

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – October 2nd, 2011

- Every week, since back in 2006, we have set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings so as to devote some time to studying Bible prophecy.
- The reason that we do this is because the Bible predicts certain specific events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies, and that the rapture could happen at any time.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- For today's update I had planned to talk about the interconnected and intersected dynamics of how Bible prophecies are all intertwined together.
- However, yesterday I sensed the Lord would have me postpone it until next Sunday, so as to address the matter of those who are disappointed.
- Three weeks ago, I shared with you my concern for those buying into the dangers of date setting, becoming devastated if nothing happened.

- Suffice it to say, it seems that when nothing happened, that's exactly what happened. So, first, let me say, that I want to encourage you today.
- I know there are those who're not only discouraged and disenchanted but feeling defeated and even condemned for hoping in the Lord's return.
- Do not allow the enemy to heap upon you the guilt or even the embarrassment for simply longing for Christ to come and take away His Bride.

**Proverbs 13:12 NIV** Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

**2 Timothy 4:8 NIV** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

- I'll never tire of saying, that which I've been continually saying since we began these prophecy updates five years ago starting back in 2006.
- We need to be as ready, in our longing for His appearing, if it were today, as we would be if it were not for another ten or more years from now.
- Does this mean it can't happen until the Feast of Trumpets next year, or the year after? It can supremely because of the doctrine of immanency.

- Some might argue that getting ones hopes up only to be crushed when the Lord doesn't return when they thought, turns people away from God.
- Please know that I understand how people can become cynical in the perceived loss of credibility, or reproach on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Now, having said that, I would humbly ask that you consider with me the fruit that comes in the other basket, and on the other side of this table.

- As a result of all the attention that's been brought to the propensity of the Lord's return happening this quickly many people have come to Christ.
- Those who have been walking close to the Lord, longing for the soon return of the Lord, have been purified, readied and steadied as the bride.
- I'll take it a step further and submit that there are countless more that have loosened their grip on this world, then those going back to this world.

A Facebook friend said it best when she posted the following; "I view what has happened as being eschatological enthusiasm and joyful excitement and expectation at the prospect of being caught away with the Lord...based on love, faith and HOPE. We should not feel ashamed or deceived that it did not come to pass. In these past 2 - 3 months I have experienced the HOPE of seeing the Lord in a way that I never have before. It has purified my walk, brought me into a deeper intimacy, strengthened my faith, given me boldness for His name, caused me to be a Berean and search the scriptures...and I feel that I have gained more knowledge and wisdom of ~God's seasons~ and my 'Jewish' Jesus.....I will never be the same person. So, none of this has been in vain, as some will accuse. We have all gleaned treasures of truth in some measure; thus making us a little more ready for the rapture ♥"

- One last thing. I'll pose it in the form of a question; "Aren't you glad that the Lord didn't return for His bride before you gave your life to Christ?"
- Lest you deem that question rhetorical in the sense that we all know the answer, let me hasten to say, that this is exactly the point and purpose.
- There's a manifold purpose for Bible prophecy chief of which is, God tells us what happens, before it happens, so when it happens, we'll believe.

**John 14:29** "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. NKJV

- I'm not of the belief that the purpose of Bible prophecy is so that we'll be "in the know," rather, it's so we'll spread the gospel for others to know.
- We're living in a day of unspeakable opportunity. The harvest is ripe, the laborers are few; there are many to still be brought into the Kingdom.
- In addition to this, the purpose of Bible prophecy is for us to realize just how close His coming is, and wake up from our spiritual sleepiness.

**Romans 13:11-12** 11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. NIV

- Once we've woken up, then it's time to clean up. My life should become one of purity and holiness knowing that the Lord could come at anytime.

**1 John 3:2-3** 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. NIV

- I am keenly aware that I sound like a broken record because it seems that I'm saying the same thing over and over again week in and week out.
- In all fairness to that criticism it's true that I may have only one string on my guitar, so-to-speak, but that's because the message never changes.
- Our world is changing so quickly but the message of and purpose in Bible prophecy has not changed rather, it's for this reason, we've changed.