

Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 14th, 2016

- For today's prophecy update I'm going to do something a little different and present forensic evidence related to Bible prophecy.
- By forensic evidence I mean, proof beyond any reasonable doubt that specific Bible prophecies are on the cusp of fulfillment.
- Namely, the prophecy in Isaiah 17 concerning Syria, and the prophecy in Ezekiel 38 concerning Russia Iran and I'll add Turkey.

- First, I need to proceed with the presupposition we all agree that Russia and Iran are at the helm of Ezekiel 38 in lieu of Turkey.
- If you're one for whom the jury is still out on this point, then I would refer you to our in-depth prophecy update back on July 24th.
- Also, Amir and I discussed this last Saturday during our Facebook live prophecy interview, which is now uploaded on YouTube.

I'll begin with Exhibit A, if you will, which is the thawing between Russia and Turkey. Yesterday, the Jerusalem Post referred to Putin and Erdogan as "the odd couple." Quoting the Post, "The Russo-Turkish thaw is bad news for Washington, Brussels and Syria's Kurds." It seems that because Russia is Turkey's sole gas supplier, Erdogan was left with no other alternative but come crawling to Putin, which is exactly what he did. According to the Post, "Though Russia stopped short of shutting the spigots, Erdogan had to consider such a prospect, because Russia had displayed elsewhere its willingness to do such things. Having said this, the deal's economics are but its appetizer. The main course is about America, Europe and Syria. ... Yet there is a deeper reason for Putin and Erdogan to fall in each other's arms: Both have a problem with America's global hegemony, and both feel personally betrayed by Barack Obama. The Post goes on to cite Obama's betrayal of Putin as stemming from Washington's conduct vis-à-vis Ukraine and Libya, and Erdogan's as belief that the US masterminded the coup against him through his nemesis, self-exiled cleric Tehullah Gulen. ... These circumstantial concerns are fueled by the ideological misgivings about the current world order. The article then goes on to ask the question of "...Where, then, does all this leave Israel?" They answer the question this way, "THE RAPPROCHEMENT'S simplest and happiest aspect, as seen from Jerusalem, is its economic side. De-politicized trade anywhere in the Middle East is an Israeli interest. Besides that, Israel's future gas sales to Turkey should not be affected by the Putin-Erdogan deal, as Ankara's need to end its dependency on Russian gas remains unchanged. ... There has been some speculation in recent weeks that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been cultivating his ties with Putin and has now also mended fences with Erdogan, is seeking a Russian-brokered deal on Syria that will somehow involve the Golan Heights. That is, of course, speculation; even more than a Putin-Erdogan embrace was only last month.

<http://www.jpost.com/printarticle.aspx?id=463931>

As you might imagine, this new reconciliation between Russia and Turkey was met with consternation and trepidation on the part of Israel and of course the U.S. On Thursday, The Jewish Press published an article titled, "Moscow Calming Israeli, American Fears of Russia-Turkey-Iran Coalition." Quoting the Press, Tuesday's meeting in St. Petersburg between the two former feuding foes Russian President Putin and Turkish President Erdogan "drew considerable attention," government-run news agency TASS reported, noting that the Russian-Turkish rapprochement is coming while Russia has been expanding its relations with Iran and Ankara and Tehran have also been bridging the gaps between them, born by almost four decades of a volatile Islamic Republic on Turkey's border. In fact, right after the failed coup last month, Erdogan announced, "We are determined to cooperate with Iran and Russia to address regional problems side by side and to step up our efforts considerably to restore peace and stability to the region."

<http://www.jewishpress.com/news/breaking-news/moscow-calming-israeli-american-fears-of-russia-turkey-iran-coalition/2016/08/11/>

This brings us to Exhibit B, which is the evidence of the situation in Syria as it relates to Russia and Turkey. Also on Thursday, Ynet News reported on Turkey's offer of joint anti-Islamic State strikes with Russia. According to the report, "Turkey's foreign minister says his country has called on Russia to carry out joint operations against the Islamic State group in Syria. [the] comments came on Thursday, days after ...Erdogan visited St. Petersburg for talks with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4840488,00.html>

You'll forgive me for referencing "The Huffington Post" of whom I am not a fan however; it's incumbent upon me to do so by virtue of it being Exhibit C, which is the evidence of Iran standing at the ready to attack Israel. According to the Post, The tension between Israel and Iran appears to be heightening. Hossein Salami, deputy commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), recently said: "Hezbollah has 100,000 missiles that are ready to hit Israel to liberate the occupied Palestinian territories if the Zionist regime repeats its past mistakes." He added: "Today, the grounds for the annihilation and collapse of the Zionist regime are [present] more than ever." Salami warned that if Israel made the "wrong move," it would come under attack. A few weeks ago, a senior adviser to the IRGC's elite Quds Force, Ahmad Karimpour, said Iran could destroy Israel "in less than eight minutes" if Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei gave the order. -- Sadly, the writer of the Huffington Post, who himself is a Muslim originally from Iran, goes on to dismiss Iran's threats as mere rhetoric. However, I would submit that his attempts at doing so, merely furthers the deceptive propaganda instead.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/majid-rafizadeh/iran-is-ready-to-attack-i_b_11382198.html

Speaking of deceptive propaganda, The Times of Israel published a report yesterday in which they quote Netanyahu who categorically rejected Obama's assertion that Israel now supports the Iran accord. According to the Times, "Far from accepting Obama's assertion, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel's stance had not changed, while the Israeli Defense Ministry compared the accord to the Munich Agreement signed by the European powers with Nazi Germany in 1938.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-rejects-obamas-assertion-that-israel-now-supports-iran-accord/>

Enter Exhibit D as forensic evidence that Ezekiel 38 is on the cusp of being fulfilled, which has to do with Saudi Arabia. This because, verse 13 of Ezekiel 38 mentions Sheba and Dedan, which is the ancient name for the region known today of Saudi Arabia. What's so interesting about this verse is that Saudi Arabia, only protests this attack against Israel, which would indicate that they would have an amicable relationship with Israel and warm up to Israel.

Well, this is exactly what is now happening as we speak. Consider this Times of Israel article from Friday, in which they report on how some in the Saudi media are actually criticizing anti-Semitism, and as such, warming up to Israel. Kindly allow me to share some excerpts from this stunning report. "A media campaign in Saudi Arabia is seeking to combat anti-Semitism in the kingdom, apparently in an effort to prepare public opinion for deepened relations with decades-old enemy Israel. Ehud Yaari, a senior analyst ... on Friday read out examples of key sentences in recent articles by Saudi columnists and reporters demonstrating a shift in attitude towards the Jewish state and Jews in general. Saham al-Kahtani, a famous Saudi columnist, recently wrote that describing Jews as the sons of apes and pigs, and other derogatory descriptions of Jews from the Quran, relates to the period in which Islam's holiest book was written, and should not be seen to refer to all Jews today, the Israeli TV report said. This interpretation of the Quran is not in line with previous interpretations, which take the phrase comparing Jews to animals quite literally. Similarly, Yasser Hijazi, columnist in the influential paper Riyadh (published in the country's capital), said that Arabs must "leave behind their hostility and hatred of Jews," according to a translation of his comments published by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI). Another columnist, Ibrahim el Matroudi, was quoted ...as complaining that Saudis — and Arabs in general — have been "swearing at the Jews instead of drawing benefits from studying their success." And Ahmed Adnan, writing in the influential Saudi-owned pan-Arab website Al Arabiya, argued that the Saudis should speak to Israel in line with their own national interests, and without mediators. The change in tone in Saudi rhetoric towards Israel comes a year after the signing of the nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers ... In late July, a retired Saudi general visited Israel, heading a delegation of academics and businessmen seeking to encourage discussion of the Saudi-led Arab Peace Initiative. ...Such a visit by former general Eshki, who was once a top adviser to the Saudi government, is an extremely rare occurrence. <http://www.timesofisrael.com/saudi-media-battles-anti-semitism-warms-up-to-israel/>

- I suppose the question that needs to be asked in light of these extremely rare occurrence is, what does all of this mean to me?
- While I realize I run the risk of providing an oversimplification with my answer, I'll attempt to explain it as best as I possibly can.
- In a sentence, the reason Ezekiel 38 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 Ezekiel's prophecy.
- It's for this reason some suggest the rapture happens prior; others suggest it's shortly after, and or in concert with Ezekiel 38.

- The common denominator in all of them is the rapture must happen close in proximity to the fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy.
- 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 the Ezekiel 38 prophecy being fulfilled then it should indicate that 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."

- In closing let me say that if you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I would implore you to call upon him today!

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."