

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

- For today's prophecy update we'll look at the geopolitical developments having prophetic significance from just this last week.
- Specifically concerning Russia and the US vis-à-vis Syria, which to me has profound ramifications in terms of Bible prophecy.
- However, in so doing I need to make the presupposition that you're keenly aware of the prophecies in Isaiah 17 and Ezekiel 38.

I'll begin with the stunning news on Monday about Russia telling it's citizens to "prepare for nuclear war with West." Quoting Yahoo News, "Russia has warned citizens that a nuclear war with the West could be imminent - sparked by clashes in the Middle East. Zvezda, a nationwide TV service run by the country's Ministry of Defence, said last week, 'Schizophrenics from America are sharpening nuclear weapons for Moscow.' Officials said on Friday that underground shelters had been built which could house 12 million people - enough for the entire population of Moscow. Russia has clashed with the Western powers over its policy in Syria - where it's accused of bombing civilians - and the U.S suspended negotiations with the country yesterday. Both Russia and NATO are still in the position to unleash global-scale nuclear attacks - and the weapons are armed and ready. The Arms Control Association says, 'United States and Russia still deploy more than 1,500 strategic warheads on several hundred bombers and missiles - far more than necessary to deter nuclear attack - and they are modernizing their nuclear delivery systems.'"

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/russia-tells-citizens-to-prepare-for-nuclear-war-061203585.html>

That was on Monday, then, on Tuesday, Fox News published a report about how Russia had deployed advanced anti-missile system to Syria for first time according to US officials. Here's some of what the report had to say, "Russia has deployed an advanced anti-missile system to Syria for the first time, three US officials tell Fox News, the latest indication that Moscow continues to ramp up its military operations in Syria in support of President Bashar al-Assad. It comes after Russia's actions led to the collapse of a cease-fire and the cut-off of direct talks with the U.S. While Moscow's motives are not certain, officials say the new weapon system could potentially counter any American cruise missile attack in Syria.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2016/10/04/russia-deploys-advanced-anti-missile-system-to-syria-for-first-time-us-officials-say.html>

Last week I had two people email me a link to a recent Jerusalem Post article by Caroline Glick. While I am a fan of hers, and would have probably read it anyway, I always make an effort to read something that two or more people send me, for a number of reasons not the least of which is the ancient Jewish saying that "If one person calls you a donkey, ignore him. If two people call you a donkey ... buy a saddle!" As such, I would like to share with you some interesting excerpts from this must read article. "So Obama let Syria burn. He let Iran and Hezbollah transform the country into their colony. And he let Putin transform the Mediterranean into a Russian lake. A new Syria is emerging. And with it, a new Middle East and world are presenting themselves. Our new world is not a peaceful or stable one. It is a harsh place. ...By adopting a strategy of total war, Putin has ensured that far from becoming the quagmire that President Barack Obama warned him Syria would become, the war in Syria has instead become a means to transform Russia into the dominant superpower in the Mediterranean, at the US's expense. ...With Russia's recent rapprochement with Turkish President Erdogan, NATO's future ability to check Russian power through the Incirlik air base is in question. Even Israel's ability to permit the US access to its air bases is no longer assured. Russia has deployed air assets to Syria that have canceled Israel's regional air superiority. Under these circumstances, in a hypothetical Russian-US confrontation, Israel may be unwilling to risk Russian retaliation for a decision to permit the US to use its air bases against Russia. ... Obama chose to stand on the sidelines in Syria because he wanted to make friends with Iran. Obama began his secret courtship of the mullahs even before he officially took office eight years ago. After the war broke out in Syria, midway through his first term and in the following years, the Russians and the Iranians told the obsessed American president that if he took action against Assad, as strategic rationality dictated, he would get no nuclear deal, and no rapprochement with Tehran. So Obama let Syria burn. He let Iran and Hezbollah transform the country into their colony. And he let Putin transform the Mediterranean into a Russian lake. Obama enabled the ethnic cleansing of Syria's Sunni majority, and in turn facilitated the refugee crisis that is changing the face not only of the Middle East but of Europe as well. Glick goes on to explain the implications of all this as it relates to Israel, saying, ...On Monday night, for the first time, Israel Air Force jets flying over Syria were shot at by Syrian anti-aircraft ordnance. ...the fact that Russia targeted the planes makes clear that Putin has decided to send Israel a very clear and menacing message. He is now the protector of the Iranian-Hezbollah colony on our northern border. If Israel decides to preemptively attack targets belong to that colony, Russia will not stand by and watch. And with the US no longer well positioned to challenge Russian power in the region, Israel will have to deal with Russia on its own.

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=469141>

If this weren't bad enough, on Friday, Arutz Sheva quoted a New York Times article in which they demanded that US President Barack Obama use his last months in office to hit Israel hard diplomatically. Quoting the New York Times, "The most plausible pressure would come from Mr. Obama's leading the Security Council to put its authority behind a resolution to support a two-state solution and offer the outlines of what that could be...it is the kind of political pressure Mr. Netanyahu abhors and has been working assiduously to prevent." The article goes on to say there is speculation that US President Barack Obama might utilize his lame duck last two months in office to pressure Israel and aid the "Palestinian" cause.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Generic/Generic/SendPrint?print=1&type=0&item=218745>

- As many of you know, we've been doing these Middle East bible prophecy updates weekly for over ten years now since 2006.  
- I mention this because the problem is we can be too close to the tree to see the forest and as such, we can lose perspective.  
- In other words, by us doing these weekly prophecy updates it can lend itself to losing sight of the bigger picture prophetically.

- I would suggest that all we have to do is step back from the tree and what we'll see is the prophecy picture is almost completed.  
- I realize that this statement may be met with cynicism on the part of those who tire of teachers like myself sounding the alarm.  
- However, in all the years I've studied and taught Bible prophecy I've never been as excited as I am now with what's happening.

- Let me hasten to say, more than ever we need to be as ready today, as we would be were the Lord's return years from today.  
- While I truly believe the Lord's return is imminent, it's still incumbent upon me to be a good servant and occupy till He comes.  
- This because of the Parable Jesus taught in Luke's Gospel chapter 19 about doing the work of God's Kingdom until He returns.

I'll bring it to a close with Ezekiel 38:14-16, and 23, because after Ezekiel lists the allied nations that attack Israel, and even those who protest the attack on Israel, it says, 14 "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? 15 Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. 16 You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes." ...23 Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.' "

- Lastly, if you've never called upon the name of the Lord to be saved I would like to share the gospel of Salvation in Jesus Christ

**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."