

Mid-East Prophecy Update - October 7th, 2012

- For today's prophecy update, I'll do something I've been thinking about for quite some time now, such that it will be a break from the usual.
- What I mean by that is, I am going to take and tackle the most often asked questions that we get both here at home, and all over the world.
- If you were to put a title on today's update, it would probably have to be something along the lines of, "What Next," and or "What Now."

- The reason I say that is because there's a common denominator of sorts, in the hundreds of emails and comments that we receive daily.
- While there is a broad range of very good questions, they seemingly ask the same question in a myriad of ways pertaining to the last days.
- More specifically, questions like, do we have to wait until next years Feast of Trumpets for the rapture, and should we stock pile provisions.

- In concert with these, which represent mean, if you please, there's also the question of how much persecution will Christians go through.
- Then, add to this the question of being good stewards of God's money in light of the very real and present danger of an economic collapse.
- Then, if that weren't bad enough, there's always the question of what am I going to do just to keep my head above water and even survive.

- First, let me preface this by saying that I believe, with all my heart, that we have the greatest and grandest of opportunity in the days ahead.
- At the risk of sounding hyper-optimistic, should the Lord tarry, it will present us with countless opportunities to share the Gospel of Christ.
- Furthermore, while we await the trumpet sound, we, like never before, can occupy until He comes making the most of every opportunity.

- Having said that, I think it's incumbent upon me to address this matter of the Feast of Trumpets being fulfilled in the rapture of the church.
- Though I could fairly be accused of getting excited every year this Feast comes around, I've always kept in tact the doctrine of imminency.
- Not only is the rapture imminent in the sense that it can happen at anytime, there is the possibility the Feast of Trumpets is fulfilled after.

Jimmy DeYoung, who has been teaching Bible prophecy much longer than I, believes the Feast of Trumpets is fulfilled by the "great sound of a trumpet," that Jesus Himself prophesied about in Matthew 24:31.

Matthew 24:31 NKJV And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

- If this is true, and it could very well be, then the Feast of Trumpets would be fulfilled by this great trumpet gathering the believers in heaven.
- This is certainly plausible in that it fits the next Feast, which is "Yom Kippur" (Day of Atonement), being fulfilled in Christ's second coming.
- Perhaps you've heard it said this way; "at the rapture, Jesus Christ comes for us, and at the second coming, Jesus Christ comes with us."

- With DeYoung's scenario, you in effect, disenfranchise the Feast of Trumpets from the rapture, and in so doing, maintain its imminency.
- I'll take it further and suggest that this is compatible with the "sudden destruction" of 1 Thessalonians 5:3, which we talked about last week.
- However, to not dismantle the belief that nothing happens before the rapture happens must be paramount to interpret any Bible prophecy.

- This then dovetails into the second question on the table of how much should we prepare for and store up as we occupy until He comes.
- I've always held to the belief that this is unique to the individual and their temperament. In other words, it's different for every one of us.
- The litmus test for me has always been discerning whether my provisions would be prudence, or would my provisions would be paranoia.

Proverbs 27:12 NIV The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.

- This brings us to the matter of stewardship and survival financially in the face of what has now become impending economic catastrophe.
- This is a very weighty matter whether you are one who is deciding what to do with prosperity, or worrying about what to do about necessity.
- Regardless of which end of the spectrum you're on, the good news is, God's Word is not silent concerning the issue of money and worry.

Matthew 6:19-34 NIV "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. (20) But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. (21) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (22) "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. (23) But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! (24) "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. (25) "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? (26) Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? (27) Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? (28) "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. (29) Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. (30) If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? (31) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' (32) For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. (33) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (34) Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- I'll close today's prophecy update by simply encouraging you to take heart because either way in the end, we will only win. We cannot lose.
- If you really think about it, wouldn't it stand to reason that if the Lord will always take care of us while we're still here that we've got it made?
- Even if it gets worse before it gets better, shouldn't just knowing that what we have to look forward to make the worse easier to get through.

"This WORLD is not my home, I'm just a-passing through. "My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue!
"The Angels beckon me, through Heavens Open door, And I can't feel at home in this world anymore!"
--an Old Christian Hymn