

Mid-East Prophecy Update – December 28th, 2014

- Because today's prophecy update will be the last update for the year 2014, I decided to start by doing a prophetic year in review of sorts.
- My hope in beginning this way is that we will have a better sense of just how fast everything is moving as we now step into the New Year.
- This because, it would stand to reason that if so many Bible prophecies seemingly sped up in 2014, they may speed up even more in 2015.

Let's rewind the clock of Bible prophecy back to January of 2014; in fact, it was only three days into the New Year, when we were met with the news that Muslim's calling themselves, ISIS, or, ISIL, took control of the Iraqi city of Fallujah. It was at this time that we revisited Psalm 83, for a number of reasons not the least of which is that the area they call the Levant, or Greater Syria, which they seek to erase the borders of and declare an Islamic Caliphate under Sharia Law, is the area the Bible declares to be the Promised Land belong to Israel.

Let's now move to February of 2014 where talks in Geneva, to end the civil war in Syria, in which 2015 will be the four-year mark, were met with failure when no agreement was reached between President Bashar al-Assad and the opposition groups. It was for this reason, that we also revisited Isaiah 17, which is a prophecy concerning Damascus becoming a ruinous heap.

This brings us to March 2014, where the bear from the North, Russia's Vladimir Putin, who had already been flexing his muscles, geopolitically, and literally, actually, signs an annexation pact with the Prime Minister of Crimea after his power play into Ukraine. This was and even more so now, is, the makings of the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38 and 39.

What's interesting is, two days ago, on Friday, December 26th, the day after Christmas, The Jerusalem Post published an article with the headline asking, "Can Russia's Vladimir Putin help deliver a Palestinian state?" Quoting from the article, it seems, "Out of total desperation given the near-zero chance of gaining UN Security Council approval of a draft mandating an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Abbas has now turned to Russia."

<http://www.jpost.com/landedpages/printarticle.aspx?id=385824>

It should probably come as no surprise that April 2014 would bring us the news that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had announced that Israel would suspend peace talks with the Palestinians after rival factions Fatah and Hamas had announced a unity deal. It was this, in concert with what happened the following two months in May and June that pointed to the prophecy found in Zechariah 12, concerning Jerusalem. On their way to conquering Jerusalem, we learned that ISIS had taken Mosul, which is Iraq's second largest city, as well as the city of Tikrit. Then, on June 12th, 2014, Three Israeli teens on their way home from school in the West Bank are abducted by Hamas. It would take till the end of the month on June 30th, before their bodies were discovered.

This brought us to July 2014, which began Israel's declaration of "Operation Protective Edge" in response to the countless rockets from Hamas, and the terror tunnels, as they were dubbed, of Hamas. It seems that this became a nexus of sorts in the sense that August and September brought Islamic beheadings of Americans, and numerous broken cease-fires by the so-called Palestinians. It was this that brought back to the forefront the chilling New Testament prophecy in 1 Thessalonians 5:3, which foretells how that "while they are saying 'peace and security' sudden destruction from which they will not escape, will come upon them as a woman traveling in labor."

October 2014 caused us to open up the book of Revelation when we learned of the first person outside of Africa to have contracted the much-feared Ebola virus. More specifically, Revelation 6:8, as some were suggesting that the Ebola virus spiraling out of control may begin the fulfillment of the prophecy in Revelation 6:8, where 1/4 of the earth's population gets wiped out.

That brought us to last month and this month, November and December 2014. This is when it seems the whole world was coming apart at the seams, with more satanic beheadings of American's and demonic attacks against American's, the most recent of which were meted out by assassinating two police officers in New York, as a revenge for the Grand Jury decisions in the Michael Brown and Eric Garner cases. Sadly, it was that which is happening to America and in America that has forced students and teachers of Bible prophecy to face the reality of the absence of the United States from eschatology.

Lastly, I would like to draw your attention to an event that received absolutely no coverage from any news agency local or international, yet it was a huge event for us. What I'm speaking of is the breaking news that a church on the Windward side of Oahu, who are known around the world as, Calvary Chapel Kaneohe, took possession of a new church building to renovate and occupy until He comes.

You'll forgive the silliness with which I announce this; however, the truth of the matter is, to whom much is given, much is required, especially in this, the last days of human history, as we know it. As such, I as the pastor of this church, as well as the elders of this church, believe that God has reserved this property for "such a time as this," and what comes packaged with it, so to speak, is the awesome reasonability of sounding the alarm of Christ's soon return for us His bride at the rapture of the church, which can happen at any time.

It is our desire to not only finish well, but to be found faithful in reaching the lost with the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ before it's too late. And, this responsibility is as urgent as it is serious because the hour is late and the burden is great.

I'd like to close with the story that's told of a flippant teenager who asked a preacher about the heavy burden of sin. It's said that this arrogant teenager asked the preacher, "How heavy is sin, you say that unsaved people carry a weight of sin. I feel nothing. How heavy is sin? Is it ten pounds? Eighty pounds?" Well, the wise preacher lovingly replied by asking the youth this question, "If you laid a four-hundred-pound weight on a corpse, would it feel the load?" The teenager quickly replied, "of course not, it would feel nothing, it's dead." The preacher concluded, "That spirit, too, is indeed dead which feels no load of sin or is indifferent to its burden and flippant about its presence." The teenager was silenced!