

Mid-East Prophecy Update – October 2nd, 2016

- For today's prophecy update I want to talk about what I would argue is the handwriting on the wall related to Israel and the US.
- Specifically as it relates to the current US President, who leaves office in 109 days as of today, unless something happens first.
- Barring something happening prior to November, the next President's posture concerning Israel may in fact seal America's fate.

I base that statement on what God told Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3 where He says, I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 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."

I found it rather interesting that on Sunday, both Trump and Clinton met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and according to The Jerusalem Post, Trump told Netanyahu that he would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's united capital. Quoting the Post, "In meeting the Republican presidential nominee, Netanyahu thanked him for his continued support for Israel, his commitment to continued pressuring of Iran and for his opposition to efforts at the United Nations to impose terms of a peace agreement with the Palestinians."

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=468662>

Even more interesting was the stark contrast with Clinton, in which she called for "direct" negotiations after the Netanyahu meeting. According to The Jerusalem Post, Hillary Rodham Clinton renewed her call for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict after meeting on Sunday evening with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is concerned that her former boss, US President Barack Obama, may take the issue to an international stage.

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=468705>

To say that Netanyahu has legitimate concerns would be a gross understatement by virtue of Obama's remarks at the Memorial Service for former Israeli President Shimon Peres. According to Ynet News, while eulogizing former President Shimon Peres, US President Obama says that "(Peres) would have said that the Jewish nation wasn't born to control another nation."

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4861803,00.html>

To add insult to injury, one website posted a copy of Obama's remarks at Peres' funeral in Jerusalem, indicating that the remarks had been given in "Jerusalem, Israel." But later Friday afternoon, the press office sent out a correction to the previous email, striking out "Israel" from the header of the transcript.

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article105236776.html>

This striking out of "Israel" from the header of a transcript pales in comparison to the dangers facing Israel on the world stage due in large part to the increasing Russia US tensions over Syria. The Jerusalem Post published an article in which they quote former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, Ron Prosor, whom some of you met when he was here in Hawaii in 2014. According to Prosor, "The escalation in rhetoric between Russia and the United States over Syria's Civil War is creating a dangerous situation for Israel. ..." "We have here a dangerous situation. It is dangerous, by the way, also to [Israel], because we find ourselves right in the middle," Prosor said. "We coordinate with Russia, and the Americans are an important strategic asset for us." Prosor said that a conflict between the Americans and Russians could create "a very uncomfortable reality" for Israel. The former envoy to the UN said that the level of rhetoric in recent days between the world powers is unprecedented in Syria's Civil War, ... "There is a head on confrontation between the world powers who both currently maintain a presence in the arena, not through proxies," he stated. "As far as we are concerned, as a country that is in the area with these world powers, who are in the midst of an escalating conflict, the arena is complicated." The United States accused Russia of "barbarism" in Syria on Sunday as warplanes supporting Syrian government forces pounded Aleppo and Moscow said ending the civil war was almost "impossible." A diplomatic solution to the fighting looked unlikely as US and Russian diplomats disagreed at a UN Security Council meeting called to discuss the violence, which has escalated since a ceasefire collapsed last week.

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=468720>

I suppose this Times of Israel report should come as no surprise. It seems that the US Secretary of State John Kerry is warning that Washington was on the brink of ending its talks with Russia on the Syrian conflict over the assault on Aleppo. "I think we are on the verge of suspending the discussion because, you know, it's irrational in the context of the kind of bombing taking place, to be sitting there, trying to take things seriously," Kerry said. "There is no notion or indication of seriousness of purpose with what is taking place right now," he told a conference in the US capital, a day after warning his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov he would end talks unless Moscow halts the assault on Aleppo.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/us-on-verge-of-ending-syria-talks-with-russia-kerry-warns/>

While the US is warning and accusing Russia, Russia is also warning and accusing the US. On Thursday, Ynet News published an article with the headline reading, "Russia accuses US of threatening support for nuclear attack." - The Russian Foreign Ministry is accusing the Pentagon of making a veiled threat to back its allies in an attack on Russia with nuclear weapons. U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Monday accused Russia of "nuclear saber-rattling" and argued that even though the Cold War is long over, nuclear weapons are still needed to deter Russia and other potential aggressors from thinking they could get away with a nuclear attack. Moscow responded Thursday by saying that Carter's statement amounted to the U.S. threatening to use its nuclear weapons in support of an aggression against Russia waged by its allies. It added that Russia will have to take retaliatory measures to protect its security.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4861602,00.html>

If this weren't bad enough, on Wednesday, The Jerusalem Post published a report about how that Iran has missiles that can hit Israel. Quoting the Post, A senior commander in Iran's Revolutionary Guards said Tuesday that Iran is in possession of missiles that can hit Israel. Iran's Press TV quoted [the commander] as telling reporters that "we do not need missiles with a range of over 2,000 kilometers. The longest range required for [Iran's] missiles is the [Israeli] occupied lands." The commander warned that "the Zionist regime is our biggest target." He stated that Iran's Zolfagar tactical ballistic missile was set to become operational in March of 2017, which is the end of the current Iranian calendar year. ...The missile can carry out precision attacks against airport tarmacs and targets on the ground.

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=468899>

It does see that we inch closer with each passing day to the fulfillment of the Isaiah 17 prophecy concerning Syria, especially in light of this YNet News report about how that The opposition Syrian National Coalition is saying a political solution was "no longer a viable option" for the Syrian conflict.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4861109,00.html>

- In last weeks update we looked at the reasons why the fulfillment of Isaiah 17 and Ezekiel 38 were on the cusp of being fulfilled.
- As such, I would like to close this week's prophecy update with the reason why it matters to us as Christians that it's so close.
- While I realize I run the risk of providing an oversimplification with my answer, I'll attempt to explain the reason as best as I can.

- In a sentence, the reason all of this matters to me, is because the rapture of the church takes place close in proximity to this.
- Actually, one of the questions I'm often asked about is when does the rapture take place in terms of the timing of Ezekiel 38.
- The answer is, we can't really know for certain. However, we can draw some conclusions from the details in both prophecies.

- It's for this reason some suggest the rapture happens prior; others suggest it's shortly after, and or in concert with both of them.

- The common denominator in all of them is the rapture will happen close in proximity to the fulfillment of Isaiah 17 & Ezekiel 38.
- As such, it would behoove every single one of us to take heed as we see prophecies such as this beginning to come to pass.
- In other words, if we're this close to both of these prophecies being fulfilled then it should indicate we're close to the rapture.

Luke 21:28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

- If you've never called upon the name of the Lord to be saved, I would like to share the gospel before we partake of communion.

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."