

Mid-East Prophecy Update – January 3rd, 2016

- For today's prophecy update I would like to talk about what I believe will be a significant year in 2016, especially for Christians.
- This for a number of reasons not the least of which is the increased persecution awaiting us as Christians in this coming year.
- Another reason I think it will be a defining year is because of the intensity and frequency with which prophecy is being fulfilled.

- I would suggest that if what it looks like could happen actually happens in the months that lie ahead it won't bode well for some.
- By that I mean, most Christians may likely be completely blindsided and caught off guard, so much so, that it might shake them.
- The jury may still be out on what the shaking may accomplish; it may wake some of them up or it may take some of them down.

- Please know I in no way wish to incite fear of that which may be coming by way of fulfilled prophecy in the coming New Year.
- However, by virtue of so many Bible prophecies seemingly speeding up in 2015, they may well speed up even more in 2016.
- It's for this reason I'd be grossly remiss were I not to give a warning as a watchman, and sound the alarm of what's coming.

Ezekiel 33:1–9 (NKJV) — 1 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2 “Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, 3 when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, 4 then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. 6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.’ 7 “So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. 8 When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. 9 Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

- Suffice it to say, my posture will continue to be blowing the trumpet to warn the people of that which is coming upon the land.
- I suppose the question becomes what exactly is coming? For the answer to it, we need look no further than to how 2015 ended.
- What follows in no specific order are things that either started happening or are now happening as we celebrate the New Year.

- First, the wheels are in motion by the U.S. President to unilaterally use executive powers to implement sweeping new gun laws.
- Second, Islamic terrorism around the world is seemingly so unprecedented; it's the likes of which we've not seen in our lifetime.
- Add to this the recent wild and wacky weather across the globe along with the numerous earthquakes in California of all places.

The economic news was bleak at best with Bloomberg describing 2016 as the year nothing worked: Stocks, Bonds, Cash Go Nowhere. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-12-28/the-year-nothing-worked-stocks-bonds-cash-go-nowhere-in-2015>

On Thursday, December 31st, the last day of 2015, The Washington Post reported that U.S. stocks have their weakest year since 2008. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/get-there/wp/2015/12/31/u-s-stocks-have-their-weakest-year-since-2008/>

If this weren't bad enough, Market Watch published an article in which they say, Wall Street's forecast for 2016: Worse than 2015's. <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/wall-streets-forecast-for-2016-worse-than-last-year-2015-12-28>

- That's just related to the economy, and you'll forgive me but I will not dive into the shark-infested waters of this election year.
- The only thing that I would say is that if the Lord tarries, we're in for an electoral process that promises to be most interesting.
- Be that as it may let me hasten to say that while we were celebrating the holidays there were significant developments in Israel.

Friday, January 1st, 2016 – The Times of Israel -- Iran: ‘We'll make missiles for as long as US supports Israel’ Revolutionary Guards head hits back at US threat of sanctions over weapons tests, says regime has so many missiles it doesn't know where to put them... <http://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-will-make-missiles-for-as-long-as-us-supports-israel/>

- For those of us who know bible prophecy, this does not come as any surprise, and in fact, it's met with a sanctified excitement.
- It's exciting in the sense that we're keenly aware of the prophecy in Ezekiel 38, which we believe is beginning to come to pass.
- As one has so aptly quipped, “when the outlook is bad, try the up-look by lifting up your heads for your redemption draws nigh.”

- We'll close the way we began concerning those to whom the bad outlook, should it come to pass, blindsiding some Christians.
- At the risk of an oversimplification, the foundation upon which our lives are built, will utterly determine whether or not we'll fall.
- I'm of course speaking of the parable Jesus taught comparing the two builders, one who built on the sand, the other the rock.

Matthew 7:24–27 (NIV) — 24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”