

## Middle-East Prophecy Update – October 23rd, 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."

- I had a difficult time finding something for today's prophecy update, since there's nothing really happening in the world right now geopolitically.
- First, there was Muammar Qaddafi's death on Thursday, then, the President's announcement of bringing home our troops in Iraq on Friday.
- This was followed by the death of Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Sultan ibn Abdulaziz on Saturday, then in Turkey, a 7.2 earthquake just today.
- So, what I decided to do was address the death of Muammar Gaddafi and what the Bible says will be both the role of, and the future for Libya.
- It's interesting that "the tyrant of Tripoli," as he's been called, would meet his brutal death in this way, and at this time. Everything is on schedule.

- Before we go any further, I think I'd be grossly remiss were I not to share a couple of thoughts about the multitudes of Muslims coming to Christ.
- If you really think about it, with what's happening in places like Libya, Egypt, and Syria, many are losing hope in Islam, as it has nothing to offer.
- I'm not being derogatory but I'm of the belief that the Muslim in Libya is more open to the Gospel than is the American here in the United States.

- The reason I say this is, in the Middle-East, especially amongst my countryman the Arab people, family life is riddled with unspeakable hardship.
- These people are hitting rock bottom, losing everything they've ever known, even family members who were slaughtered at the hands of Islam.
- It's been said that; "you will never know that Jesus is all you need, until Jesus is all you have." The Arab's are finding that Jesus is all they have.

- Be that as it may, I'll draw your attention to two prophecies concerning Libya both of which are in the Old Testament; Daniel 11:43, Ezekiel 38:5.

**Daniel 11:43 NKJV** He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians *shall follow* at his heels.

**Ezekiel 38:5 NKJV** Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet;

- Here's what I'm thinking; Daniel's prophecy tells us about the future for Libya, and Ezekiel's prophecy tells us about the role of Libya yet future.
- The Anti-Christ will seize control of Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia, and they will in turn play a role in the Islamic alliance of nations attacking Israel.
- It seems to me that with Egypt's Mubarak and Libya's Gaddafi out of the prophetic picture, the global leadership vacuum is about to be filled.

- There's something else here that I've been musing over as of late; have you noticed that there's a "revolution" of sorts taking place in the world.
- The protests went from Tahrir Square in Egypt, then to the shores of Tripoli in Libya, and then to the streets of the financial district of Manhattan.
- What I find peculiar is that this "revolution" under the banner of the Arab Spring/Occupy Movement, has inherent within it a common agenda.

- It's also odd how there are hardly any burnings of the current President in effigy after Bin Laden, and Gaddafi, as compared with after Hussein.
- What's even more peculiar is how the Occupy revolution is not protesting against the leader of America, it's against God's blessing on America.
- The unspeakable blessing and prosperity that we've enjoyed here in the United States, has been directly proportionate to our support of Israel.

**Genesis 12:2-3 NKJV** (2) I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. (3) I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- Not only is America turning her back on Israel, I would submit, for many years now, the church in America has been turning her back on Israel.
- What Christians don't know is, cursing Israel comes packaged with losing our blessing from the Lord, and losing hope in the return of the Lord.
- Consider the following quotes from Dave Hunt of The Berean Call; though written years ago, it's an excerpt from their recent October newsletter.

**THE LATE GREAT RAPTURE THEORY?** –by Dave Hunt (Excerpted from *WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HEAVEN?*) ...In the early 1970s the rapture was the most-talked-about topic in the church. ...Pastors preached about heaven and Christians eagerly anticipated being caught up at any moment to meet their Lord in the air. Even the secular world became familiar with the concept. There were movies, ...and cartoons and [even] bumper stickers ...All of that has changed. The bumper stickers have worn off, the movies have lost their appeal, and the sermons have gone on to currently popular themes. ...Most Christians no longer know what they believe about prophecy ...Many who were once excited about the prospects ... have become confused and disillusioned by the apparent failure of a generally accepted biblical interpretation they once relied upon. Those who believed in the rapture because it was popular are, of course, abandoning it now that it has become unpopular. ...Today, the once-bright hope of the church ...has become the butt of crude jokes and a common subject of ridicule or scorn even among many Christians. ...Earl Paulk, founding pastor of the 10,000-member Chapel Hill Harvester Church near Atlanta, and a popular Christian television teacher, calls the rapture "The Great Escape Theory." ...Scarcely a sermon is being preached about the world to come. Attention is focused instead upon achieving success in this one. ...The expectancy ...so evident in the 1970s...has all but vanished from the church. ...the Southern Baptist Church ...the largest Protestant denomination, ...is presently losing members at a surprising and growing rate to independent churches that deny the rapture, [and] deny any place for national Israel in prophecy ...One of the leaders ... writes: "You can study books about going to heaven in a so-called 'rapture' if that turns you on. We want to study the Bible to learn to live and to love and to bring heaven to earth." ...[a] popular speaker on Christian media, delivered the type of anti-Israel rhetoric that is becoming so typical in charismatic circles: "They ...are not chosen, they are cursed! They are not blessed, they are cursed!... The church--that's the Israel of God, not that garlic one over on the Mediterranean Sea!" Earl Paulk's criticism of national Israel and those who look favorably upon her includes the ultimate accusation: The hour has come for us to know...that the spirit of the antichrist is now at work in the world...[through] so-called Holy Spirit-filled teachers who say, "If you bless national Israel, God will bless you." Not only is this blatantly deceptive, it is not part of the new covenant at all! [www.theberean.org/node/9434](http://www.theberean.org/node/9434)

- I'll bring plane of today's prophecy update in for a landing on the runway of another Old Testament scripture found in the book of Isaiah 46:9-11.

**Isaiah 46:9-11 NIV** Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. (10) I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. (11) From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.

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