prayer, we have set before us that un-closeable open door of opportunity.

- This brings us to what I see as the third and final reason this year's election means the rapture of the church is closer than we may think.
- I must warn you by way of a preface, that it is a difficult one for many of us to truly grasp, let alone, get our minds around and hands on.
- Perhaps you'll indulge me for just a moment as I present a hypothetical scenario, as I deem it necessary, in order to explain this reason.

- Let's just suppose for purpose of discussion, that the President's opponent was not a Mormon, but instead was a true born again Christian.
- With that presupposition, let's conclude from this that the evangelical vote would have been so voluminous as to elect him as the President.
- Now, wouldn't that lend itself to a strong church in lieu of a persecuted praying church? Wouldn't it also bolster up a dominion theology?

- Let's take it one step further and assume that our newly elected born again Christian President also reinstates America's support for Israel.
- Would we be celebrating instead of lamenting like some are today? If so, why? Would it be because we've saved America and Israel too?
- While that may sound like the best of all worlds in this Christian utopia, I would submit to you that this scenario has a big problem Biblically.

- The reason is that nowhere in the pages of scripture do you have the United States saving Israel in God's prophetic plan, only God does.
- The fact of the matter is that nowhere in the pages of scripture eschatologically, do you even have the mention of the United States period.
- So, for one to impose this Christian president and a strong America with it, will in effect, delay the Lord's coming in the rapture for His bride.

- If we were to be really honest with ourselves, we'd have to admit that when things are going well, we are not as excited about His return.
- Conversely, when things go badly we want the Lord to come back yesterday. So too is this true as it relates to our hypothetical scenario.
- With our Christian utopia in America, not only will we not pray for the Lord's return, we will actually be delaying the Lord's return as well.

**Luke 12:41-46 NKJV** Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable *only* to us, or to all *people*?" (42) And the Lord said, "**Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?** (43) **Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.** (44) **Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.** (45) **But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk,** (46) **the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.**

- I'll bring this in for a close by simply asking a simply question? It's a rhetorical question, and it's one for which I believe you'll get the point.
- Here it is in two parts; "do you think God was surprised with the election results? "Do you believe that everything is perfectly on schedule?"
- I, for one, am convinced, not only is everything prophetically perfectly on schedule, but it must come to pass this way for the end to come.

**Revelation 1:1-3 KJV** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John: (2) Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. (3) **Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.**

- Here's the bottom line, a church that's crushed, and a church that's of little strength, is also a church that is excited for the Lord's return.
- Furthermore, a church that is excited for the Lord's return is also a church that is both watching for and even praying for the Lord's return.
- Lastly, if you're one who is partying because you think He delays His coming, and or you even mock His coming, consider 2 Peter 3:3-14.

**2 Peter 3:3-14 NIV** First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. (4) They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." (5) But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. (6) By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. (7) By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. (8) But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. (9) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (10) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. (11) Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives (12) as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. (13) But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. (14) So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.