

Mid-East Prophecy Update – September 21st, 2014

- For today's prophecy update, I would like to talk about the prophetic significance of the Congressional approval to arm the Syrian "rebels."
- This because, the United States, in so doing, may be setting in motion a geopolitical scenario from which there could be "no turning back."
- Kindly allow me to present what I believe may very well be the lynchpin, as it were, that connects the pieces of the Bible prophecy puzzle.

- I'll begin with last Thursday's vote to approve a \$1 Trillion government-funding bill giving the President the green light to strike IS in Syria.
- Actually, the \$1 Trillion dollar's came packaged with a "stopgap" bill in order to prevent yet another government shutdown on October 1st.
- However, this controversial bill has many concerned by virtue of the fact that it has a provision to train the "so-called" Syrian rebel fighters.

- The problem with this is it's been suggested that these so-called Syrian rebel fighters are now already collaborating with the Islamic State.
- If this is true, which many believe to be the case based on an "abundance of documentation," then, that it would mean the US is arming IS.
- I suppose it should come as no surprise the US Secretary of State John Kerry would in effect say that our strategy is to promote real Islam.

Last Monday, September 15th, at a roundtable discussion in Paris, France, Kerry was quoted as saying the following: "It has to start [with] major efforts to delegitimize ISIS's claim to some religious foundation for what it's doing and begin to put real Islam out there and draw lines throughout the region. And I think this is a wake-up call with respect to that because every Arab leader there today was talking about this, about real Islam and how important the Friday sermons are and where they need to go. Those are critical components of this strategy."

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2014/09/231647.htm>

- Dare I say this explains why it is that Kerry would say we're not at war with IS and the president would say the Islamic State is not Islamic.
- In other words, the US can't be at war with IS if it's real Islam, as to do so would dismantle our clear promoting for, and defending of, Islam.
- We need look no further than to the president's own words, chief of which were spoken in of all places Cairo Egypt back in the year 2009.

"I consider it part of my responsibility as president of the United States to fight against negative stereotypes of Islam wherever they appear... America is not — and never will be — at war with Islam... Islam is not part of the problem in combating violent extremism — it is an important part of promoting peace." – Barack Hussein Obama, Cairo Speech 2009

Fast forward three years later in September 2012, almost to the day, when the president, addressing the U.N. General Assembly said, and I quote, "The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam."

Maybe this is why, according to this Jerusalem Post article last Friday, September 19th, that the US would welcome Iran to participate in the UN meeting on Iraq. It appears that in the Friday session, chaired by Secretary Kerry, the US is open to Iranian participation. Moreover, it was also reported that Obama is not opposed to meeting with Rouhani.

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/US-open-to-Iran-participating-in-UN-meeting-on-Iraq-375811>

It will be interesting to watch the upcoming UN General Assembly when the UN Security Council convenes, for a number of reasons not the least of which is the "peace process" between Israelis and Palestinians, which has been eclipsed as of late by the unprecedented momentum of the Islamic State. I found this YNET News article published yesterday, September 20th, very interesting, such that, the French president is saying they will have a resolution that will say very clearly what they expect from the peace process and what the solution to the conflict must be. Here are a couple of excerpts from this report: A "solution to the conflict" between the Israelis and Palestinians will be put to the UN Security Council, French President Francois Hollande said yesterday after meeting Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas in Paris. ... "What we must look for is a durable peace accord," he said, adding that stalled peace talks "must now reach their end".

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4572995,00.html>

- Here's where I'm going with this, first the US vis-à-vis IS in Syria makes the prophecy in Isaiah 17 concerning Damascus more plausible.
- Second, the Islamic State's declaration of global domination via a caliphate restoration in the Levant seems to fit the prophecy in Psalm 83.
- Third, the very clear solution for the stalled peace talks coming to an end may possibly lead to the fulfillment of the prophecy in Daniel 9:27.

- Fourth, and finally, at least for today anyway, allowing Iran a seat at the table may set the stage for the Ezekiel 38 prophecy with Russia.
- While I realize this may be an oversimplification of the complexities of these prophecies it does at the very least give us a thumbnail sketch.
- That said; let me hasten to say I am keenly aware of those who would argue that all of this is just speculative pessimistic doom and gloom.

- You may find my response to that argument somewhat surprising, but I'm of the belief that including the doom and gloom component is a must.
- Let me explain, if there's no bad news, then there will be no interest in the good news. If there's not damnation, there's no need for any salvation.
- The point being is we need both. We need bad news to propel us to good news. We need finite pessimism to pave the way to infinite optimism.

One wisely and humorously quipped, "Both optimists and pessimists contribute to society. Proof? The optimist invents the airplane and the pessimist invents the parachute."

- I would submit the optimism of the world has contributed the airplane, if you will, whereas the prophetic pessimism has contributed the parachute.
- Perhaps better said, the airplane of this world is going down and my only out to escape and be saved is to put on the parachute of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 2:1–3 (NIV) 1 We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

I'll close with a true story that best illustrates the "escape" or "out" we have in and through the person of Jesus Christ. "A distinguished painter was conducting a class for aspiring artists. He was speaking on the subject of artistic composition. He emphasized that it was wrong, for example, to portray a woodland, a forest, or a wilderness, without painting into it a path out of the trees. When a true artist draws any kind of picture, say a landscape, he always gives the picture an "out". Otherwise the tangle of trees and the trackless spaces depress and dismay the onlooker.