

## Mid-East Prophecy Update - October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012

- For today's prophecy update I think we would be remiss were we not to at least talk briefly about yet another Tsunami warning last night.
- While many of us are thankful it wasn't "the big-one" for lack of a better way of saying it, there's still Hurricane Sandy hitting the east coast.
- We'll come back to that shortly, however, my concern is, what's going to happen the next time there's an earthquake and Tsunami warning.

- To me, it seems there's now a greater propensity for people to not heed the warning the next time around under the "crying wolf" banner.
- There's a common denominator of sorts as it relates to the heeding of the warning concerning the rapture, given the prior "false alarms."
- Just as there may be a greater likelihood people will go about their business as usual the next time, so too is this true for the end of time.

- Actually, this ties in to what will be part two of a series we began last week as it relates to being ready for that which may soon happen.
- In order to do that I'll sort of pick it up where we left off when we listed a number of Bible prophecies that are on the cusp of being fulfilled.
- At the risk of being perceived as doom and gloom, I'm of the belief that no matter who's elected president, things will not get any better.

- Not only will things not get any better, they won't stay the same either. It's not going to be business as usual, it will go from bad to worse.
- 2 Timothy 3:12-13 NIV** In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (13) while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

- Once again, I think it's incumbent upon me to reiterate that in this prophecy update I in no way am making any predictions or setting dates.
- Both my call and sole goal is to insure we as believers are ready for what could very well happen in the days and weeks that lie ahead.
- While we don't know what the future holds, we don't need to be discouraged, rather, knowing Who holds the future, we can be encouraged.

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-13 NIV** (1) Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, (2) for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (3) While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. (4) But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. (5) You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. (6) So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. (7) For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. (8) But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. (9) For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. (10) He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. (11) Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

- Paul by the Holy Spirit is encouraging the church in Thessalonica by telling them to encourage one another as those who aren't in the dark.
- I find it interesting in the often-quoted verse three, how he says sudden destruction will come upon those that are in the dark, not the light.
- In other words, it will be as a thief the night for those who are in the dark, and belong to the night, as evidenced by what they do at night.

- More specifically, the deeds of darkness are such that people sleep; get drunk, and loose control at night, unaware of what's happening.
- This explains why it is that they are caught off guard and are as surprised as they would be by a thief, when the sudden destruction comes.
- This begs the question of whether or not the description Paul gives is an apt description of the world in which we now live. Answer, Yes!

- How so? Because just by sheer virtue of the fact that the two most popular words spoken in the world today are both Peace and Security.
- Given that we've done many a prophecy update on this peace and security prophecy, I will not take the time to go through it at this time.
- Suffice it to say you can do a web search by simply entering in those two words. Don't be surprised by the UN's Peace and Security site.

- Be that as it may, the clarion call for today is to be steady and ready for what may come, prior to when this sudden destruction does come.
- That said, I just can't in good conscience before the Lord, not warn you about that which is likely to come so it's not as a thief in the night.
- I know this may come off as hyper-sensational, but in the not too distant future we could wake up one morning to a catastrophic event.

- Let's be honest, wouldn't it stand to reason as volatile as everything in the world is, that it wouldn't take much to be a life-changing event?
- This storm they're dubbing "Frankenstorm" is a perfect example of this, in the sense that there are simply no models for a storm like this.
- In other words, this storm is the likes of which we've never seen before, and the irony of it, is the location of it, and the timing of it as well.

**Matthew 24:37-39 NIV** As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. (38) For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; (39) and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

- I just can't get over how haunting the parallel is to the days' of Noah by virtue of how that they knew nothing about what would happen.
- They were partying, marrying, and it was business as usual right up to the very day that Noah and his family would finally enter the ark.
- So too is that true for world today, they're partying, marrying, and it's business as usual right up to the day that Israel enters the tribulation.

- The good news is, while Noah is a picture of Israel, we, as the bride of Christ are a picture of Enoch, who was taken out before the flood.
- Just as Enoch, of whom were told in Genesis 5:24 walked with God and then was no more for God took him, so too will He take us as well.
- You'll forgive my silly comparison, but Enoch was a pre-flood, and so too are we pre-tribulation. This presupposes you're walking with God.

- I believe with all my heart like never before, that we get our affairs in order, as it were, because the Lord's imminent return is at the door.
- For those who profess to be Christians but have one foot in the world, and one foot in the Lord, the time has come to recommit your life.
- For those who do not know the Lord, there's simply no more time, it's now the time to choose this day who it is that you are going to serve.